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Description of document: Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Embargo Agreement for the Press (records undated)

Requested date: 13-August-2021

Release date: 05-November-2021

Posted date: 28-November-2022

Source of document: FOIA Request
FHFA-OIG FOIA Requester Service Center
ATTN: FOIA Officer
400 7th Street, S.W., Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20219
Fax: (202) 318-8602
Email: FOIA@fhfaoig.gov

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From: Easter, Stacy <Stacy.Easter@fhfa.gov>
Cc: Easter, Stacy <Stacy.Easter@fhfa.gov>
Sent: Fri, Nov 5, 2021 1:00 pm
Subject: FHFA FOIA No. 2021-FOIA-044
CONTROLLED
November 5, 2021

Re: FHFA FOIA No. 2021-FOIA-044

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated August 12, 2021. Your request was received in the Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA) FOIA office on August 13, 2021 and assigned FHFA FOIA request number 2021-FOIA-044. Your request was processed in accordance with the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552) and FHFA's FOIA regulation (12 CFR Part 1202).

You requested the following:

"A copy of the FHFA Embargo agreement that member of the media must agree to in order to get early access to the HPI monthly report."

A search of FHFA files and records located three documents responsive to your request. The documents are releasable in their entirety. Please find attached the responsive material, totaling three pages.

Your FOIA request is releasable to the public under subsequent FOIA requests. In responding to these requests, FHFA does not release personal information, such as home or email addresses and home or mobile telephone numbers which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6 (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)).

There are no fees associated with processing this request.

Please note that you may seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS can be reached at 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; by email at ogis@nara.gov; by telephone at 202-741-5770 or toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or by facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of your request, please contact me directly at stacy.easter@fhfa.gov.

Sincerely,

Stacy J. Easter
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Officer
FOIA Public Liaison
Federal Housing Finance Agency
400 7th Street, SW | Washington, DC 20219
Office: 202-604-1024|Fax: 202-649-4067

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FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY EMBARGO POLICY

POLICY

Access to the Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA) embargo site is limited to approved representatives of the media who gather and report news. Individuals must be employed by or represent news organizations that regularly publish or broadcast a substantial volume of news material for public consumption. Access to the Embargo site and data is granted by FHFA on an individual basis only.

Embargoed news releases, information, and data shall not be released to, or shared or discussed with colleagues, associates or any third parties that have not been approved in writing by FHFA. See "Guidelines for Embargo Access to FHFA's Media Embargo Site" for more information on embargo access requirements.

Embargoed news releases, information, and data shall not be released to the public by any means (including print, broadcast, internet, podcast, blogs, or in any other form) before the date and time of release as specified by FHFA.

Failure to adhere to this Embargo Policy will result in the removal of embargo privileges of the reporter and/or media outlet as follows:

1. First breach: Suspension of embargo privileges for six months.
2. Second breach: Suspension of embargo privileges for one year.
3. Third breach: Permanent suspension of embargo privileges.

Reinstatement must be requested in writing, and will be determined at the sole discretion of FHFA.

All news organizations are prohibited from distributing embargoed news releases and data files to subscribers or anyone else prior to the public release date and time.

FHFA reserves the right to deny access to embargoed information to any entity that violates FHFA embargo privileges or to individuals who do not act in a professional manner. In the event that the embargo is broken, FHFA will immediately release the relevant information to the public and notify data users that the information is now available to the public.

Media representatives are responsible for notifying FHFA when they change organizations and/or no longer require access to the embargo data site. Media representatives are responsible for re-registering if they change organizations. Failure to do so will result in immediate loss of embargo privileges.

The Director of External Relations, head of the Office of Congressional Affairs and Communications, or his/her designee, is responsible for embargo access.

GUIDELINES FOR EMBARGO ACCESS TO THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY MEDIA EMBARGO SITE

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Access to the Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA) media embargo site is limited to qualified individuals representing media outlets that gather and report news. Applicants must be employed by or represent news outlets that regularly publish or broadcast a substantial volume of news material for public consumption. Embargo access is granted on an individual basis only. Embargoed data or information shall not be shared or discussed with third parties (including colleagues and associates) that have not been approved in writing by FHFA.

Embargo access may be granted to a variety of news professionals (reporters, editors, writers, publishers, and other news-related employees) who work for qualified news outlets, which include publications, news service, broadcast outlets and news internet sites that meet the following criteria:

1. The news outlet's primary purpose is the dissemination of news.
2. The news outlets are regularly issued and are supported by advertising or paid subscription and operate with editorial independence from any political, governmental, commercial or special interest.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE MEDIA

Online media (including but not limited to, news outlets, blogs and other entities) must meet the following additional requirements:

1. The website must belong to a recognized media organization and have a specific, verifiable street address and phone number.
2. The website must have at least 60 percent original news content, commentary or analysis.
3. The website must be updated at a minimum of once a week.
4. Media representatives are required to register using an e-mail address associated with a media outlet. Group or generic e-mails and personal e-mail addresses will not be accepted.
5. Online publications that are communications outreach or advocacy publications of nongovernmental or nonprofit organizations do not qualify for embargo access.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

NOTICE OF MONITORING OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND EMBARGO POLICY

This computer system, including all related equipment, networks, and network devices (including internet access), belongs to and is provided by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA).

All FHFA computer systems may be monitored for all lawful purposes, including but not limited to: ensuring that use is authorized, for management of the system, to facilitate protection against unauthorized access, and to verify security procedures, survivability, and operational security. FHFA may monitor your use to improve the site, service, or to ensure compliance with this Agreement.

By using this information system, you understand and consent to the following:

- There is no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding any communication or information transiting, stored on, or traveling to or from this information system.
- At any time, the government may, for any lawful purpose, monitor, intercept, search, or seize any communication or information transiting, stored on, or traveling to or from this information system.
- Any communications or information transiting, stored on, or traveling to or from this information system may be disclosed or used for any lawful purpose.
- Evidence of your use, authorized or unauthorized, collected during monitoring may be used for civil, criminal, administration, or other actions. Unauthorized or illegal use or access may subject you to criminal prosecution.
- Access to this information system is governed by applicable FHFA policies, including FHFA's Embargo Policy and that you are subject to the terms and conditions of such policy.

By clicking on "I Agree" below, you acknowledge and consent to monitoring, and agree to comply with FHFA's Embargo Policy. If you do not click on "I Agree" you will not be granted access to the content contained in the FHFA Embargo site.

I AGREE