



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

May 31, 2023

JOHN GREENEWALD JR.  
SUITE 1203  
27305 WEST LIVE OAK ROAD  
CASTAIC, CA 91384

FOIPA Request No.: 1577344-000  
Subject: WIDMAIER-PICASSO, MARIA DE LA  
CONCEPCION

Dear John Greenewald:

The FBI has completed its review of records subject to the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) that are responsive to your request. The enclosed documents were reviewed under the FOIPA, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find check boxes under the appropriate statute headings which indicate the types of exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the enclosed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely and identify which exemptions were applied. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

| <b>Section 552</b>                         |   | <b>Section 552a</b>             |  |
|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(1)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3)            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1) |  |
| _____                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2) |  |
| _____                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3) |  |
| _____                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(4)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(8)               | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(5) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5)            | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9)               | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6) |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(6) |   | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(7) |  |

3 page(s) were reviewed and 3 page(s) are being released.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

Based on the information you provided, we conducted a main and reference entity record search of the Central Records System (CRS) per our standard search policy. For more information about records searches and the standard search policy, see the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum General Information Section.

This is the final release of information responsive to your FOIPA request. This material is being provided to you at no charge.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. "Part 1" of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. "Part 2" includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. "Part 3" includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

Additional information about the FOIPA can be found at [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia). Should you have questions regarding your request, please feel free to contact [foipaquestions@fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@fbi.gov). Please reference the FOIPA Request number listed above in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by emailing the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison at [foipaquestions@fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@fbi.gov). The subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Bender, Jr.  
Acting Section Chief  
Record/Information Dissemination Section  
Information Management Division

Enclosures

## FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

### Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

### Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Confidential Informant Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of confidential informant records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552 (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F)] and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552a (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records would reveal confidential informant identities and information, expose law enforcement techniques, and endanger the life or physical safety of individuals. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

### Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches and Standard Search Policy.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems, such as the Central Records System (CRS), or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. The CRS is an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. The standard search policy is a search for main entity records in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include a search for reference entity records, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files.
  - a. *Main Entity Records* – created for individuals or non-individuals who are the subjects or the focus of an investigation
  - b. *Reference Entity Records*- created for individuals or non-individuals who are associated with a case but are not known subjects or the focus of an investigation
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Foreseeable Harm Standard.** As amended in 2016, the Freedom of Information Act provides that a federal agency may withhold responsive records only if: (1) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the nine exemptions that FOIA enumerates, or (2) disclosure is prohibited by law (5 United States Code, Section 552(a)(8)(A)(i)). The FBI considers this foreseeable harm standard in the processing of its requests.
- (iv) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks). Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at [www.edo.cjis.gov](http://www.edo.cjis.gov). For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552


- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

This document is made available through the declassification efforts  
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)  
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are  
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages  
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 04/23/2004

To: Milwaukee

From: Milwaukee  
Squad 4

Contact: SA [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: 196-0

Title: FRAUD BY WIRE

Synopsis: To report complaint of fraud by wire involving art forgeries.

Details: On Friday, April 23, 2004, [redacted] came to the Milwaukee Office of the FBI to file a complaint regarding art forgeries. [redacted] resides at [redacted]

[redacted] Also present at the interview was Milwaukee Police Detectives [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] various works of art to include paintings, etchings and sculptures. [redacted]

[redacted] He is not a qualified art authenticator but is a qualified art appraiser.

[redacted] know a man named [redacted] who resides at [redacted]

[redacted] is also

[redacted] has known [redacted] for many years. [redacted]

[redacted] before and found those pieces to be authentic and fairly priced. On occasion, however, he has found problems with some of the works that [redacted] dealt in. On one occasion, several years ago, a piece of work [redacted] was selling was determined to be a forgery. Since [redacted] is not an art authenticator either, [redacted] did not suspect [redacted] necessarily knew that the piece was worthless.

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To: Milwaukee From: Milwaukee  
Re: 196-0, 04/23/2004

In mid March, 2004, [redacted] visited [redacted] and provided two framed drawings purporting to be Picassos. The drawing included photographs that were signed by MAYA PICASSO, Pablo Picasso's daughter. According to [redacted] in the art world, this constitutes a certificate of authenticity. Shortly after, [redacted] another art dealer, showed up at the gallery and told [redacted] that he knew a buyer who may be interested in the two pieces. [redacted] let [redacted] take the pieces.

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On April 8, 2004, [redacted] again met with [redacted]. He told [redacted] that he had 10 additional works of art that he wanted [redacted]. He told [redacted] [redacted] required a minimum return for them. [redacted], [redacted] did not know all the names of the pieces but described them as follows:

| Artist          | Description of Work  | Required Commission |
|-----------------|--|---------------------|
| Pablo Picasso   | Picasso drawing, dated 03/02/1968, based on the "347 Series" | \$22,000            |
| Pablo Picasso   | "Renewal" (Framed)   | \$22,000            |
| Pablo Picasso   | Man with Glasses   | \$12,000            |
| Henri Matisse   | "Negress"  | \$10,000            |
| Henri Matisse   | Face of Woman  | \$10,000            |
| Marc Chagall    | Lovers with an Easel   | \$5,000             |
| Marc Chagall    | Man and Donkey   | \$5,000             |
| Marc Chagall    | Red Cock   | \$5,000             |
| Marc Chagall    | Small Lovers   | \$5,000             |
| Marc Chagall    | Lovers with Flowers  | \$5,000             |
| Marie Laurencin | Women with Dog   | \$10,000            |
| F. Lejier       | "Women"  | \$5,000             |

As is typical with [redacted], he attempted to leave the pieces of art with [redacted] without asking for any type of receipt. [redacted] said [redacted] can be very "loose" with works some times. [redacted] insisted on providing him with a receipt and did so. [redacted] provided that original signed receipt to the writer.

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To: Milwaukee From: Milwaukee  
Re: 196-0, 04/23/2004

A few days after he left the paintings, [redacted] called and asked [redacted] to send the Lejier piece to a potential customer named [redacted]. [redacted] sent it Fedex and no longer has it.

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Shortly thereafter, [redacted] told [redacted] that he gave the Picassos to his potential buyer. The buyer contacted MAYA PICASSO to verify the authenticity of the work. [redacted] told [redacted] that MAYA PICASSO said that the pieces were not authentic.

[redacted] inspected the other works of art that he received from [redacted] and noticed that they all appeared to be forgeries. The pieces seemed to be too "studied" or "practiced" such that the lines of the works did not flow like those of authentic pieces. [redacted] also noticed small faded tracings on the canvas that the forger used to guide the brush strokes. Something that was also indicative that the pieces were forgeries was that they were priced much lower than [redacted] thought they should be priced if they were authentic.

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[redacted] said that [redacted], based on his experience, should also have determined that they were forgeries. Because [redacted] was in possession of so many forged pieces at one time, [redacted] believes [redacted] must have known they were worthless. Furthermore, [redacted] believes [redacted] knows who the forger is. When asked why [redacted] would try to sell fake artwork [redacted] said he believes [redacted] have a cocaine addiction and he is attempting to sell phony art to support his drug habit.

[redacted] has no idea who the forger is but knows [redacted] is associated with a man named [redacted] who is a known forger. [redacted] may have residences in both California and Paris.

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[redacted] indicated that the discussion of the terms and delivery of the works of art with [redacted] usually occurs over the phone. When [redacted] has dealt with [redacted] in the past, [redacted] has paid [redacted] using checks.

[redacted] believed that if the pieces were authentic they would likely be worth in excess of \$1,000,000.

Prior to completing the interview, [redacted] provided all the above listed pieces except for 1) "Renewal" by Pablo Picasso and 2) "Women" by F. Lejier both of which he did not have with him and, 3) the works previously provided to [redacted].

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