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March 27, 2003

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To : United States Postal Service, National Customer Support Center
: Attn: Manager of Address Management Eric I Seaberg
: 6060 Primacy Parkway, Suite 201
: Memphis, Tennessee 38188-0001
: v: +1 (901) 681-4548
: e: eseaberg@email.usps.gov

Dear Sir,

From your last correspondence, dated 2003 March 26, it is apparent that our fee waiver request may not be granted. We feel that we should provide further support to our request such that your agency may more clearly understand our basis. To that effect we will give a brief overview which has not directly been covered by the administrative record so far.

In late 2001 we were doing research in address management, it was during this research we noticed that there was no public domain access to data collected by our government. Further investigation revealed that the collection of this data is funded through congress, hence our taxes. At that point we decided to pursue this as a matter of public interest.

We spent several months preparing and chasing down the correct receptacle for our FOIA request. Our basis is that the United States has laws concerning the dissemination of information held by the government. It was the opinion of Pyerotechnics Development, Inc. that the United States Postal Service (USPS) has not complied with these laws.

We believe that the USPS has data of great public interest. This data is not limited to but includes a ZIP+4 database and the TIGER/ZIP+4 bridge information.

As stated on their website:

In 1983, the Postal Service began using an expanded ZIP Code called "ZIP+4." A ZIP+4 code consists of the original 5-digit ZIP Code plus a 4-digit add-on code. The 4-digit add-on number identifies a geographic segment within the 5-digit delivery area, such as a city block, office building, individual high-volume receiver of mail, or any other unit that would aid efficient mail sorting and delivery... it helps the Postal Service direct mail more efficiently and accurately because it reduces handling and significantly decreases the potential for human error and possibility of misdelivery[sic]. It also will lead to better control over USPS costs and, in turn, postage rate stability.
[<http://www.usps.com/ncsc/ziplookup/zipcodefaq.htm>]

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The ZIP+4 File enables businesses with computer capabilities to add ZIP+4 Codes to their address files. The ZIP+4 File contains approximately 30 million records and is available in its entirety or by selected states.

[<http://www.usps.com/ncsc/addressinfo/zip4.htm>]

The Topological Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER)/ZIP+4 File is a useful tool that helps mailers explore new markets by gathering and manipulating data to uncover potential business areas. The TIGER /ZIP+4 File is a bridge file that allows mailers to access other information using the ZIP+4 Codes they already have associated with their addresses. This file provides demographers, market researchers, and offers a method to relate ZIP+4 coded address lists to Census Bureau demographic data. Now mailers can acquire Census Bureau information on latitude, longitude, tract, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA), etc. These files make an excellent base for a geographic information system.

[<http://www.usps.com/ncsc/addressmgmt/tiger.htm>]

From the above statements made by the USPS, it is clearly claimed by the USPS that use of the requested records would enable persons to more effectively use the USPS and understand how the USPS works. We feel that the benefits of this information is not limited to the direct aiding of postal patrons in their mailing efforts, but also fosters address management research too.

To address your concerns as to the parameters of the record set requested, we would like to offer some clarification and points of note. In our request we specified that ranges are acceptable when necessary, this also means that boundaries are acceptable when required.

It is important not to read our request so strictly that we are denied information your agency well knows exist in your files, albeit in a different form which we have anticipated.

In regards to the determination responses from you agency, it is important to: 1) to list what will be released and what will not; 2) clearly state the reasons for not releasing the withheld records; 3) notify us of our appellate options; 4) when a fee is assessed, a statement of charges for document search, duplication costs, etc. and if the fee waiver is not granted, a statement of why your agency believes that fee waiver is not in the public interest.

It should be further noted that claiming Exemption 3 due to copyright of the data is inappropriate since copyright protection is not available for government works, nor does the Copyright Act meet the requirements for Exemption 3 statute.

If your agency has further uncertainties or inquiries as to our request, please contact us. We may be reached by e-mail, mail, or telephone. Thank you very much for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jason Pyeron

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