

Zapotosky, Matt

From: Zapotosky, Matt
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 11:15 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: pitch

No worries. I've got plenty of material, just gives it more punch with officials voices. Hopefully we can make one of these happen sometime.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 11:14 AM
To: Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: pitch

Doesn't look like we can make it happen. Sorry. I also think a lot of this has been broadly covered even in the press release on Sterling in terms of the legal requirements...so hopefully that gives you something to work from.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Zapotosky, Matt [<mailto:matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: pitch

Just checking in -- this something you think we can make happen today?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2017, at 11:48 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

And would this be on background not for attribution so you can learn about it or are you looking for someone on the record?

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Zapotosky, Matt [<mailto:matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2017 11:46 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <ian.prior@usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: pitch

I'd hope to strike while the iron is hot like before the weekend, if possible.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, May 04, 2017 11:46 AM
To: Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <ian.prior@usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: pitch

Let me ask. I know this morning they're still traveling back from Baton Rouge. What's your time frame?

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Zapotosky, Matt [<mailto:matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2017 11:44 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <ian.prior@usdoj.gov>
Subject: pitch

Hey Ian and Sarah

I'm brainstorming a story that looks broadly at how hard it is to substantiate civil rights charges against police officers, but I'm wondering, might I be able to sit down with someone in the Civil Rights Division and talk (even if just in general terms) about that topic? I realize they couldn't comment on a case like Sterling, which has that ongoing element with the state AG, but maybe they could talk about past cases and just the legal challenges of bringing prosecutions in instances like these?

I can obviously get outside experts to do that and I might do that anyway if you won't make someone available. But it'd be a lot more powerful to hear the experiences of people doing the work right now.

Many thanks,

Matt Zapotosky | The Washington Post

(b) (6) (cell)

(202) 334-5873 (office)

Helderman, Rosalind

From: Helderman, Rosalind
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 4:39 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: WaPo inquiry

Okay, thank you for that. You should know that as we do our reporting, as I mentioned, we've heard from a number of people who have mentioned Gen. Sessions as among those involved with this process. That was one reason I had thought he might appreciate the opportunity to clarify his role.

In any case, we'll be finishing this up next week--perhaps I'll circle back one more time before deadline.

Take care,

Roz

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 4:29:04 PM
To: Helderman, Rosalind
Subject: RE: WaPo inquiry

We'll decline to comment. Thanks.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Helderman, Rosalind [mailto:Rosalind.Helderman@washpost.com]
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 4:28 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Fw: WaPo inquiry

Sarah--I wanted to ping you about the following inquiry? We'll be working on this story next week too, if you're still working on it. But I wanted to be sure you had seen it and ask if you had any questions about it?

Many thanks,

Rosalind Helderman

From: Helderman, Rosalind
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2017 4:39 PM
To: sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov
Subject: WaPo inquiry

Hi Sarah--

I'm working on a Washington Post story and wanted to reach out for your help. We're attempting to recreate how the list of informal campaign foreign policy advisers that President Trump announced in March 2016 came together. Carter Page, whose name appeared on that list, seems to have injected some perhaps unnecessary mystery into discussions of that process by continually refusing to disclose who was his first contact at the campaign. Our guess is that the process was actually far less mysterious than his reticence would suggest, so we're trying to reach out to everyone who was involved with the campaign at

that time and ask their memories.

General Sessions was, of course, a newly named campaign adviser around that time. A few people have told us that they believe he played a role in helping to compile that list. Can you help me understand if that's true? Can you walk me through his memories of who at the campaign discussed the naming of that group before President Trump publicized it? Does he recall if members of the informal group were interviewed or otherwise vetted? I know Gen. Sessions joined President Trump at the first meeting of that group, held that same day in Washington. What does he remember about that meeting? Specifically, as it relates to Carter Page, had Gen. Sessions ever heard of him prior to his appointment to the group? Who at the campaign had met him and how did he land on the list?

I'm at (202) 334-9562 in the office and (b) (6) by cell.

Thank you so much!

Rosalind Helderman

Staff writer

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2017 9:19 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: good morning

Hi there, hope you had a good weekend. Do you have a quick second for a phone chat about something upcoming this week? I'm on my cell a (b) (6)

Eric

Zapotosky, Matt

From: Zapotosky, Matt
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2017 8:17 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: appropriations bill/medical marijuana

Tomorrow? I know I sent it at 5 tonight, so it's not for today.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 8, 2017, at 8:13 PM, Prior, Ian (OPA) <Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov> wrote:

What is your deadline?

Ian D. Prior
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Office: 202.616.0911
Cel (b) (6)

On May 8, 2017, at 5:36 PM, Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com> wrote:

Hey Ian and Sarah

A little late to the party on this, but do you guys/the attorney general have a position on this section of the appropriations bill that deals with medical marijuana? If I'm understanding it right, it prevents you from using funds to prevent implementation of medical marijuana laws. That seems like something the AG might not be too thrilled about.

Can you give me a sense of what you read as that stopping you from doing?
Can you now not sue states who have these laws, or enforce federal law in those states? Does that AG have any statement on this?

Here's the thumbnail summary from a White House doc on it:

"Division B, section 537 provides that the Department of Justice may not use

any funds to prevent implementation of medical marijuana laws by various States and territories. I will treat this provision consistently with my constitutional responsibility to take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/05/05/statement-president-donald-j-trump-signing-hr-244-law\[whitehouse.gov\]](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/05/05/statement-president-donald-j-trump-signing-hr-244-law[whitehouse.gov])”

Many thanks,

Matt Zaptosky | The Washington Post

(b) (6) (cell)

(202) 334-5873 (office)

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2017 10:12 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Carr, Peter (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Sessions/Kislyak inquiry

OK, thanks Sarah. I figure this had come up before in some other context.

Eric

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:05 PM
To: Tucker, Eric; Carr, Peter (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Sessions/Kislyak inquiry

Deep background others have brought up this event as a place where they may well have been at the same event even at the same time, but did not meet. There was a hold room where the Senator was with staff and those staff remember the conversations he had with Jared and some other family members as well as a different ambassador. But they (the staff) were all unaware of whether Kislyak was there and didn't meet him.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
(b) (6)

From: Tucker, Eric [mailto:etucker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2017 7:13 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Carr, Peter (OPA) <pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Sessions/Kislyak inquiry

Hi Sarah and Peter, I know you guys were very involved in responding to inquiries in early March regarding meetings between Attorney General Sessions and Sergey Kislyak. Sen. Whitehouse today seemed to make reference to a third such encounter, but I wanted to run this past you and see if it was familiar to you:

On April 27, 2016 Trump and several of his advisers, including Jeff Sessions, met Sergey Kislyak, Russia's ambassador to United States before a campaign speech. The speech which was hosted by the Center for the National Interest had been arranged by Trump's son in law, Jared Kushner. Kislyak attended the Trump Republican convention and he told the Washington Post that he had multiple contacts with the Trump campaign both before and after the election.

Perez, Evan

From: Perez, Evan
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 5:49 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Ummm

Can you talk?

Evan Pérez
Correspondent
CNN

(b) (6)
o [202.772.2756](tel:202.772.2756)
@evanperez

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 6:21 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: statement from DAG?

White House has it

On May 9, 2017, at 5:56 PM, Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org> wrote:

Hi guys, do you have a statement from the DAG? I don't see it.

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 7:43 PM
To: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal)
Subject: Re: I'd sure be grateful for a call

I know! And you know I'm pretty good at calling you back. Let me get one thing off my plate and you're first on my list.

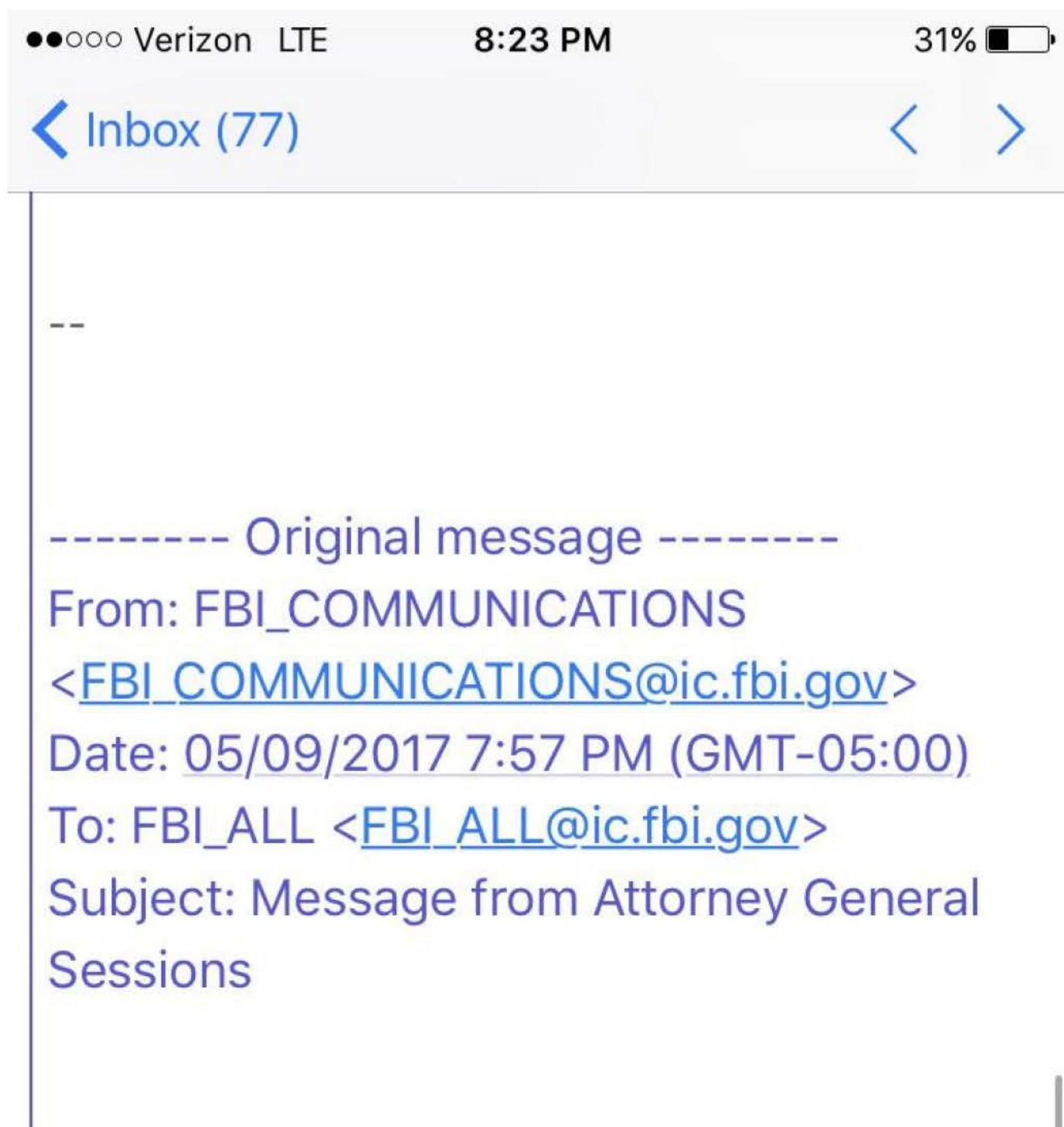
On May 9, 2017, at 7:25 PM, Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal) <pete.williams@nbcuni.com> wrote:

(b) (6)

siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov

From: siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 8:44 PM
To: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal)
Subject: Re: Thanks again

You bet



Message from the Attorney General

The President of the United States has exercised his lawful authority to remove James B. Comey, Jr., as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. By operation of law and effective immediately, Deputy Director Andrew McCabe assumed the position of Acting Director of the FBI. As you well know, the FBI is an exceptional law enforcement and intelligence agency. It is made so by you, the devoted men and women who work tirelessly to keep our country safe. Thank you for your steadfast dedication and commitment during this time of transition.

Jeff Sessions



On May 9, 2017, at 8:34 PM, Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal) <pete.williams@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 8:46 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: New acting director

Oops--sent to soon. That's from the AG to FBI employees. Not attributable to me. Thanks!

On May 9, 2017, at 8:44 PM, Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org> wrote:

Hi, seeing reports that Andy McCabe is the new director. I'm assuming that that's true just based on the natural line of succession. But just wanted to see if that was contained in some sort of statement or something?

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 8:47 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: New acting director


Understood, thanks.

From: Prior, Ian (OPA) [mailto:Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 8:46 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: New acting director

Hands off that I'm providing:

●●●○○ Verizon 

8:44 PM

📶 61% 

Done

Photo

----- Original message -----

From: FBI_COMMUNICATIONS
<FBI_COMMUNICATIONS@ic.fbi.gov>
Date: [05/09/2017 7:57 PM \(GMT-05:00\)](#)
To: FBI_ALL <FBI_ALL@ic.fbi.gov>
Subject: Message from Attorney General
Sessions

Message from the Attorney General

The President of the United States has exercised his lawful authority to remove James B. Comey, Jr., as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. By operation of law and effective immediately, Deputy Director Andrew McCabe assumed the position of Acting Director of the FBI. As you well know, the FBI is an exceptional law enforcement and intelligence agency. It is made so by you, the devoted men and women who work tirelessly to keep our country safe. Thank you for your steadfast dedication and commitment during this time of transition.

Jeff Sessions



Ian D. Prior
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Office: 202.616.0911
Cel (b) (6)

On May 9, 2017, at 8:44 PM, Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org> wrote:

Hi, seeing reports that Andy McCabe is the new director. I'm assuming that that's true just based on the natural line of succession. But just wanted to see if that was contained in some sort of statement or something?

Josh Meyer

From: Josh Meyer
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 9:57 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Carr, Peter (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA); Raimondi, Marc (OPA); Josh Gerstein
Subject: Re: Hi Sarah, Peter, Wyn and Marc

Ok, thank you Sarah.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 9:53:47 PM
To: Josh Meyer; Carr, Peter (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA); Raimondi, Marc (OPA); Josh Gerstein
Subject: RE: Hi Sarah, Peter, Wyn and Marc

OTR--We'll leave it at the memo/letter tonight

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Josh Meyer [mailto:jmeyer@politico.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 9:36 PM
To: Carr, Peter (OPA) <pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Raimondi, Marc (OPA) <mraimondi@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Josh Gerstein <jgerstein@politico.com>
Subject: Hi Sarah, Peter, Wyn and Marc
Importance: High

I know Josh Gerstein (cc'd here) is also trying to reach you but can you please send us comment from DOJ about Comey firing? Or call us?

FBI referring all calls your way.

Thank you.

Josh Meyer

(b) (6)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 10:05 PM
To: Barrett, Devlin
Subject: RE: is mccabe now the acting director of the fbi?

yep

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Barrett, Devlin [mailto:Devlin.Barrett@washpost.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 6:30 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: is mccabe now the acting director of the fbi?

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 10:11 PM
To: Zapotosky, Matt; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Cc: Nakashima, Ellen
Subject: RE: Will Russia probe continue?

He also didn't say whether hed stopped beating his wife. ☺

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Zapotosky, Matt [mailto:matt.zapotosky@washpost.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 10:09 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Nakashima, Ellen <Ellen.Nakashima@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: Will Russia probe continue?

I think this was the genesis: <https://twitter.com/JenniferJJacobs/status/862072340653408256>

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 10:04 PM
To: Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Nakashima, Ellen <Ellen.Nakashima@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: Will Russia probe continue?

Off the record--Lol. I'm just seeing this but it was a joke right?

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Zapotosky, Matt [mailto:matt.zapotosky@washpost.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 6:43 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Nakashima, Ellen <Ellen.Nakashima@washpost.com>
Subject: Will Russia probe continue?

Hey Sarah and Ian

I see some Twitter traffic suggesting Justice won't say now if the Russia probe will continue now that Comey is gone. That can't be true, right? This isn't a shutting down of the probe, is it?

Best,

Matt Zaptosky | The Washington Post

(b) (6) (cell)

(202) 334-5873 (office)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 11:16 PM
To: Perez, Evan
Subject: RE: Is it improper for AG to play role in this?

Again OTR--In his testimony, he said he'd do it again that is violate longstanding DOJ policy about ongoing criminal investigations.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Perez, Evan [mailto:Evan.Perez@turner.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 10:43 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Is it improper for AG to play role in this?

By the way. Is there any reason the DAG and AG didn't wait to see results of OIG investigation into handling of election year probes?

The list of screwups the DAG cites is exactly what the OIG was looking at.

Evan Pérez
Correspondent
CNN

(b) (6)
o [202.772.2756](tel:202.772.2756)
@evanperez

On May 9, 2017, at 10:17 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Off the record but this is silly and I think you know that. The recusal applied to any existing or ongoing investigations. The letter/memo is about judgement/leadership from past actions and his testimony about those past actions.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Perez, Evan [mailto:Evan.Perez@turner.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 6:14 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: Is it improper for AG to play role in this?

Since he is recused?

Evan Pérez
Correspondent
CNN

(b) (6)

o [202.772.2756](tel:202.772.2756)

@evanperez

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 11:30 PM
To: Perez, Evan
Subject: RE: Is it improper for AG to play role in this?

That's about October and JBS says he had no choice bc he'd testified under oath previously. I think the memo is pretty clear that the major breach in protocol was the July conference.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Perez, Evan [mailto:Evan.Perez@turner.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 11:28 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Is it improper for AG to play role in this?

Look 🐟 <https://twitter.com/existentialfish/status/862109387921526784>

Evan Pérez
Correspondent
CNN

(b) (6)
o [202.772.2756](https://www.facebook.com/202.772.2756)
@evanperez

On May 9, 2017, at 11:22 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

We already knew that! Now we need your thoughts re comey in watercolor.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Perez, Evan [mailto:Evan.Perez@turner.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 11:21 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Is it improper for AG to play role in this?

I'm multitalented.

Evan Pérez

Correspondent
CNN

(b) (6)
o [202.772.2756](tel:202.772.2756)
@evanperez

On May 9, 2017, at 11:17 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

This reads like a very This Town haiku☺

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Perez, Evan [<mailto:Evan.Perez@turner.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 10:31 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Is it improper for AG to play role in this?

coming to avenge Hillary Clinton's honor is nice.
Optics are bad.
Did they not know he was out of town?
Did no one care?
Never a good way to do something like this I suppose.
But THIS is about the oddest way to find out you're fired.

Evan Pérez
Correspondent
CNN

(b) (6)
o [202.772.2756](tel:202.772.2756)
@evanperez

On May 9, 2017, at 10:17 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.27525)

Tapper, Jake

From: Tapper, Jake
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 11:41 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: Rod Rosenstein

I think it would be good for you guys because few people are buying this came from RR So he should come and make the case Just a thought

> On May 9, 2017, at 11:17 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:
>
> Will definitely consider. We have nothing planned for now. Will def keep you in mind if that changes.
>
> ***
> Sarah Isgur Flores
> Director of Public Affairs
> (b) (6)
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Tapper, Jake [mailto:Jake.Tapper@turner.com]
> Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 10:14 PM
> To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
> Subject: Rod Rosenstein
>
> I know you know that having him come on my show tomorrow to explain his reasoning would do a lot to quell the suspicions that President Trump ordered this firing...
>
> So consider this a request
>
> Hope you're well!!

Savage, Charlie

From: Savage, Charlie
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 8:46 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: request

Would Mr. Rosenstein or a proxy (his chief of staff, or one of you) please be willing to talk with me for 5 minutes this morning to explain the sequence of events, from his perspective, regarding how he came to write the letter? As you know there is various chatter about White House commissioning it etc. It strikes me that it may be in his and Main Justice's interest to get his story out there early rather than letting leaks from White House and from FBI exclusively shape the narrative. Thanks for considering it.

Charlie Savage
The New York Times

Phone: 202-862-0317

Ce (b) (6)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 11:02 AM
To: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal)
Subject: Re: Question for you

We'll have a more specific tick tick soon on that

On May 10, 2017, at 10:44 AM, Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal) <pete.williams@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Sarah

This seems to be the question of the day: where did the idea to fire the FBI director come from? Some news organizations are reporting that the DAG was essentially tasked to offer justifications for the firing, and that's what led to the three-page memo.

What guidance can you offer on this question? Did the DAG undertake writing the memorandum and proposing the firing entirely on his own?

Many thanks.

Prior, Ian (OPA)

From: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 11:57 AM
To: Perez, Evan
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: Q for DAG

On the record:

Totally false

Ian D. Prior
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Office: 202.616.0911
Cel (b) (6)

On May 10, 2017, at 11:41 AM, Perez, Evan <Evan.Perez@turner.com> wrote:

We are told Comey told senators in a meeting on Monday that he had asked DAG Rosenstein for more resources for the Russia probe.
The senators Burr and Warner had asked Comey to try to accelerate the investigation. Comey agreed and he said he had requested the additional resources.
Please advise if you have any objections or if you think this isn't quite as we say it.

Evan Pérez
Correspondent
CNN
(b) (6)
o [202.772.2756](tel:202.772.2756)
@evanperez

Apuzzo, Matt

From: Apuzzo, Matt
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 3:52 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: clarity

Got it. Thanks for the patience.

On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 3:49 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:
Ausas are resources. So no. These questions are getting old. I don't know how else to say this story is false. It's just false.

On May 10, 2017, at 3:46 PM, Apuzzo, Matt <matt.apuzzo@nytimes.com> wrote:

I'm also not trying to be cute, and I don't think you're being cute. I'm genuinely trying to square these two things.

Can you ask -- and I suspect you already have -- whether Comey asked for more AUSAs?

On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 3:44 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

I thought your question was whether he notified him about moving his own guys. Agree if he asked for more ausas that would be resources so the answer is still no. I'm not being cute here. Th story is just wrong. There's no wiggle room. It's wrong.

On May 10, 2017, at 3:17 PM, Apuzzo, Matt <matt.apuzzo@nytimes.com> wrote:

But adding AUSAs is adding resources. It's manpower, costs money, etc. There's no change. I'm getting more details and trying to square the on the record Hill story with your on the record denial.

If you could ask whether Comey sought more AUSAs for the case, that would be most appreciated.

On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 3:13 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Look off the record--If that's what it was, then its pretty effing different than requesting more resources. I cant keep interrupting meetings as the story changes. So I have no idea whether he might have informed him of a moving of manpower.

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Apuzzo, Matt [mailto:matt.apuzzo@nytimes.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 2:34 PM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: Re: clarity

Could it be notified, as opposed to request? Like maybe, "Hey, I'm moving some guys over for one squad to beef up the analytical team on Russia?"

Are you guys saying that Comey never even raised the idea of increasing manpower?

I'm trying to figure out why Comey would tell the Hill that. You see Durbin is saying on the record?

On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 2:28 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Rod and comey met on Monday the 1st. There were two other people present. No such request or anything like it was raised.

On May 10, 2017, at 2:18 PM, Apuzzo, Matt <matt.apuzzo@nytimes.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

Charlie said you were asking for details on the communication that Comey told the Hill about. My understanding is that Comey told Rod that he wanted to increase the manpower on the investigation, which means moving people around. The meeting, I believe, was last week.

Is the objection you have that the meeting never happened? That it wasn't a request? That manpower isn't resources/money?

This came up in a SSCI briefing early this week.

Thanks,

Matt

Matt Apuzzo

The New York Times

[202.862.0304](tel:202.862.0304) w

(b) (6) c

Acosta, Jim

From: Acosta, Jim
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: Comey asked Rosenstein for more resources for Russia investigation last week?

Hey thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 10, 2017, at 3:42 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>

> Will have tick tock to send shortly I hope.

>

>> On May 10, 2017, at 3:28 PM, Acosta, Jim <Jim.Acosta@turner.com> wrote:

>>

>> Did DAG really initiate Comey departure or was this POTUS driven?

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>>

>>> On May 10, 2017, at 12:01 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>>>

>>> Totally false

>>>

>>> ***

>>> Sarah Isgur Flores

>>> Director of Public Affairs

> (b) (6)

>>>

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: Acosta, Jim [mailto:Jim.Acosta@turner.com]

>>> Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 11:46 AM

>>> To: Sarah Isgur Flore (b) (6)

>>> Subject: Comey asked Rosenstein for more resources for Russia investigation last week?

>>>

>>> On bgrd

>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>

>>

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 4:08 PM
To: Zapotosky, Matt
Subject: Re: I know you said pick any word you want but...

Oh that makes me sad that I missed a joke. Not a good sign:({

On May 10, 2017, at 4:00 PM, Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com> wrote:

Lol I was just trying to make a joke. But I guess what you're saying is, if I used the word nothing, you'd still deny!

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: I know you said pick any word you want but...

Look--nothing could include advice, input or any number of things. This is where the semantics gets annoying. You know what I'm trying to communicate--resources.

On May 10, 2017, at 3:55 PM, Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com> wrote:

You know, you said that I could choose a word, but what if I said Comey asked McCabe for "nothing"?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 3:48 PM
To: Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: I know you said pick any word you want but...

Yes

On May 10, 2017, at 2:10 PM, Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com> wrote:

...and also denied "agents," but would you also deny that Comey asked DAG Rosenstein for more "staff" on the Russia investigation?

Matt Zapotosky | The Washington Post
(b) (6) (cell)
(202) 334-5873 (office)

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:10 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: tick tock

Hey there I understand you guys might have a sort of tick-tock narrative that you're prepared to distribute. We're trying to square some things up with what the WH said today.

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:25 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA); Ballhaus, Rebecca
Subject: question

Sarah and Ian,

Why did Sessions involve himself in Comey's firing and replacement, given his recusal pledge?

We have an ethics expert saying that crossed the line.

I have a Justice Department official who said the recusal applied to the investigation and not to broader personnel matters. But on-the-record would be nice.

Thanks!

Del

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU

O: (202) 862.6624 | (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860

E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber

A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036

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[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:34 PM
To: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal)
Subject: Re: Have you addressed the recusal issue?

This was a personnel decision about serious concerns about Director Comey's leadership. Not about an ongoing or future investigation--which is what recusals apply to.

On May 10, 2017, at 5:27 PM, Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal) <pete.williams@nbcuni.com> wrote:

As you may know, some Democrats in Congress are asking whether the AG violated his recusal pledge by recommending Comey's firing. I've read lots of legal scholars weighing in on this. You have anything?

Nakashima, Ellen

From: Nakashima, Ellen
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: tic toc

OK, tx

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Nakashima, Ellen <Ellen.Nakashima@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: tic toc

Itll be soon

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Nakashima, Ellen [mailto:Ellen.Nakashima@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:37 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: tic toc

Are you able to provide anything? Soon? Thanks, Ellen

Ellen Nakashima
The Washington Post
ellen.nakashima@washpost.com

202 334 4419 (work)

(b) (6) (mobile)

@nakashimae

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PGP: 505E 7824 D3E9 B459 15C4 52C6 6912 46E6 FDB0 6319

Ballhaus, Rebecca

From: Ballhaus, Rebecca
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 6:55 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Cc: Wilber, Del; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: question

Thanks, Ian!

On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 6:51 PM, Prior, Ian (OPA) <Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov> wrote:

The recommendation to remove Director Comey was a personnel decision based on concerns about the effectiveness of his leadership as set forth in the Attorney General's letter. The recommendation had nothing to do with the substance of any investigation.

Ian D. Prior

Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs

Office: [202.616.0911](tel:202.616.0911)

Cel (b) (6)

From: Wilber, Del [mailto:del.wilber@wsj.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:25 PM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Ballhaus, Rebecca <rebecca.ballhaus@wsj.com>

Subject: question

Sarah and Ian,

Why did Sessions involve himself in Comey's firing and replacement, given his recusal pledge?

We have an ethics expert saying that crossed the line.

I have a Justice Department official who said the recusal applied to the investigation and not to broader personnel matters. But on-the-record would be nice.

Thanks!

Del

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU

O: (202) 862.6624 | (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860

E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber

A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036

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--

Rebecca Ballhaus
REPORTER



M (b) (6) O: 202 862 9239

E: rebecca.ballhaus@wsj.com

@[rebeccaballhaus](#)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 8:24 PM
To: Nakashima, Ellen
Subject: RE: tic toc

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Walters, Lindsay E. EOP/WHO" <Lindsay.E.Walters@who.eop.gov>
Date: May 10, 2017 at 6:41:15 PM EDT
To: "Burnham, James M. EOP/WHO" <James.M.Burnham@who.eop.gov>
Cc: "Dubke, Michael D. EOP/WHO" <Michael.D.Dubke@who.eop.gov>, "Hicks, Catherine F. EOP/WHO" <Catherine.F.Hicks@who.eop.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR POOL DISTRIBUTION // timeline of the President's decision

As you requested.

From: Walters, Lindsay E. EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 6:41 PM
To: Walters, Lindsay E. EOP/WHO <Lindsay.E.Walters@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Hicks, Catherine F. EOP/WHO <Catherine.F.Hicks@who.eop.gov>
Subject: FOR POOL DISTRIBUTION // timeline of the President's decision

Hi, All –

For pool distribution. We have received several inquiries to clarify the timeline of the President's decision. We are providing the below information on background.

- The President, over the last several months, lost confidence in Director Comey.
- After watching Director Comey's testimony last Wednesday, the President was strongly inclined to remove him.
- On Monday, the President met with the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General and they discussed reasons for removing the Director.
- The next day, Tuesday May 9, the Deputy Attorney General sent his written recommendation to the Attorney General and the Attorney General sent his written recommendation to the President.

Thank you and have a good night.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Nakashima, Ellen [mailto:Ellen.Nakashima@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 8:22 PM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: Re: tic toc

Has it come out yet?

Ellen Nakashima
Reporter, Washington Post
202-334-4419
Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2017, at 5:47 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Itll be soon

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Nakashima, Ellen [<mailto:Ellen.Nakashima@washpost.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:37 PM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: tic toc

Are you able to provide anything? Soon? Thanks, Ellen

Ellen Nakashima
The Washington Post
ellen.nakashima@washpost.com
202 334 4419 (work)
(b) (6) (mobile)

@nakashimae

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Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 8:46 PM
To: Brown, Pamela
Subject: RE: Hey Sarah

From: Walters, Lindsay E. EOP/WHO
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 6:41 PM
To: Walters, Lindsay E. EOP/WHO <Lindsay.E.Walters@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Hicks, Catherine F. EOP/WHO <Catherine.F.Hicks@who.eop.gov>
Subject: FOR POOL DISTRIBUTION // timeline of the President's decision

Hi, All

For pool distribution. We have received several inquiries to clarify the timeline of the President's decision. We are providing the below information on background.

- The President, over the last several months, lost confidence in Director Comey.
- After watching Director Comey's testimony last Wednesday, the President was strongly inclined to remove him.
- On Monday, the President met with the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General and they discussed reasons for removing the Director.
- The next day, Tuesday May 9, the Deputy Attorney General sent his written recommendation to the Attorney General and the Attorney General sent his written recommendation to the President.

Thank you and have a good night.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Brown, Pamela [mailto:Pamela.Brown@turner.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 5:00 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Hey Sarah

Hey Sarah - I am imagine the last 24 hours has been just as crazy for you as it has been for me. We're trying to put together a timeline and wondering when Attorney General Sessions ordered the review of Comey and when Rosenstein got involved. Do you mind providing me with those details? Thank you! Pamela

Pamela Brown
CNN Justice Correspondent

(b) (6)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2017 12:10:06 PM

To: Brown, Pamela

Subject: Re: Hey Sarah

Probably after confirmation (b) (6)

> On Apr 6, 2017, at 11:08 AM, Brown, Pamela <Pamela.Brown@turner.com> wrote:

>

> I'm so bummed I can't make it toda (b) (6) My colleague Laura Jarrett will be there in my stead. Would it be possible for me to meet with them another time? I'd be happy to come over to DOJ whenever it is convenient for them. Please let me know.

>

> Thank you!

> Pamela

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 8:49 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: NBC News

Not that anyone is aware of

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 6:33 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: NBC News

Is there some other request they could be talking about? Written, or whatever?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit



O: (202) 885-5107

(b) (6)
@KenDilanianNBC

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 6:30 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: Re: NBC News

They weren't in the meeting w the dag and comey on Monday may 1. 4 people were. I've talked to 2. It didn't happen.

On May 10, 2017, at 6:13 PM, Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) <Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Sarah,

I just wanted to check in I didn't have your contact info until I found it on Twitter just now. I understand you are disputing the Comey request for resources, and I am sure you saw Durbin and Feinstein asserting it on the record this afternoon. If you figure out what they may be talking about, I am all ears. Thanks.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit
<image001.png>
O: (202) 885-5107

(b) (6)

@KenDilanianNBC

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 9:05 PM
To: Herridge, Catherine; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Cc: Navas, Nicole (OPA)
Subject: RE: renewing interview request

We're VERY big fans of you here. Including the powers that be. But he isn't doing any interviews right now. You are on the list for down the road though for sure.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Herridge, Catherine [mailto:Catherine.Herridge@FOXNEWS.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 4:46 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Navas, Nicole (OPA) <nnavas@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: renewing interview request

I recognize you are flooded with requests, but wanted to renew my interest, as the longest serving TV beat reporter on DOJ/FBI and Intelligence. I did a very fair, direct and newsy interview with Secretary Kelly in the midst of the travel ban and wall reporting.

Including the link

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/02/02/dhs-secretary-border-wall-should-be-finished-in-two-years.html>

Thanks for giving it consideration and for the help today.
Catherine

From: Herridge, Catherine
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 6:44 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov>; sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov
Cc: nicole.navas@usdoj.gov; Herridge, Catherine <Catherine.Herridge@FOXNEWS.COM>
Subject: Fox News Query

Hi Ian and Sarah,

Thank you for sending the embargoed copy of the Attorney General's Arizona announcement. It goes along to helping us digest the material before the event.

I worked on a regular basis with then Senator Sessions on terrorism related issues. I am respectfully requesting a sit down interview with the Attorney General to explore the Trump administration's strategy for combatting terrorism, and its approach to interrogations.

Taking the liberty of including my recent profile with Secretary Kelly on border issues. This report with the AG would

take a similar approach, and also air on Special Report with Bret Baier.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/02/02/dhs-secretary-border-wall-should-be-finished-in-two-years.html>

Thank you for the consideration. Happy to do a quick call to further discuss.

Catherine V. Herridge
Chief Intelligence Correspondent
Fox News Channel

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Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 10:53 PM
To: Horwitz, Sari; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE:

I will provide comment. Please do not post until I've had a few minutes to draft.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Horwitz, Sari [mailto:Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 10:49 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject:

We have a story about to go up in a few minutes saying that, according to a source close to the White House, DAG Rod Rosenstein threaten to resign after the false narrative from the White House about him and the decision to fire Comey.

Can I please get a comment from either of you?

Sari

Sent from my iPad

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 11:46 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: Post alert

I'm saying I can't deny it until I've talked to Rod bc I obviously wasn't with him for every call today. So they basically ran a story knowing I couldn't comment yet. I don't understand how you can call this late and think that's actually reaching out for comment. It's bullshit and unprofessional.

> On May 10, 2017, at 11:45 PM, Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org> wrote:

>

> Are you saying this is not true? Or you're saying you don't know?

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On May 10, 2017, at 11:43 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>>

>> Off the record--they reached out a couple minutes before they posted with an anonymous source and rods asleep so can't deny it. I think it's crappy journalism. Call the White House--I'm confident they'll firmly push back.

>>

>>> On May 10, 2017, at 11:42 PM, Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org> wrote:

>>>

>>> Hey guys. Any sort of guidance you can offer on this Post alert suggesting Rosenstein had threatened to resign? Thanks.

>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>

>>>

>>

>

>

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 9:33 AM
To: Wilber, Del
Subject: Re: interview

Ha! Definitely not. I slept in til 5!

On May 11, 2017, at 9:32 AM, Wilber, Del <del.wilber@wsj.com> wrote:

Thanks for the answer!

You are a true professional.

Hope your day didn't start at 4 a.m. like mine did!

On Thu, May 11, 2017 at 9:29 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

The answer is no and going directly to him will make it harder for me to get you time--not easier.

On May 11, 2017, at 9:06 AM, Wilber, Del <del.wilber@wsj.com> wrote:

Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein,

As you are well-aware, there is a tremendous amount of interest in the firing of James Comey. We have many questions about the sequence of events that led to his termination and your role in it.

I covered you when I was at the Washington Post (we also hung out in the Baltimore FBI office when I was doing a profile of Kevin Davis), and I know many of those who worked with you. They have all described you as a straight-shooter and someone who is not afraid to speak his mind.

If you ever wish to talk about what transpired, I am happy to interview you about it for the WSJ. On background, or on-the-record.

I would normally not reach out directly, but things are moving so quickly that I figured it couldn't hurt.

Thanks for your time.

- Del

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU

O: (202) 862.6624 | (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860

E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber

A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036

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--

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A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
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Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 9:36 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: interview

makes total sense.

On Thu, May 11, 2017 at 9:31 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:
And I absolutely appreciate that you did btw. And I'll never yell at you for calling staff. They're adults-- that's up to them what they want to do with that. And you can email too. But if you email them with a request, I'm told not to reward that and that makes it harder for me to get you time. That's why I sent my email.

On May 11, 2017, at 9:30 AM, Wilber, Del <del.wilber@wsj.com> wrote:

just fyi: I know this was a total longshot & unlikely.

cc'd you bc I respect how you operate and didn't want you surprised by them going: why the hell is he emailing us?!?!?!?

Also, when you took that phone I appreciated that you didn't scream at me like Tracy would have (she was an obama era flack). You handled that very professionally.

If you hear whom Rosenstein told he would quit if the WH didn't back off, I would love to know. My guess is Priebus or McGahn.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wilber, Del** <del.wilber@wsj.com>

Date: Thu, May 11, 2017 at 9:06 AM

Subject: interview

To: Rod Rosenstein <Rod.Rosenstein@usdoj.gov>, James Crowell <James.Crowell@usdoj.gov>, Zachary Terwilliger <Zachary.Terwilliger2@usdoj.gov>, "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.27980)

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: sorry you have four wsj reporters pinging you

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU
O: (202) 862.6624 | M (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Prior, Ian (OPA)

From: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 10:28 AM
To: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: DAG's memo

Yes. On the record he did not threaten to resign.

Ian D. Prior
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Office: 202.616.0911
Cel (b) (6)

From: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal) [mailto:pete.williams@nbcuni.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 10:15 AM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: DAG's memo

Ian

Can you provide some guidance on the Post's reporting, which said that Rod Rosenstein threatened to resign unless his role in drafting the Comey memo was better explained?

And would it be possible to talk to him directly?

Many thanks.

-Pete

(b) (6)

Zapotosky, Matt

From: Zapotosky, Matt
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 10:38 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Rosenstein threatened to resign?

Hey Sarah

Sorry if Sari already reached out and has this, but I understand you guys are on-the-record denying that DAG Rosenstein threatened to resign over the characterization over his role in the firing. Do you have a statement on that?

And just so I don't have to do this all day long...

Are you denying he threatened to resign, period?

Are you denying that he threatened to resign particularly over the WH characterization of his role?

Are you denying every iteration of the word "resign" (quit, step down, leave the department, I'm sure I'm leaving some out)?

And ...

Can you offer any more clarity on his role...did he initiate the meeting with the WH where this was discussed?

At that meeting, did he bring up the topic of Comey? If not, who did?

Many thanks,

Matt Zapotosky | The Washington Post

(b) (6) cell)

(202) 334-5873 (office)

Acosta, Jim

From: Acosta, Jim
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 10:42 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: Rosenstein threatened to resign?

Got it. Wow.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 11, 2017, at 10:36 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

On the record--didn't happen

On May 11, 2017, at 8:09 AM, Acosta, Jim <Jim.Acosta@turner.com> wrote:

roger that.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 7:50:00 AM
To: Acosta, Jim
Subject: Re: Rosenstein threatened to resign?

DB--As best I can tell, it didn't happen. But I don't feel like I can give a flat denial.

> On May 11, 2017, at 7:09 AM, Acosta, Jim <Jim.Acosta@turner.com> wrote:

>

> What about the resignation threat on deep bgrd

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On May 11, 2017, at 7:08 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>>

>> We aren't commenting on that. Sleep sounds good.

>>

>>> On May 11, 2017, at 6:55 AM, Acosta, Jim <Jim.Acosta@turner.com> wrote:

>>>

>>> Thanks. I fell asleep too. Is he considering naming a special prosecutor?

>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>

>>>> On May 10, 2017, at 11:45 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> Off the record--they reached out a couple minutes before they posted with an anonymous source and rods asleep so can't deny it. I asked for more time so I could talk to him and deny it...but they just couldn't possibly wait. I think it's crappy journalism. Call the White House--I'm confident they'll firmly push back.

>>>>

>>>>> On May 10, 2017, at 11:29 PM, Acosta, Jim <Jim.Acosta@turner.com> wrote:

>>>>>


```
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>>
>>>
>
```

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Savage, Charlie
Subject: Re: NYT query on duties of DAG

On the record--didn't happen

On May 11, 2017, at 10:45 AM, Savage, Charlie <savage@nytimes.com> wrote:

We're looking at the WP report that RR threatened to resign. Are you able to shed any light on whether that is true or distorted in any way?

Charlie Savage
The New York Times

Phone: 202-862-0317
Cel (b) (6)

On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 10:15 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Really appreciate that seriously. Thank you.

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Savage, Charlie [mailto:savage@nytimes.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 9:26 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: NYT query on duties of DAG

I will ask her to channel potential questions to DOJ through me or Rebecca Ruiz, especially during the current highly fraught and stressful circumstances.

Charlie Savage

The New York Times

Phone: [202-862-0317](tel:202-862-0317)

e (b) (6)

On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 9:17 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

This is embarrassing when someone from the New York Times can't call one of their beat reporters to ask a question about the "relationship" between the FBI director and the person he reports to on every public org chart of the department of justice.

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Qiu, Linda [<mailto:linda.qiu@nytimes.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 4:19 PM

To: Press <Press@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: Re: NYT query on duties of DAG

Hello, just circling back to this. Do you think you'll be able to respond by deadline? Thanks!

On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 3:20 PM, Qiu, Linda <linda.qiu@nytimes.com> wrote:

Hi there,

We just spoke on the phone. Hoping to get some info on the general duties of the deputy attorney general. Questions below:

-What are the typical duties?

-What is the relationship between the DAG and the FBI director?

-Is it routine for the DAG to conduct reviews of the FBI director? And can you point me to an instance prior yesterday where this has happened?

I'm working on a rather tight deadline, 6 pm. Apologies for the shortness but thank you! Email or ca (b) (6)

--Linda

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: when will you announce interim director?

is mccabe's testimony a try out?

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU
O: (202) 862.6624 | M (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 1:45 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: our more fair version

of what transpired

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/rosenstein-pressed-white-house-to-correct-the-record-on-comey-firing-1494523639>

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU
O: (202) 862.6624 | M: (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
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Del Wilber

From: Del Wilber
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 4:12 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: I don't know if anyone has asked this

Ask?

Del Wilber

(b) (6) (cell)

202-862-6624 (w)

Twitter: @delwilber

A Good Month for Murder: <http://amzn.to/22vNLU4>

Rawhide Down: <http://amzn.to/29H1l8l>

On May 11, 2017, at 4:05 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Not sure

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Wilber, Del [<mailto:del.wilber@wsj.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: I don't know if anyone has asked this

But -- Who at doj authorized jim comey to release the information in March about the fbi investigating possible collusion between trump associates and the russians?
Was that Boente? If he didn't do it, did comey pull a fast one? I have no idea. I can't see comey lying. But I thought I would ask bc I never followed up on it.

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU

O: (202) 862.6624 | M (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 4:53 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: basically

I understand.

On Thu, May 11, 2017 at 4:51 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:
I've got 5 zillion of these minute by minute questions. I won't be able to track them all down. This is why we put out the bullets last night. At some point, it has to be enough. I'm sorry. I have to move on to other stuff today.

On May 11, 2017, at 4:35 PM, Del Wilber <del.wilber@wsj.com> wrote:

Ok, is there a way to check? I am getting grilled about it. :)

Del Wilber

(b) (6) (cell)

[202-862-6624](tel:202-862-6624) (w)

Twitter: @delwilber

A Good Month for Murder: <http://amzn.to/22vNLU4>

Rawhide Down: <http://amzn.to/29H1l8l>

On May 11, 2017, at 4:33 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Actually I don't feel comfortable with that on background. I don't know that's 100% accurate.

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

[REDACTED]

From: Wilber, Del [<mailto:del.wilber@wsj.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 4:27 PM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: basically

Mr. Sessions was having lunch with Mr. McGahn on an unrelated matter when the topic of Mr. Comey came up.

They summoned Mr. Rosenstein to discuss their issues with the FBI director.

They meet in oval.

according to justice department official. close enough

--

Del Quentin Wilber

WASHINGTON BUREAU

O: [\(202\) 862.6624](tel:(202)862.6624) | M: (b) (6) DOJ: [\(202\) 216-0860](tel:(202)216-0860)

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--

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Wilber, Del


From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 5:00 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: basically

A real mildcat would not complain about getting five zillion queries. willie is too fierce for that.

why do we have such a cuddly mascot?

On Thu, May 11, 2017 at 4:51 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.28392)



Subject: basically

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 6:39 PM
To: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: Got time for a check-in call or are you still on the road?

Ah! I'm sorry just saw this and now I've missed your hit. Call my cell next time if you need me. I wasn't at my desk and didn't see you'd called!!!

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal) [mailto:pete.williams@nbcuni.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 6:02 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Got time for a check-in call or are you still on the road?

I'm (b) (6)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 6:58 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: reaction to this?

I think I'm a little confused. So he agreed that he didn't ask for any of these things but that he wanted them but didn't get the chance to ask?

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 5:04 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: reaction to this?

Fired FBI Director James Comey told the heads of the Senate intelligence committee that the Russia investigation had slowed because of a lack of prosecution resources from the Justice Department, in part because the job of deputy attorney general had been vacant for so long, Congressional and law enforcement officials tell NBC News.

Comey did not say he asked Justice for more money or FBI agents for the Russia investigation, as one official told NBC News Wednesday and as was reported by the New York Times and the Washington Post.

"What he wanted was basically more prosecutors, more support from the Department of Justice for writing subpoenas and warrants and things like that," one Congressional aide briefed on the matter said.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit



O: (202) 885-5107

(b) (6)
@KenDilanianNBC

Zapotosky, Matt

From: Zapotosky, Matt
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 7:07 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Not for nothing...

...Lester Holt can't help but say Rosen-steen, also.

Sent from my iPhone

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 7:27 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: Comey Asked for More Prosecutor Resources for Russia Probe - NBC News

I have a guess....and its two letters long.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 7:25 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Comey Asked for More Prosecutor Resources for Russia Probe - NBC News

I actually think what happened was that the congressional sources mischaracterized what he said, initially. Comey only spoke to Burr and Warner, and then the game of telephone ensued. I wonder if the newspapers will clarify their accounts.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter
NBC News

(b) (6)

> On May 11, 2017, at 7:18 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>

> Off the record--Interesting. Sounds like Comey is backing way off what he originally had said in the senate briefing. And based on mccabe not even clear that he even did that.

>

> ***

> Sarah Isgur Flores
> Director of Public Affairs

> (b) (6)

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com]
> Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 7:11 PM
> To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
> Subject: Comey Asked for More Prosecutor Resources for Russia Probe - NBC News

>

> Here's the final. Please let me me know if you want to comment.

>

> <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/comey-asked-more-prosecutor-resources-russia-probe-n758176>

>

>

> Ken Dilanian

> National Security Reporter

> NBC News

(b) (6)

siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov

From: siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 7:26 AM
To: ned.parker@thomsonreuters.com
Cc: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: Fwd: Reuters query on a third meeting between Attorney General Sessions and Russian Ambassador Kyslayak in April 2016 at the Mayflower Hotel

This was addressed repeatedly months ago. They did not meet.

From: ned.parker@thomsonreuters.com [<mailto:ned.parker@thomsonreuters.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 9:14 PM
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Reuters query on a third meeting between Attorney General Sessions and Russian Ambassador Kyslayak in April 2016 at the Mayflower Hotel

Hello,

I am an enterprise reporter with Reuters. We have current and former officials informing us of a private meeting between Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak at the Mayflower Hotel on April 27, 2016 the night of then Presidential candidate Donald Trump's policy address event at the hotel. I would be grateful for any comment on why this meeting has not been disclosed and what was discussed. My number (b) (6) Thanks so much, Ned Parker

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 7:29 AM
To: ned.parker@thomsonreuters.com
Cc: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: Fwd: Reuters query on a third meeting between Attorney General Sessions and Russian Ambassador Kyslayak in April 2016 at the Mayflower Hotel

Deep background--This event was addressed repeatedly months ago. They did not meet. This was a speech the senator attended. There was a hold room where the Senator was with staff and those staff remember the conversations he had with Jared and some other family members as well as a different ambassador. But they (the staff) were all unaware of whether Kislyak was there and the senator didn't meet him.

From: ned.parker@thomsonreuters.com [<mailto:ned.parker@thomsonreuters.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 9:14 PM
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Reuters query on a third meeting between Attorney General Sessions and Russian Ambassador Kyslayak in April 2016 at the Mayflower Hotel

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.28547)

Perez, Evan

From: Perez, Evan
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: can you talk for a minute?

i know we're all glued to Spicey. but just want to ask a quick Q.

(b) (6)

Evan Pérez
Correspondent

CNN

mobi (b) (6)

office 202.772.2756

Twitter @evanperez

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:45 PM
To: Matt Apuzzo
Subject: RE: Can you help?

Yeah I've been getting other emails like this which is just dumb since I addressed this rumor back in March too. It's always possible they were both at the speech there's be no way for JBS to have known the attendee list obviously but they didn't meet.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Matt Apuzzo [mailto:matt.apuzzo@nytimes.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 12:34 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Can you help?

And it's really going around apparently

Matt Apuzzo
The New York Times
202.862.0304 w

(b) (6) c

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 12:29:19 PM
To: Apuzzo, Matt
Subject: RE: Can you help?

Yeah really strange to me

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Apuzzo, Matt [mailto:matt.apuzzo@nytimes.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Can you help?

Thanks. Helpful. Let me take it back to the folks here and see wtf is up.

On Fri, May 12, 2017 at 11:49 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Correct. JBS first met him in July when he walked up after a speech and introduced himself in front of half a dozen people.

On May 12, 2017, at 11:43 AM, Apuzzo, Matt <matt.apuzzo@nytimes.com> wrote:

Thanks. I know the Mayflower issue has been out there, but we are told about a separate meeting at that same event. Just want to make sure we are not talking past each other. You're saying there was no meeting between Trump/Sessions/Kislyak/Kushner? I'm trying to be precise. Can you say on the record that Sessions and Trump never met with Kislyak?

On Fri, May 12, 2017 at 11:36 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Deep background--This event was addressed repeatedly months ago. They did not meet. This was a speech the senator attended. There was a hold room where the Senator was with staff and those staff remember the conversations he had with Jared and some other family members as well as a different ambassador. But they (the staff) were all unaware of whether Kislyak was there and the senator didn't meet him.

On May 12, 2017, at 11:33 AM, Apuzzo, Matt <matt.apuzzo@nytimes.com> wrote:

Sarah,

We are preparing a story on a meeting that occurred in April 2016 between Trump, Kislyak, Sessions and Kushner at the Mayflower Hotel. We are told that this was a private meeting that was separate from the previously reported meet-and-greet at the reception for Trump's foreign policy speech that day. Can you help me square this with what the AG has said about Russia meetings, and [his letter to Congress supplementing his testimony](#). If this meeting wasn't campaign related, can you tell me what it was about?

Thank you.

And I swear at some point when this calms down (it will at some point, right?) we should go get coffee.

Matt

Matt Apuzzo
The New York Times
[202.862.0304](tel:202.862.0304) w
(b) (6) c

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:59 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: Read this

Wow--yeah definitely no meeting. Its of course always possible they both were at the Mayflower that day--but JBS would have had no way to know the attendee list--and they didn't meet. This all came up in March and I dealt with it then as well.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Read this

US government. Intel agencies. FBI.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter
NBC News

(b) (6)

> On May 12, 2017, at 1:48 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>

> Also what's USG?

>

> ***

> Sarah Isgur Flores

> Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com]

> Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:46 PM

> To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

> Subject: Read this

>

> Sarah, I have two sources who tell me the USG has learned through classified means that AG Sessions attended a private meeting with Sergei Kislyak in April 2016 at the mayflower hotel, on the sidelines of a larger meeting that already has been reported on. Could you please let us know asap what he would like to tell us about this. This would be a third meeting in addition to the two he disclosed. Thanks.

>

> Ken Dilanian

> National Security Reporter

> NBC News

(b) (6)

Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 2:06 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: Read this

Ok. Will keep you posted.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter
NBC News

(b) (6)

> On May 12, 2017, at 2:00 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>

> Oh definitely not

>

> ***

> Sarah Isgur Flores

> Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com]

> Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:49 PM

> To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

> Subject: Re: Read this

>

> No, that's not what I'm talking about. I'm being told there was a separate, private meeting in addition to that one.

>

> Ken Dilanian

> National Security Reporter

> NBC News

(b) (6)

>

>> On May 12, 2017, at 1:47 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>>

>> Deep background--This event was addressed repeatedly months ago. They did not meet. This was a speech the senator attended. There was a hold room where the Senator was with staff and those staff remember the conversations he had with Jared and some other family members as well as a different ambassador. But they (the staff) were all unaware of whether Kislyak was there and the senator didn't meet him.

>>

>> ***

>> Sarah Isgur Flores
>> Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com]

>> Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:46 PM

>> To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

>> Subject: Read this

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.28775)

siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov

From: siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 4:02 PM
To: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal)
Subject: Re: Regarding our conversation

Really appreciate! Thank you!!

On May 12, 2017, at 3:54 PM, Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal) <pete.williams@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Nothing is imminent. The person we discussed is now well aware of your concerns.

Zapotosky, Matt

From: Zapotosky, Matt
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 6:11 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Rod sees no reason for a special prosecutor?

Hey Sarah--

Just looking into this. Is this true? Does Rod see no reason for a special prosecutor?

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/12/politics/rosenstein-special-prosecutor-russia-investigation/index.html>

Best,

Matt

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 7:13 PM
To: pete.williams@nbcuni.com
Subject: Call me if you can

(b) (6)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 7:38 PM
To: Rebecca O'Brien
Subject: RE: WSJ article on investigations into Paul Manafort

No way! After the week ive had, any email that doesn't start with 'go fuck yourself' is probably a good thing☺

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Rebecca O'Brien [mailto:rebecca.obrien@wsj.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 7:35 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: WSJ article on investigations into Paul Manafort

Well, thank goodness you have a sense of humor about it. When I sent that email for clarification I thought to myself: "If some reporter I didn't know sent me an email on a Friday evening - after this crazy week - asking an obvious question about of/or, I would tell her to buzz off."

Have a nice weekend!

--

Rebecca Davis O'Brien
cel (b) (6)

On May 12, 2017, at 7:28 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Lol yes moving too fast today

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Rebecca O'Brien [mailto:rebecca.obrien@wsj.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 6:07 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: WSJ article on investigations into Paul Manafort

Thank you for your response. Just clarifying (because an editor asked): below you mean to say "the existence OR non existence of investigations," right? Not "of."

--

Rebecca Davis O'Brien

cel (b) (6)

On May 12, 2017, at 5:49 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

We don't confirm the existence of non existence of investigations.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: O'Brien, Rebecca [<mailto:rebecca.obrien@wsj.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 5:46 PM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: WSJ article on investigations into Paul Manafort

Hi Ms. Flores,

I'm a reporter at The Wall Street Journal - my colleagues and I are seeking DOJ comment for a story about several investigations into Paul Manafort on the federal and New York state levels. We are reporting that the Department of Justice subpoenaed Manafort's banking records last month, in connection with probes related to President Trump's former campaign associates. Specifically, DOJ asked for banking records from Citizens Financial Group, Inc., which gave Mr. Manafort a \$2.7 million loan last year to refinance debt on a Manhattan condominium.

Can DOJ comment for our story? I can be reached at 212.416.2739, cell is (b) (6), or by email of course.

Thank you,
Rebecca

--

Rebecca Davis O'Brien
REPORTER



M (b) (6) O: +1 212 416 2739
E: rebecca.obrien@wsj.com
@rebeccadobrien
A: 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036



Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2017 10:48 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: lunch today? since we are both stuck working?

hah!

On Sat, May 13, 2017 at 10:46 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:
Probably lunching w the hubby today. Might be bring your husband to work day in the afternoon too:)

On May 13, 2017, at 10:38 AM, Wilber, Del <del.wilber@wsj.com> wrote:

or you chilling with the boss?

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU
O: (202) 862.6624 | M: (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

--

Del Quentin Wilber
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A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
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[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: other media

Noted. And I am.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit



O: (202) 885-5107

(b) (6)
@KenDilanianNBC

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2017 3:20 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: Re: other media

No. Because it didn't happen. I have his schedule for every day last year and spoke to all relevant staff and the AG back when this rumor originally surfaced. Nothing to it. And btw this isn't the only crazy rumor that was running around--of folks with supposedly classified meetings and midnight rendezvous. So I'd really take whatever you're hearing with a big grain of salt. I've been dealing with this for months.

On May 13, 2017, at 3:17 PM, Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) <Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Sarah, I'm told others are working on this story. Just wondering, do you have an new light to shed? Again, what I am hearing is that the FBI possesses classified evidence that Donald Trump, Jeff Sessions and Jared Kushner met secretly with the Russian ambassador in Washington last Spring, an alleged meeting that has become a focus of both the federal and Congressional investigations.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit
<image001.png>
O: (202) 885-5107
(b) (6)
@KenDilanianNBC

Carrie Johnson

From: Carrie Johnson
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2017 12:11 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: FBI director interviews

Hi there

I'm bac (b) (6) and on morning edition before sunrise Monday.

Just wanted to check in to see whether there are additional FBI director interviews today and whether a decision may be likely by Friday. Can you characterize how big a role AG Sessions is playing here?

Finally- I think you all have denied the Comey - Rosenstein "resources" conversation and have suggested Rosenstein's unease with some explanations pinning the firing on him but wanted to check my understanding is accurate.

Thanks

Carrie Johnson

Cjohnson2@npr.org

(b) (6) cell

Sent from my iPhone

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2017 4:51 PM
To: Herridge, Catherine
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA); Navas, Nicole (OPA)
Subject: Re: Special Report tonight -- Query

Correct. 8 yesterday. No updates today.

On May 14, 2017, at 4:47 PM, Herridge, Catherine <Catherine.Herridge@FOXNEWS.COM> wrote:

Confirming 8 interviewed.
Are the interviews ongoing.
Thank you for responding.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2017 4:43 PM
To: Herridge, Catherine
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA); Navas, Nicole (OPA)
Subject: Re: Special Report tonight Query

We don't have any updates today.

On May 14, 2017, at 4:18 PM, Herridge, Catherine <Catherine.Herridge@FOXNEWS.COM> wrote:

We are doing a special edition of Special Report, and had a question about where things stand. Let me know who is on deck, and could take a call before 530?

Thanks for the help/consideration.

This message and its attachments may contain legally privileged or confidential information. It is intended solely for the named addressee. If you are not the addressee indicated in this message (or responsible for delivery of the message to the addressee), you may not copy or deliver this message or its attachments to anyone. Rather, you should permanently delete this message and its attachments and kindly notify the sender by reply e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments that does not relate to the official business of Fox News or Fox Business must not be taken to have been sent or endorsed by either of them. No representation is made that this email or its attachments are without defect.

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 10:12 AM
To: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: FBI interviewees

Adding Ian on the names from Saturday.

Beyond that, no updates at this point.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 10:07 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FBI interviewees

Hi Sarah,
Thanks for helping my colleagues over the weekend. I'm back from a reporting trip and jumping in on this full time now.

We know that Judge Henry Hudson, FBI special agent Adam Lee, Judge Michael Garcia, FBI acting director Andrew McCabe, Senator John Cornyn and former Assistant Attorney General Alice Fisher have all interviewed. But I'm also aware that at least four others have interviewed and there are more scheduled.

Could you update me on who else has interviewed so far? And who is scheduled to interview today and in coming days? And is there a different pool for interim candidates vs. permanent candidates who will be sent to the Senate for confirmation?

Thank you,
Julia

Julia Edwards Ainsley
Reuters News
Thomson Reuters

Mobil (b) (6)

julia.edwards@thomsonreuters.com
Reuters.com

Prior, Ian (OPA)

From: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 11:02 AM
To: Carrie Johnson; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: FBI Readout

No updates right now

Ian D. Prior
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Office: 202.616.0911
Cel (b) (6)

From: Carrie Johnson [mailto:CJohnson2@npr.org]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 10:57 AM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FBI Readout

Hi there

- Any date yet for DAG Rosenstein briefing to the Senate? Any topics?
- Any readout of status of search for new FBI Director? More interviews today? Potus statement that pick could come by Friday still seem operative?
- THANK YOU
- Carrie Johnson
- Cjohnson2@npr.org
- (b) (6) cell

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 1:11 PM
To: Tucker, Eric; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Seeking clarity on the process

Nothing additional

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Tucker, Eric [mailto:etucker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 1:08 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Seeking clarity on the process

What about on some of those questions, though? Some of that is just seeking clarity versus a description of the short list.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 1:08 PM
To: Tucker, Eric; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Seeking clarity on the process

No updates at this point

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Tucker, Eric [mailto:etucker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Seeking clarity on the process

Hi guys, is either of you around today for a quick call about the interview process? We're trying to get some better visibility into the process.

_ Will the other people whose names were mentioned on Friday also be interviewed, or if they were not interviewed on Saturday, are they no longer considered candidates? I'm thinking of Ray Kelly and Larry Thompson, among others. Basically, we went from 12 possible candidates on Friday to 8 interviews on Saturday, and those lists didn't exactly match up. Just trying to get a sense of how exhaustive the lists are.

_ Is there still a plan to appoint an interim director, or is that no longer the thinking?

_ Who else besides the AG and the DAG is in the room during the interviews?

_ What stage of the process are we in? Are second-round interviews being done today or this week?

_ What is the role of the AG and the DAG in this process given that it's ultimately the president's call? Are they making a recommendation, or is it something more aggressive or more passive?

I'm a (b) (6) for a very quick phone call to run through some of this process-stuff on background.

Thanks a lot,
Eric

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: you warn me against

thank you

On Mon, May 15, 2017 at 3:04 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

I have no information on this

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Wilber, Del [mailto:del.wilber@wsj.com]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 3:02 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: you warn me against

reporting that the short list is rogers, cornyn and garcia?

That's what I'm hearing.

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU

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[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Prior, Ian (OPA)

Subject: Brown Bag Lunch w/ OPA and DOJ Reporters
Location: DOJ Andretta Room - 1st Floor

Start: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 2:00 PM
End: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 2:30 PM
Show Time As: Tentatively accepted

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Required Attendees: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA); Horwitz, Sari; Zapotosky, Matt; Wilber, Del; Viswanatha, Aruna; Ruiz, Rebecca; Josh Gerstein; Woodruff, Betsy; Andrea Noble; Chris Strohm; Jake.Gibson@FOXNEWS.COM; Levine, Mike; Jarrett, Laura; Reid, Paula; Tucker, Eric; Gurman, Sadie; Johnson, Kevin; Joseph.Tanfani@latimes.com; Ryan Reilly

To be discussed rules re: hard pass holders going forward.

Thx!

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 7:01 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: Brown Bag Lunch w/ OPA and DOJ Reporters

Sorry guys, I'll unfortunately be out of town. But otherwise I'd be there.

Original Appointment

From: Prior, Ian (OPA) [<mailto:Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov>]

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 4:38 PM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA); Horwitz, Sari; Zapotosky, Matt; Wilber, Del; Viswanatha, Aruna; Ruiz, Rebecca; Josh Gerstein; Woodruff, Betsy; Andrea Noble; Chris Strohm; Jake.Gibson@FOXNEWS.COM; Levine, Mike; Jarrett, Laura; Reid, Paula; Tucker, Eric; Gurman, Sadie; Johnson, Kevin; Joseph.Tanfani@latimes.com; Ryan Reilly

Subject: Brown Bag Lunch w/ OPA and DOJ Reporters

When: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 2:00 PM 2:30 PM (UTC 05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: DOJ Andretta Room 1st Floor

To be discussed rules re: hard pass holders going forward.

Thx!

Carrie Johnson

From: Carrie Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 5:59 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Comey

Is doj putting out statement on nyt Comey report? Did Comey tell doj leadership or anyone else in doj before this story about trump's alleged remarks?

Carrie

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 6:40 PM
To: Zapotosky, Matt
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: Justice aware of this?

Decline

On May 16, 2017, at 6:13 PM, Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com> wrote:

Hey Sarah and Ian

I'm sure you're getting bombed with inquiries about this, but wanted to send you my own.

Was Justice aware of this request that the Times has reported, of the president asking Jim Comey to shut down the Flynn investigation?

<https://t.co/7nlT6gaY1G>

If so, can you talk about what, if anything, you did about it?

Many thanks,

Matt Zapotosky | The Washington Post

(b) (6) cell)

(202) 334-5873 (office)

Acosta, Jim

From: Acosta, Jim
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 8:15 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: Cornyn withdraws?

oh goodness.. gotcha

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 8:12:56 PM
To: Acosta, Jim
Subject: Re: Cornyn withdraws?

Not sure what you mean. But the decline to comment is going to be operative here for a while yet.

On May 16, 2017, at 7:02 PM, Acosta, Jim <Jim.Acosta@turner.com> wrote:

What's Sessions doing regarding this?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 5:42:23 PM
To: Acosta, Jim
Subject: RE: Cornyn withdraws?

Decline to comment

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Acosta, Jim [<mailto:Jim.Acosta@turner.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 5:26 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Cornyn withdraws?

Is this report accurate in NYT about Comey memo regarding POTUS request to end Flynn investigation?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 1:43:23 PM
To: Acosta, Jim
Subject: Re: Cornyn withdraws?

I Don't have anything on this

On May 16, 2017, at 1:42 PM, Acosta, Jim <Jim.Acosta@turner.com> wrote:

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:54 AM
To: Horwitz, Sari
Bcc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Today

No. Today isn't good. And I think more time to cool off would be helpful at this point.

Also--and apologies if I haven't mentioned this before--but either text or email when you need me. Doing both just clog my inbox.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Horwitz, Sari [mailto:Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:28 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Today

Can I please meet with you for a couple minutes today?
Sari

Sent from my iPhone

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 12:16 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: Mueller at WH?

Can you give a better sense of timing? Optimistic that it'll be done this week?

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 17, 2017, at 12:14 PM, Prior, Ian (OPA) <Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>

> Eric,

>

> We're just not going to comment on whether he is a new add to the list.

>

> Ian D. Prior

> Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs > Office: 202.616.0911 > Cel (b) (6)

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Tucker, Eric [mailto:etucker@ap.org]

> Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 12:05 PM

> To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>

> Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

> Subject: Re: Mueller at WH?

>

> I'm sorry, totally not trying to be a pest but can you please explain more? On Saturday there was a list of candidates distributed to us. Is Mueller a new add or not. If you're going to decline comment, I think it's only fair to explain why, please.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On May 17, 2017, at 10:30 AM, Prior, Ian (OPA) <Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov> wrote:

>>

>> Hey Eric,

>>

>> Decline comment.

>>

>> Thx

>>

>> Ian D. Prior

>> Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs >> Office: 202.616.0911 >> Cell: 202.532.3954

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Tucker, Eric [mailto:etucker@ap.org]

>> Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 10:25 AM

>> To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>

>> Subject: Mueller at WH?

>>

>> Hi guys, Bob Mueller has been spotted today at the White House. Is he under consideration for the FBI director job? Is he one of the candidates? Thanks a lot.

>>

>> Eric

>>

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>>

>>

>

>

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:01 PM
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: Re: Meeting at 5:30 p.m TODAY

What's the topic?

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 4:57 PM, Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <Wyn.Hornbuckle@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Sarah would like to meet with all of you that are available at 5:30 p.m. in the Andretta room today. Please make an effort to attend.

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 4:39 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA); Horwitz, Sari; Zapotosky, Matt; Wilber, Del; Viswanatha, Aruna; Ruiz, Rebecca; Josh Gerstein; Woodruff, Betsy; Andrea Noble; Chris Strohm; Jake.Gibson@FOXNEWS.COM; Levine, Mike; Jarrett, Laura; Reid, Paula; Tucker, Eric; Gurman, Sadie; Johnson, Kevin; Joseph.Tanfani@latimes.com; Ryan Reilly
Subject: Brown Bag Lunch w/ OPA and DOJ Reporters
When: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 2:00 PM-2:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: DOJ Andretta Room - 1st Floor

To be discussed – rules re: hard pass holders going forward.

Thx!

--

Del Quentin Wilber
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A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
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Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:01 PM
To: Reid, Paula; Prior, Ian (OPA); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Horwitz, Sari; Zapotosky, Matt; Wilber, Del; Viswanatha, Aruna; Ruiz, Rebecca; Josh Gerstein; Woodruff, Betsy; Andrea Noble; Chris Strohm; Jake.Gibson@FOXNEWS.COM; Levine, Mike; Jarrett, Laura; Tucker, Eric; Gurman, Sadie; Johnson, Kevin; Joseph.Tanfani@latimes.com; Ryan Reilly
Cc: Creighton, Kelly M (OPA)
Subject: RE: Meeting at 5:30 p.m TODAY

I am told you need to be there. It's important

From: Reid, Paula [mailto:ReidP@cbsnews.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 4:59 PM
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Horwitz, Sari <Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com>; Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>; Wilber, Del <del.wilber@wsj.com>; Viswanatha, Aruna <aruna.viswanatha@wsj.com>; Ruiz, Rebecca <rebecca.ruiz@nytimes.com>; Josh Gerstein <jgerstein@politico.com>; Woodruff, Betsy <Betsy.Woodruff@thedailybeast.com>; Andrea Noble <anoble@washingtontimes.com>; Chris Strohm <cstrohm1@bloomberg.net>; Jake.Gibson@FOXNEWS.COM; Levine, Mike <Mike.Levine@abc.com>; Jarrett, Laura <Laura.Jarrett@turner.com>; Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org>; Gurman, Sadie <SGurman@ap.org>; Johnson, Kevin <kjohnson@usatoday.com>; Joseph.Tanfani@latimes.com; Ryan Reilly <ryan.reilly@huffingtonpost.com>
Cc: Creighton, Kelly M (OPA) <kcreighton@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting at 5:30 p.m TODAY

There is a lot of news happening today- is there a topic? Will this be following-up on yesterday's conversation?

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) [mailto:Wyn.Hornbuckle@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 4:57 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>; Horwitz, Sari <Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com>; Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>; Wilber, Del <del.wilber@wsj.com>; Viswanatha, Aruna <aruna.viswanatha@wsj.com>; Ruiz, Rebecca <rebecca.ruiz@nytimes.com>; Josh Gerstein <jgerstein@politico.com>; Woodruff, Betsy <Betsy.Woodruff@thedailybeast.com>; Andrea Noble <anoble@washingtontimes.com>; Chris Strohm <cstrohm1@bloomberg.net>; Jake.Gibson@FOXNEWS.COM; Levine, Mike <Mike.Levine@abc.com>; Jarrett, Laura <Laura.Jarrett@turner.com>; Reid, Paula <ReidP@cbsnews.com>; Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org>; Gurman, Sadie <SGurman@ap.org>; Johnson, Kevin <kjohnson@usatoday.com>; Joseph.Tanfani@latimes.com; Ryan Reilly <ryan.reilly@huffingtonpost.com>
Cc: Creighton, Kelly M (OPA) <Kelly.M.Creighton@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Meeting at 5:30 p.m TODAY

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.51368)

Viswanatha, Aruna; Ruiz, Rebecca; Josh Gerstein; Woodruff, Betsy; Andrea Noble; Chris Strohm;
Jake.Gibson@FOXNEWS.COM; Levine, Mike; Jarrett, Laura; Reid, Paula; Tucker, Eric; Gurman, Sadie; Johnson, Kevin;

Acosta, Jim

From: Acosta, Jim
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:27 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: is Sessions here at WH?

confirmable?

siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov

From: siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:31 PM
To: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: 5:30 conf call?

I'll put you on my phone

On May 17, 2017, at 5:28 PM, Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal) <pete.williams@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Is there a DOJ phone briefing for reporters? I heard about it from someone else but hadn't seen anything on it, thanks.

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:02 PM
To: Carrie Johnson; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Special counsel

confirm

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Carrie Johnson [mailto:CJohnson2@npr.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:02 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Special counsel

Seeking to confirm

Carrie

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:05 PM
To: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: special prosecutor

confirm

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:48 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: special prosecutor

Hi Sarah and Ian,
Can you please confirm that DOJ will be appointing a special prosecutor today?
Thank you,
Julia

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 10:12 AM
To: Ainsley, Julia E. (Reuters News)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: FBI interviewees

Adding Ian on the names from Saturday.

Beyond that, no updates at this point.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 10:07 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FBI interviewees

Hi Sarah,
Thanks for helping my colleagues over the weekend. I'm back from a reporting trip and jumping in on this full time now.

We know that Judge Henry Hudson, FBI special agent Adam Lee, Judge Michael Garcia, FBI acting director Andrew McCabe, Senator John Cornyn and former Assistant Attorney General Alice Fisher have all interviewed. But I'm also aware that at least four others have interviewed and there are more scheduled.

Could you update me on who else has interviewed so far? And who is scheduled to interview today and in coming days? And is there a different pool for interim candidates vs. permanent candidates who will be sent to the Senate for confirmation?

Thank you,
Julia

Julia Edwards Ainsley
Reuters News
Thomson Reuters

Mobil (b) (6)

julia.edwards@thomsonreuters.com
Reuters.com

Carrie Johnson

From: Carrie Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:08 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: I need statement from rod

Sent from my iPhone

Acosta, Jim

From: Acosta, Jim
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:14 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Was WH given heads up on Mueller?

Sent from my iPhone

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:50 PM
To: Horwitz, Sari; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Special Counsel

Anything related to Mueller is a question for Mueller

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Horwitz, Sari [mailto:Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:44 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Special Counsel

Ian,

The question has come up here about whether Mueller should recuse himself on anything regarding Manafort. We understand that he has resigned from his law firm, Wilmer Hale. But Wilmer Hale represented Manafort and some say he should recuse himself because of any possible involvement with that case.

Thanks,
Sari

Sent from my iPad

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:58 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Subject: RE: The mandate of the special counsel

You have the language in the order. That's all I can really say on that.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Tucker, Eric [mailto:etucker@ap.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:42 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: The mandate of the special counsel

Sarah do you know how far this could go? It says "any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation." That presumably would include the circumstances of Comey's firing and the memo that Comey wrote about his February encounter? Thanks.

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 7:14 PM
To: Horwitz, Sari; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Special Counsel

You have the language in the order. That's all I can really say on that.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: Horwitz, Sari [mailto:Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:50 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FW: Special Counsel

Also, Is Mueller tasked with investigating the leaks related to the Russia probe?

-----Original Message-----

From: Horwitz, Sari
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:44 PM
To: Ian Prior <ian.prior@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Sarah Isgur Flores <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Special Counsel

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.31019)

Barrett, Devlin

From: Barrett, Devlin
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 7:23 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: does the special counsel investigation include leaks, or should we think of that as separate/staying in DoJ proper?

I mean, I'm rooting for fun? But also, kinda, you know, good luck with that?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 7:18 PM
To: Barrett, Devlin <Devlin.Barrett@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: does the special counsel investigation include leaks, or should we think of that as separate/staying in DoJ proper?

I HAVE TO MAKE THIS JOB FUN ;)

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Barrett, Devlin [<mailto:Devlin.Barrett@washpost.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 7:15 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: does the special counsel investigation include leaks, or should we think of that as separate/staying in DoJ proper?

You're trying to make me make a Forrest Gump joke. Not cool, Sarah, not cool.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:57 PM
To: Barrett, Devlin <Devlin.Barrett@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: does the special counsel investigation include leaks, or should we think of that as separate/staying in DoJ proper?

You have the language in the order. That's all I can really say on that.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Barrett, Devlin [<mailto:Devlin.Barrett@washpost.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 6:48 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: does the special counsel investigation include leaks, or should we think of that as separate/staying in DoJ proper?

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:00 PM
To: Barrett, Devlin
Subject: RE: sorry, another one - do you know where this Mueller statement is?

I don't!

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Barrett, Devlin [mailto:Devlin.Barrett@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 7:54 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: sorry, another one - do you know where this Mueller statement is?

Do you have a copy?

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 9:00 PM
To: Acosta, Jim
Subject: RE: was Sessions over here earlier this evening when the news came down?

Deep background--yes

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Acosta, Jim [mailto:Jim.Acosta@turner.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:59 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: was Sessions over here earlier this evening when the news came down?

Savage, Charlie

From: Savage, Charlie
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 9:12 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: law question

Re the question I sent by text btw once I saw the letter I saw he explicitly says the reg applies, so he's not delegating any extra authority like Fitzgerald had, so that q answered.

Charlie Savage
The New York Times

Phone: 202-862-0317
Cel (b) (6)

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 9:08 PM, Savage, Charlie <savage@nytimes.com> wrote:
The nerd in me would still love to see that email. the longer the better. Mmmm.

By the way along those lines but shorter, a crimlaw professor thinks it's not true that the reg lets the AG override special counsel decisions. She thinks it just lets the AG complain to Congress that he disagreed with a special counsel decision, but the decision goes forward unless the AG fires the special counsel over it. But others are reading it as an override power that doesn't require the drastic step of firing. It's probably never been tested, but does DOJ have a definitive interpretation of what this mean?

(b) The Special Counsel shall not be subject to the day-to-day supervision of any official of the Department. However, the Attorney General may request that the Special Counsel provide an explanation for any investigative or prosecutorial step, and may after review conclude that the action is so inappropriate or unwarranted under established Departmental practices that it **should not be pursued**. In conducting that review, the Attorney General will give great weight to the views of the Special Counsel. If the Attorney General concludes that a proposed action by a Special Counsel should not be pursued, the Attorney General shall notify Congress as specified in [§ 600.9\(a\)\(3\)](#).

Charlie Savage
The New York Times

Phone: [202-862-0317](tel:202-862-0317)

Ce (b) (6)

On Wed, May 17, 2017 at 8:57 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Btw I had this amazing long email that I was about to hit send on this afternoon on all of this....ha.

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Savage, Charlie [mailto:savage@nytimes.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 2:42 PM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: law question

I have a special prosecutor question that is about the law, not the policy. I was wondering if someone at OLC or if someone in the DAG's office has already been looking at this, if there is an answer to it and you'd be willing to pass it on to me, at least on background please.

Under the DOJ regulation for special counsels, the counsel has to be a non US government employee and his or her decisions have to be briefed to the attorney general and can be overridden by the attorney general.

However, there is precedent for appointing a different kind of special counsel by waiving those regulations. In 2003/04, Comey was the DAG and was acting AG for the purpose of the Valerie Plame leak investigation because Ashcroft was recused. He appointed Pat Fitzgerald to be special counsel, even though Fitz was a sitting US attorney, and he delegated his AG oversight powers to Fitz, such that Fitz didn't have to brief Comey about charging decisions and wasn't overruleable by him. The GAO decided this arrangement was okay.

<http://www.gao.gov/decisions/appro/302582.htm>

Back during the Sally Yates/Dana Boente moment, I remember trying to get my hands around Vacancies Act issues viz needing someone who was Senate confirmed to be able to sign off on wiretap applications.

There was a complicated interplay between what the Vacancies Act said and a very dense OLC memo interpreting it. Based on that, here is my question:

Is it the case, in DOJ's view, that if Rosenstein were to delegate his AG oversight powers as acting AG for the Russia investigation to a hypothetical special counsel, to make one more independent the way Fitzgerald was more independent, the hypothetical special counsel would have to be a Senate-confirmed DOJ official? If that is the case, does that mean that today, only Dana Boente (as the only Senate-confirmed official in DOJ other than Sessions and Rosenstein) could be the special counsel and he'd have to waive the regs to appoint him as such?

Charlie Savage

The New York Times

Phone: [202-862-0317](tel:202-862-0317)

Ce (b) (6)

Zapotosky, Matt

From: Zapotosky, Matt
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 10:39 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: waiver of ethics rules?

Sure.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 17, 2017, at 10:38 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Ok I've got an answer (b) (6). Can I give you a call in a bit?

On May 17, 2017, at 8:44 PM, Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com> wrote:

Well, of course though obviously the sooner the better.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:35 PM
To: Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: waiver of ethics rules?

I don't know. Can I get back to you?

On May 17, 2017, at 8:33 PM, Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com> wrote:

Hey Sarah

The ethics rules at least from my smarter colleagues' reading seem to suggest Mr. Mueller would need a waiver to handle the case because of his firm's involvement in various aspects of the Russia case (Manafort, etc). His resignation, at least according to one of these examples, wouldn't be enough.

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/5/2635.502>[law.cornell.edu]

Has he gotten a waiver from the DAG or someone else?

Thanks,

Matt Zapotosky | The Washington Post
(b) (6) (cell)
(202) 334-5873 (office)

julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: Background on special counsel appointment

Ok thank you. So this was a decision made by Rosenstein alone?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2017, at 9:09 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

The WH and AG were informed of the decision after the order was signed and in effect.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com [<mailto:julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 8:54 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Background on special counsel appointment

Hi Sarah,

Crazy times, huh! I can only imagine how little sleep you're getting this week. If I could pile on one more request, I'd just like to get background on whose decision it was to appoint a special counsel? Was that all Rosenstein? Did he run it by Sessions? Was the White House aware?

I've reached out to the White House as well, but I think you may be better situated to respond.

Thanks so much.

Julia

Julia Edwards Ainsley
Reuters News
Thomson Reuters

Mobil (b) (6)

julia.edwards@thomsonreuters.com
Reuters.com

Carrie Johnson

From: Carrie Johnson
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 11:04 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA)
Cc: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: Can someone call me

I have a question about how things went down last night.

Thanks

(b) (6)

Carrie

Charlie Savage

Subject: Invitation: Lunch with Sarah Flores @ Thu May 25, 2017 12:30pm - 1:30pm (EDT) (sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov)

Location: TBD

Start: Thursday, May 25, 2017 12:30 PM

End: Thursday, May 25, 2017 1:30 PM

Show Time As: Tentatively accepted

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Charlie Savage

Required Attendees: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

Attachments: invite.ics

Lunch with Sarah Flores

[more details »](#)

When Thu May 25, 2017 12:30pm – 1:30pm Eastern Time

Where TBD ([map](#))

Video call https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/nytimes.com/sarah-isgur-flo

Calendar sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov

Who

- Charlie Savage organizer
- sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov

Going? [Yes](#) - [Maybe](#) - [No more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this courtesy email at the account sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov because you are an attendee of this event.

To stop receiving future updates for this event, decline this event. Alternatively you can sign up for a Google account at <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and control your notification settings for your entire calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to modify your RSVP response. [Learn More](#).

Lunch with Sarah Flores
TBD
20170525T163000Z
CONFIRMED

PRODID

-//Google Inc//Google Calendar 70.9054//EN

Version

2.0

CALSCALE

GREGORIAN

METHOD

REQUEST

Start Date/Time

20170525T163000Z

End Date/Time

20170525T173000Z

DTSTAMP

20170518T193040Z

ORGANIZER (CN=Charlie Savage)

mailto:savage@nytimes.com

UID

lqi1qnsf2uvm8sa820h60gnlvo@google.com

Attendee **mailto:sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov**

Role REQ-PARTICIPANT
RSVP TRUE

Attendee **mailto:savage@nytimes.com**

Role REQ-PARTICIPANT
RSVP TRUE

CREATED

20170518T193039Z

Description

This event has a Google Hangouts video call.
Join: https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/nytimes.com/sarah-isgur-flo?hceid=c2F2YWdlIQG55dGltZXMuY29t.lqi1qnsf2uvm8sa820h60gnlvo&hs=121

View your event at

https://www.google.com/calendar/event?action=VIEW&eid=bHFpMXFuc2YydXZtOHNhODIwaDYwZ25sdm8gc2FyYWguaXNndXluZmxvcmVzQHVzZG9qLmdvdg&tok=MTgjc2F2YWdlIQG55dGltZXMuY29tNDNjNWm4M2RjNjRmNGQwYWJiNDJmM2U5MWEwMzNiOTdkMzc3YTE2YQ&ctz=America/New_York&hl=en

Last Modified

20170518T193039Z

Location

TBD

Sequence Number

0

Status

CONFIRMED

Summary

Lunch with Sarah Flores

Time Transparency

OPAQUE

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 8:27 PM
To: Carrie Johnson
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: RE: Mueller conflicts q

Nope! Just oversight on a busy day.

The reg covers that special counsels undergo appropriate background and COI checks. As I read it, those come after the appointment is signed.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Carrie Johnson [mailto:CJohnson2@npr.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 7:05 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Mueller conflicts q

Are you guys trying to freeze me out or just brilliant at leaving that impression?

I saw the Wapo got an answer today. Would like one too.

Carrie Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Carrie Johnson <CJohnson2@npr.org>
Date: May 18, 2017 at 1:16:01 PM EDT
To: "Prior, Ian (OPA) <lan.Prior@usdoj.gov> (lan.Prior@usdoj.gov)" <lan.Prior@usdoj.gov>
Cc: "'Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)'" <Wyn.Hornbuckle@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Mueller conflicts q

Hi there

Lots of questions from listeners and editors about Mueller and possible conflicts. I'm doing a web story to spell everything out from legal ethics and government ethics perspective.

Can you say who if anyone at DOJ evaluated his work at WilmerHale under government ethics rules? Perhaps it was Deputy AG Rod Rosenstein, or perhaps it was Lee Lofthus. Just wanted to check on who at DOJ made that determination.

I know this line was in your news release last night: "Special Counsel Mueller has agreed to resign

from his private law firm in order to avoid any conflicts of interest with firm clients or attorneys.”

Many thanks

Carrie Johnson

NPR

Cjohnson2@npr.org

Del Wilber

From: Del Wilber
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: question

Oh cool. Thank you

Del Wilber

(b) (6) (cell)

202-862-6624 (w)

Twitter: @delwilber

A Good Month for Murder: <http://amzn.to/22vNLU4>

Rawhide Down: <http://amzn.to/29H1l8l>

On May 19, 2017, at 10:40 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

We'll release RR's opening statement from yesterday and today at some point this am

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Wilber, Del [<mailto:del.wilber@wsj.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 10:23 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: question

So there was never a concern that he should recuse himself because the president says it was about Russia and Rosenstein's critique was about Clinton?

Anything brewing today?

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 10:20 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

The recommendation to remove Director Comey was a personnel decision based on concerns about the effectiveness of his leadership as set forth in the Attorney General's letter. The recommendation had nothing to do with the substance of any investigation.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Wilber, Del [mailto:del.wilber@wsj.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 9:56 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: question

So -- the president says Russia investigation played a role in his decision to fire Comey

Rosenstein says he was unhappy with how Comey handled the Clinton investigation.

Sessions was recused from both matters. Why was it okay for him to recommend Comey's termination? If those are the two reasons being cited?

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU
O: (202) 862.6624 | M (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

--

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O: (202) 862.6624 | M (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:03 AM
To: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: Latest from our White House folks, fyi

Well fun times

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal) [mailto:pete.williams@nbcuni.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 10:44 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Latest from our White House folks, fyi

WH official says announcement of FBI nominee “appears much murkier,” meaning less likely today. Sounds like are divisions internally about trying to get FBI announcement out before the trip and getting a positive headline... and concerns about rushing it. So, we wait.

Carrie Johnson

From: Carrie Johnson
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:04 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: Rosenstein statement

10 4 will be on the lookout thank you

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:03 AM
To: Carrie Johnson; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Rosenstein statement

We'll send out shortly after he's done but I don't think he's actually out

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Carrie Johnson [mailto:CJohnson2@npr.org]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 10:50 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Rosenstein statement

You sending that out shortly since he's done briefing House?
Thanks
Carrie Johnson

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:30 AM
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA); 'Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)'; O'Malley, Devin (OPA); Carr, Peter (OPA)
Bcc: Reid, Paula; Horwitz, Sari; Zapotosky, Matt; Wilber, Del; Viswanatha, Aruna; Ruiz, Rebecca; Josh Gerstein; Woodruff, Betsy; Andrea Noble; Chris Strohm; Jake.Gibson@FOXNEWS.COM; Levine, Mike; Jarrett, Laura; Tucker, Eric; Gurman, Sadie; Johnson, Kevin; Joseph.Tanfani@latimes.com; Ryan Reilly; Carrie Johnson; Zoe Tillman; Chris Geidner; Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal); Thomas, Pierre; Barrett, Devlin
Subject: DAG opening statement to Senate and House--no embargo

BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE and HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROD J. ROSENSTEIN
WASHINGTON, DC
MAY 18th and 19th, 2017

Good afternoon. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my role in the removal of FBI Director James Comey, although I know you understand that I will not discuss the special counsel's ongoing investigation. Most importantly, I want to emphasize my unshakeable commitment to protecting the integrity of every federal criminal investigation. There never has been, and never will be, any political interference in any matter under my supervision in the United States Department of Justice.

* * *

Before I discuss the events of the past two weeks, I want to provide some background about my previous relationship with former Director Comey. I have known Jim Comey since approximately 2002. In 2005, when Mr. Comey was Deputy Attorney General, he participated in selecting me to serve as a U.S. Attorney. As a federal prosecutor, he was a role model. His speeches about leadership and public service inspired me.

On July 5, 2016, Director Comey held his press conference concerning the federal grand jury investigation of Secretary Clinton's emails. At the start of the press conference, the Director stated that he had "not coordinated or reviewed this statement in any way with the Department of Justice.... They do not know what I am about to say."

Director Comey went on to declare that he would publicly disclose "what we did; what we found; and what we are recommending to the Department of Justice." He proceeded to disclose details about the evidence; assert that the American people "deserve" to know details; declare that no "reasonable" prosecutor would file charges; and criticize Secretary Clinton.

I thought the July 5 press conference was profoundly wrong and unfair both to the Department of Justice and Secretary Clinton. It explicitly usurped the role of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General and the entire Department of Justice; it violated deeply engrained rules and traditions; and it guaranteed that some people would accuse the FBI of interfering in the election.

There are lawful and appropriate mechanisms to deal with unusual circumstances in which public confidence in the rule of law may be jeopardized. Such mechanisms preserve the traditional balance of power between investigators and prosecutors, and protect the rights of citizens.

Director Comey attended the Maryland U.S. Attorney's Office training seminar on October 27, 2016, and gave a detailed explanation of his reasons for making public statements about the conclusion of the Secretary Clinton email investigation. I strongly disagreed with his analysis, but I believe that he made his decisions in good faith.

The next day, October 28, Mr. Comey sent his letter to the Congress announcing that the FBI was reopening the Clinton email investigation. He subsequently has said that he believed he was obligated to send the letter. I completely disagree. He again usurped the authority of the Department of Justice, by sending the letter over the objection of the Department of Justice; flouted rules and deeply engrained traditions; and guaranteed that some people would accuse the FBI of interfering in the election.

Before the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 3, 2017, Director Comey testified under oath about his public statements concerning the Secretary Clinton email investigation. I strongly disagreed with his explanations, particularly his assertion that maintaining confidentiality about criminal investigations constitutes concealment. Nonetheless, I respected him personally.

Former Department of Justice officials from both political parties have criticized Director Comey's decisions. It was not just an isolated mistake; the series of public statements about the email investigation, in my opinion, departed from the proper role of the FBI Director and damaged public confidence in the Bureau and the Department.

In one of my first meetings with then-Senator Jeff Sessions last winter, we discussed the need for new leadership at the FBI. Among the concerns that I recall were to restore the credibility of the FBI, respect the established authority of the Department of Justice, limit public statements and eliminate leaks.

On May 8, I learned that President Trump intended to remove Director Comey and sought my advice and input. Notwithstanding my personal affection for Director Comey, I thought it was appropriate to seek a new leader.

I wrote a brief memorandum to the Attorney General summarizing my longstanding concerns about Director Comey's public statements concerning the Secretary Clinton email investigation.

I chose the issues to include in my memorandum.

Before finalizing the memorandum on May 9, I asked a senior career attorney on my staff to review it. That attorney is an ethics expert who has worked in the Office of the Deputy Attorney General during multiple administrations. He was familiar with the issues. I informed the senior attorney that the President was going to remove Director Comey, that I was writing a memorandum to the Attorney General summarizing my own concerns, and that I wanted to confirm that everything in my memorandum was accurate. He concurred with the points raised in my memorandum. I also asked several other career Department attorneys to review the memorandum and provide edits.

My memorandum is not a legal brief; these are not issues of law.

My memorandum is not a finding of official misconduct; the Inspector General will render his judgment about that issue in due course.

My memorandum is not a statement of reasons to justify a for-cause termination.

My memorandum is not a survey of FBI morale or performance.

My memorandum is not a press release.

It is a candid internal memorandum about the FBI Director's public statements concerning a high-profile criminal investigation.

I sent my signed memorandum to the Attorney General after noon on Tuesday, May 9.

I wrote it. I believe it. I stand by it.

* * *

Finally, I want to address the media claims that the FBI asked for additional resources for the investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. I am not aware of any such request. Moreover, I consulted my staff and Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe, and none of them recalls such a request.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:42 AM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA); Carr, Peter (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: RE: DAG opening statement to Senate and House--no embargo

Yes

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Tucker, Eric [mailto:etucker@ap.org]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:40 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Carr, Peter (OPA) <pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: DAG opening statement to Senate and House--no embargo

Thanks. Also to clarify: is this a statement that he read to the members at the outset of his appearances?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:39 AM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA); Carr, Peter (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: RE: DAG opening statement to Senate and House no embargo

That information is public based on this filing: <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/JqNrBdfner3KcM?domain=politico.com>

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Tucker, Eric [mailto:etucker@ap.org]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:32 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Carr, Peter (OPA) <pcarr@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: DAG opening statement to Senate and House--no embargo

Is this a misstatement re: "the federal grand jury investigation" of the Clinton email case, or did he mean to use this language?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]

Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:30 AM

Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA); O'Malley, Devin (OPA); Carr, Peter (OPA)

Subject: DAG opening statement to Senate and House no embargo

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.31685)



Nakashima, Ellen

From: Nakashima, Ellen
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:54 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: DAG statement

Thanks, Sarah

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Nakashima, Ellen <Ellen.Nakashima@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: DAG statement

BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE and HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROD J. ROSENSTEIN
WASHINGTON, DC
MAY 18th and 19th, 2017

Good afternoon. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my role in the removal of FBI Director James Comey, although I know you understand that I will not discuss the special counsel's ongoing investigation. Most importantly, I want to emphasize my unshakeable commitment to protecting the integrity of every federal criminal investigation. There never has been, and never will be, any political interference in any matter under my supervision in the United States Department of Justice.

* * *

Before I discuss the events of the past two weeks, I want to provide some background about my previous relationship with former Director Comey. I have known Jim Comey since approximately 2002. In 2005, when Mr. Comey was Deputy Attorney General, he participated in selecting me to serve as a U.S. Attorney. As a federal prosecutor, he was a role model. His speeches about leadership and public service inspired me.

On July 5, 2016, Director Comey held his press conference concerning the federal grand jury investigation of Secretary Clinton's emails. At the start of the press conference, the Director stated that he had "not coordinated or reviewed this statement in any way with the Department of Justice.... They do not know what I am about to say."

Director Comey went on to declare that he would publicly disclose "what we did; what we found; and what we are recommending to the Department of Justice." He proceeded to disclose details about the evidence; assert that the American people "deserve" to know details; declare that no "reasonable" prosecutor would file charges; and criticize Secretary Clinton.

I thought the July 5 press conference was profoundly wrong and unfair both to the Department of Justice and Secretary Clinton. It explicitly usurped the role of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General and the entire Department of Justice; it violated deeply engrained rules and traditions; and it guaranteed that some people would accuse the FBI of interfering in the election.

There are lawful and appropriate mechanisms to deal with unusual circumstances in which public confidence in the rule of law may be jeopardized. Such mechanisms preserve the traditional balance of power

between investigators and prosecutors, and protect the rights of citizens.

Director Comey attended the Maryland U.S. Attorney's Office training seminar on October 27, 2016, and gave a detailed explanation of his reasons for making public statements about the conclusion of the Secretary Clinton email investigation. I strongly disagreed with his analysis, but I believe that he made his decisions in good faith.

The next day, October 28, Mr. Comey sent his letter to the Congress announcing that the FBI was reopening the Clinton email investigation. He subsequently has said that he believed he was obligated to send the letter. I completely disagree. He again usurped the authority of the Department of Justice, by sending the letter over the objection of the Department of Justice; flouted rules and deeply engrained traditions; and guaranteed that some people would accuse the FBI of interfering in the election.

Before the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 3, 2017, Director Comey testified under oath about his public statements concerning the Secretary Clinton email investigation. I strongly disagreed with his explanations, particularly his assertion that maintaining confidentiality about criminal investigations constitutes concealment. Nonetheless, I respected him personally.

Former Department of Justice officials from both political parties have criticized Director Comey's decisions. It was not just an isolated mistake; the series of public statements about the email investigation, in my opinion, departed from the proper role of the FBI Director and damaged public confidence in the Bureau and the Department.

In one of my first meetings with then-Senator Jeff Sessions last winter, we discussed the need for new leadership at the FBI. Among the concerns that I recall were to restore the credibility of the FBI, respect the established authority of the Department of Justice, limit public statements and eliminate leaks.

On May 8, I learned that President Trump intended to remove Director Comey and sought my advice and input. Notwithstanding my personal affection for Director Comey, I thought it was appropriate to seek a new leader.

I wrote a brief memorandum to the Attorney General summarizing my longstanding concerns about Director Comey's public statements concerning the Secretary Clinton email investigation.

I chose the issues to include in my memorandum.

Before finalizing the memorandum on May 9, I asked a senior career attorney on my staff to review it. That attorney is an ethics expert who has worked in the Office of the Deputy Attorney General during multiple administrations. He was familiar with the issues. I informed the senior attorney that the President was going to remove Director Comey, that I was writing a memorandum to the Attorney General summarizing my own concerns, and that I wanted to confirm that everything in my memorandum was accurate. He concurred with the points raised in my memorandum. I also asked several other career Department attorneys to review the memorandum and provide edits.

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My memorandum is not a finding of official misconduct; the Inspector General will render his judgment about that issue in due course.

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My memorandum is not a press release.

It is a candid internal memorandum about the FBI Director's public statements concerning a high-profile criminal investigation.

I sent my signed memorandum to the Attorney General after noon on Tuesday, May 9.

I wrote it. I believe it. I stand by it.

* * *

Finally, I want to address the media claims that the FBI asked for additional resources for the investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. I am not aware of any such request. Moreover, I consulted my staff and Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe, and none of them recalls such a request.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Nakashima, Ellen [<mailto:Ellen.Nakashima@washpost.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:51 AM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: DAG statement

Hey Sarah,
Can you send me the DAG statement?
Thanks,
Ellen

Ellen Nakashima
The Washington Post
ellen.nakashima@washpost.com

202 334 4419 (work)

(b) (6) (mobile)

@nakashimae

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Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 4:38 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: call me re mayflower hotel asap -- need a quote from you

Great. Sorry, was not planning to go tonight.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter
NBC News

(b) (6)

On May 19, 2017, at 4:36 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

I will have a statement. Give me a few minutes.

On May 19, 2017, at 4:34 PM, Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) <Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Dont really have one. We may have to publish soon. Just asap.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter
NBC News

(b) (6)

On May 19, 2017, at 4:31 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Ok. What's your deadline?

On May 19, 2017, at 4:11 PM, Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) <Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit
<image001.png>
O: (202) 885-5107
(b) (6)
@KenDilanianNBC

Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 5:12 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: letters
Attachments: 03-02-17 Franken Letter to AG Sessions.pdf; 3-20-17 Leahy-Franken to Comey re Russia.pdf

The Leahy Franken letter to the FBI cites the Huff Po account of the Mayflower meeting. Says he “may have had contact.” To be clear, this is not consistent with what I have been told the evidence suggests. I’m told there is evidence of a private meeting.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit



O: (202) 885-5107

(b) (6)

@KenDilanianNBC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

March 2, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

Reports indicate that you communicated with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak while serving as a prominent member of President Trump's campaign team—conversations you failed to disclose during your confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.¹ During that hearing, I asked you, “if there is any evidence that anyone affiliated with the Trump campaign communicated with the Russian government in the course of this campaign, what will you do?” You answered, “Senator Franken, I’m not aware of any of those activities. I have been called a surrogate at a time or two in that campaign and I did not have communications with the Russians.” We now know that statement not to be true, and if it is determined that you lied under oath to the Committee and the American people, it is your responsibility to resign.

The American people deserve a full and fair accounting of the facts. I therefore request that you respond by the end of Friday, March 3, 2017, to the following two questions:

1. In the seven weeks following your confirmation hearing, why did you fail to clarify that you had indeed communicated on more than one occasion with the Russian Ambassador during the 2016 presidential campaign until the *Washington Post* exposed those interactions?
2. Describe in detail any and all communications between yourself and Russian officials and their associates during the presidential campaign of 2016, including but not limited to in-person conversations, phone calls, meetings, and electronic communications. Also include any such communications between members of your staff, including your Senate staff and any staff that assisted you during the campaign, and Russian officials and their associates.

The *Washington Post* has reported that you twice met with Russia's ambassador to the United States during the presidential campaign, meetings that were confirmed by Department of Justice

¹ Adam Entous, Ellen Nakashima, & Greg Miller, *Sessions met with Russian envoy twice last year, encounters he later did not disclose*, WASH. POST, Mar. 1, 2017, available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/sessions-spoke-twice-with-russian-ambassador-during-trumps-presidential-campaign-justice-officials-say/2017/03/01/77205eda-feac-11e6-99b4-9e613afeb09f_story.html.

officials.² In response, you issued a statement explaining that you “never met with any Russian officials to discuss issues of the campaign,” a claim made implausible by the circumstances in which each meeting took place. In July 2016, more than four months after endorsing then-candidate Trump, you delivered remarks during the Republican National Convention at an event hosted by the Heritage Foundation. Following your speech, you were approached by a small group of ambassadors, including Ambassador Kislyak. The ambassador later pulled you aside and engaged you in private conversation. The notion that this conversation, which took place during your party’s nominating convention, would not have touched upon issues related to the campaign strains credulity.

On September 8, 2016, you met privately with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak in your Senate office—a discussion your spokesperson characterized as a meeting taken in your capacity as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. However, despite ongoing public debate about Russia’s involvement in the hacking of American political organizations, an issue of national importance and a topic widely discussed at the time of your meeting, a Justice Department official is quoted as saying “[t]here’s just not strong recollection of what was said” during that exchange. However, a Justice Department spokesperson also claimed that the meeting was in no way related to the 2016 presidential election. The fact that these statements are at odds with one another only raises suspicion about the content of your conversations. Moreover, even if your private meeting with Ambassador Kislyak was conducted in your capacity as a member of the Armed Services Committee, I find it hard to believe that you would not have discussed Russia’s efforts to interfere in the election.

Russian interference in the most fundamental feature of our democracy is a matter of national security, and the American people deserve to know the truth about what transpired and the extent to which associates of the Trump campaign and Trump organization were involved. In order to get a full and fair accounting of the facts, the public must have confidence that the FBI’s investigation into these matters is not just thorough, but impartial. However, the questions raised by your previously undisclosed communications with the Russian ambassador cast doubt upon the impartiality of those investigations. Furthermore, the *Wall Street Journal* has reported that investigators have examined contacts between you and Russian officials as “part of a wide-ranging U.S. counterintelligence investigation into possible communications between members of Mr. Trump’s campaign team and Russian operatives.”³ Setting aside any political allegiances that might cloud your supervision of the probe, the public simply cannot have faith that a potential subject of the investigation would be capable of impartially overseeing the inquiry.

In light of these revelations, I call upon you to recuse yourself from any and all investigations related to Russian interference in our elections, including investigations into contacts between the Russian government and associates of President Trump. In order to assure the American people that this matter will be resolved with integrity and impartiality, the Department of Justice

² Department of Justice officials have also confirmed that on September 13, 2016, you spoke with Russian Ambassador Kislyak by phone from your Senate office. See Howard Koplowitz, *Jeff Sessions denies impropriety over Russian ambassador controversy*, ALABAMA MEDIA, Mar. 1, 2017, available at http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2017/03/jeff_sessions_denies_improprie.html.

³ Carol E. Lee, Christopher S. Stewart, Rob Barry, & Shane Harris, *Investigators Probed Jeff Sessions’ Contacts With Russian Officials*, WALL ST. J., Mar. 2, 2017, available at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/investigators-probed-jeff-sessions-contacts-with-russian-officials-1488424871>.

should appoint a special prosecutor to oversee the investigation. However, in recognition of the fact that the attorney general is responsible for appointing a special prosecutor, you must also recuse yourself from that responsibility. If it is determined that you lied to the Committee and the American people under oath during your confirmation hearing, it is incumbent upon you to resign from your position as attorney general.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al Franken", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Al Franken
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2017

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Comey:

We are writing you in regards to Attorney General Jeff Sessions' representations to the Senate Judiciary Committee, both at his confirmation hearing and subsequent to it.

In a written question after the hearing, Senator Leahy asked him:

Several of the President-Elect's nominees or senior advisers have Russian ties. Have you been in contact with anyone connected to any part of the Russian government about the 2016 election, either before or after election day?

Under oath, Attorney General Sessions responded with an unequivocal "No," and provided no further explanation.

During his confirmation hearing on January 10, 2017, Senator Franken also asked him, "if there is any evidence that anyone affiliated with the Trump campaign communicated with the Russian government in the course of this campaign, what will you do?" Rather than respond to the question asked, he instead testified that "[he has] been called a surrogate a time or two in that campaign and [he] did not have communications with the Russians."

On March 1, 2017, the Washington Post reported that Attorney General Sessions had at least two meetings with the Russian ambassador during the 2016 elections.¹ According to the report, then-Senator Sessions had a private meeting in

¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/sessions-spoke-twice-with-russian-ambassador-during-trumps-presidential-campaign-justice-officials-say/2017/03/01/77205eda-feac-11e6-99b4-9e613afeb09f_story.html

his personal office with the Russian ambassador on September 8, 2016, and they also had a conversation following an event at the Republican National Convention in July 2016. Following this revelation, the Attorney General issued a statement that claimed he “never met with any Russian officials to discuss issues of the campaign. I have no idea what this allegation is about. It is false.”

The Attorney General then confirmed he had met with the Russian ambassador on these two occasions during a press conference on March 2, 2017, during which he said the September meeting took place “in campaign season, but [he did not] recall any political conversations.”² He also claimed that he “[did not] remember a lot of [the conversation].” The Attorney General later confirmed both meetings in a letter to the Judiciary Committee on March 6, 2017.

Given his own admissions regarding contacts with the Russian ambassador, including at the Republican National Convention, and particularly in light of his description of his lack of recollection of what was said during the conversations, Attorney General Sessions’ written testimony to Senator Leahy appears to be discernably false. His testimony to Senator Franken also appears to be unequivocally false.

We are concerned by Attorney General Sessions’ lack of candor to the Committee and his failure thus far to accept responsibility for testimony that could be construed as perjury. We are also disturbed that the Attorney General has not been forthcoming about his contacts with the Russian ambassador since he was forced to disclose the two meetings following press reports. The press has now reported that there was a third undisclosed instance in which the Attorney General may have had contact with the Russian ambassador during the 2016 elections, which occurred at a small, private campaign event in April 2016 with then-candidate Trump in attendance.³

In light of Attorney General Sessions’ failure to provide truthful and complete responses to the Judiciary Committee – in his sworn testimony, in his explanation for his false statements, and in his subsequent March 6 letter purporting to provide “supplemental” testimony – we ask that you investigate all contacts the Russian ambassador, or any other Russian officials, may have had with Attorney General

² https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/03/02/transcript-of-jeff-sessions-recusal-press-conference-annotated/?utm_term=.96a4d24c5af2

³ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/jeff-sessions-sergey-kislyak-mayflower_us_58c05639e4b0d1078ca37225?section=politics

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.
Page 3 of 3
March 20, 2017

Sessions or with his staff, and whether any laws were broken in the course of those contacts or in any subsequent discussion of whether they occurred. We also request that you brief us on the results of that investigation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick Leahy" in a cursive script.

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Al Franken" in a cursive script.

AL FRANKEN
United States Senator

Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 5:49 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: letters

Great, thanks. We will stand down on this pending further reporting.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit



O: (202) 885-5107

(b) (6)
@KenDilanianNBC

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 5:45 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: letters

It didn't happen. This is another "anonymous source" who will never be held to account for peddling a false story and whose credibility will never get public scrutiny. So let me be clear: I'm putting my name on this because I've talked to the people who staffed then-Senator Sessions that day, I have his private schedule for that day, and I've talked to him myself. There was no private meeting.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
(b) (6)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 5:12 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: letters

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Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit



O: (202) 885-5107

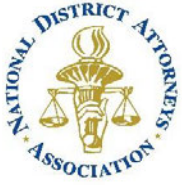
C (b) (6)
@KenDilanianNBC

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 6:19 PM
To: Zapotosky, Matt
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: FW:
Attachments: NDAA Press Release on Sessions Charging and Sentencing Memo.pdf

This person obviously never bothered to reach out for comment but can you ask her why she note the NDAA's statement attached?

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/05/19/prosecutors-are-pushing-back-against-sessions-order-to-pursue-most-severe-penalties/?tid_ss_tw&utm_term_.f47b4cb80ac0



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 15, 2017

National District Attorneys Association statement on charging and sentencing memo to federal prosecutors

ARLINGTON, Virginia – On Friday, May 12, Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a memo to federal prosecutors outlining updated charging and sentencing guidelines for the Department of Justice (DOJ). The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), representing America's 2500 elected and appointed state and local prosecutors, stands with its federal counterparts in doing all that we can to protect the communities we serve. Federal prosecutors, like the thousands of state and local assistant prosecutors across the country, reserve the toughest sanctions for those who have been given second chances and continue to profit off criminal activity, and those that commit offenses severe enough to warrant corresponding punishment, such as serious drug trafficking offenses and other violent felonies.

We are in the middle of an opioid epidemic that threatens the lives of many across this country, whether preyed upon by the disease of addiction, or those preyed upon by drug traffickers peddling drugs across our borders and into our neighborhoods. State and local prosecutors deal with the vast majority of drug cases, and have developed numerous preventative measures to differentiate between the addict and the dealer and have attempted to balance treatment versus punishment when appropriate. State and local prosecutors also have a long track record of recognizing the need to partner with federal prosecutors. Most drug cartels or conspirators do not concern themselves with county or even national borders. These purveyors of poison only recognize profit and have no concern for the heartache and misery that are a direct consequence of their actions.

The balance struck by state and local prosecutors can also be achieved at the federal level. DOJ's updated charging and sentencing guidelines reserve the harshest punishments for those committing the most serious offenses, instructing federal prosecutors to seek the most serious charge they can prove, a common sense principle for prosecutors. At the same time, the directive allows federal prosecutors to deviate from the federal sentencing structure should circumstances in a case warrant a lesser sentence. That flexibility is of the utmost importance as the circumstances in every case are unique. It is a myth that low level, non-violent drug offenders are languishing in federal prisons. Yet we must be smart about the way we use prison and prosecutors must continue to learn how best to handle certain types of cases, such as human trafficking, where the victims too often have been treated as criminals.

Prosecutors and law enforcement have the mutual goal of ensuring the safety of all Americans. It matters little how much we spend on education or health care or infrastructure if a young person in

one of our inner cities cannot walk to a corner store without being harassed by drug dealers or dodging bullets from warring gangs. Prosecutors must go after criminals directly causing harm to others and communities, while also using discretion to recognize when an individual played a lesser role in a situation, warranting a less severe punishment. The updated guidelines do just that, and NDAA looks forward to working with Attorney General Sessions to ensure that those who truly deserve the most severe punishment in order to seek justice receive it, while still allowing prosecutors the discretion and flexibility to consider other factors warranting a less severe punishment in certain cases.

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), www.ndaa.org, is the largest prosecutor organization in the country, representing 2,500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States, as well as 40,000 Assistant District Attorneys.

Contact: Nelson Bunn, Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs, National District Attorneys Association (703) 519-1666

###

Zapotosky, Matt

From: Zapotosky, Matt
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 6:45 PM
To: Bever, Lindsey
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Sessions story
Attachments: NDAA Press Release on Sessions Charging and Sentencing Memo.pdf

Hey Lindsey

The Justice Department spokespeople (copied here) sent me a message today complaining that we didn't reach out to them for this story.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/05/19/prosecutors-are-pushing-back-against-sessions-order-to-pursue-most-severe-penalties/?tid_ss_tw&utm_term=.f47b4cb80ac0

I think they're particularly concerned it didn't include this National District Attorneys Association statement which they feel is a better representation of the views of prosecutors on the ground.

I don't take any position on that, but if you're writing Justice stories, please, please, please send them a note and let them weigh in. You can also feel free to reach out to me, or Sari, or Ellen, or Devlin, but I can say for me personally, it's good enough for me if you just want to reach out right to Justice. (If you did here and it somehow didn't get routed to the right people, let me know who you talked to and I'll try to sort it out).

They might just decline to comment. They often do. But they're nice people, and they just want to make sure their viewpoint is represented, especially in The Post. Sarah is the public affairs director and Ian is her deputy, and they have a few people under them to handle specific areas of inquiry who I'm happy to give you contact info for.

All the best,

Matt Zapotosky

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 9:54 AM
To: Carrie Johnson
Subject: RE: Mueller conflicts

Ill check upstairs

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Carrie Johnson [mailto:CJohnson2@npr.org]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 9:51 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Mueller conflicts

Hi there

Do you expect resolution today on Mueller govt conflicts process? Or is that too soon?

Thanks

Carrie Johnson

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 6:30 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Canceled Senate appearance?

Yeah but that's been the case since February and we've certainly done plenty of media. So not sure why that's relevant.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Tucker, Eric [mailto:etucker@ap.org]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 5:59 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Canceled Senate appearance?

Fair point! I just meant that there'd inevitably be Russia related questions.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 5:32 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: Canceled Senate appearance?

I guess I don't understand. You mean how will he answer questions on what he's recused from?

On May 22, 2017, at 5:09 PM, Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org> wrote:

Obviously, the question arises about whether he'd be looking to avoid facing Russia questions for the entire hearing. Anything you can say on that?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 5:07 PM
To: Tucker, Eric; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Canceled Senate appearance?

Yeah, scheduling conflict arose. We expect this will be rescheduled shortly.

On background-the AG is now traveling this week. I think the rescheduled date will be announced today.

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Tucker, Eric [<mailto:etucker@ap.org>]

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 5:03 PM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: Canceled Senate appearance?

Hi guys, seeing some reporting out there about the AG not attending his scheduled testimony before Senate Appropriations. Any clarity you can lend on that, and why he's not appearing? Thanks so much.

Eric

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 8:49 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Manchester attack

Hi. Has AG been briefed on the attack?

Sent from my iPhone

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 10:02 AM
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA); O'Malley, Devin (OPA); Carr, Peter (OPA); 'Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)'
Bcc: Reid, Paula; Horwitz, Sari; Zapotosky, Matt; Wilber, Del; Viswanatha, Aruna; Ruiz, Rebecca; Josh Gerstein; Woodruff, Betsy; Andrea Noble; Chris Strohm; Jake.Gibson@FOXNEWS.COM; Levine, Mike; Jarrett, Laura; Tucker, Eric; Gurman, Sadie; kjohnson@usatoday.com; Joseph.Tanfani@latimes.com; ryan.reilly@huffingtonpost.com; Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal); Thomas, Pierre; Barrett, Devlin; Carrie Johnson; Brown, Pamela; jonathan@axios.com; Ditto, Jessica E. EOP/WHO; Shah, Raj S. EOP/WHO; Short, Michael C. EOP/WHO; AM (b) (6); JL (b) (6)
Subject: Special counsel updates

What is the answer on the ethics waiver:

GOVERNMENT ETHICS REGULATION 5 CFR § 2635.502

Government ethics regulations permit the Department of Justice to authorize an employee to participate in a matter where their former employer represents a party. While we cannot confirm or deny the applicability of the regulation to the matters to which Special Counsel Mueller was appointed, we can confirm that the Department ethics experts have reviewed the matters and determined that Mr. Mueller's participation in the matters assigned to him is appropriate.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY ISSUE

DC and Virginia do not impute to a former firm lawyer all of the clients of the firm. Under the Rules of Professional Responsibility, Mr. Mueller is permitted to participate in matters involving his former firm's clients so long as he has no confidential information about the client and did not participate in the representation. While we cannot confirm or deny that Mr. Mueller's former firm represents an individual or individuals who are within the scope of the Special Counsel appointment, the Department's ethics experts have considered the relevant issues and determined that Mr. Mueller's appointment as Special Counsel is consistent with the Rules of Professional Responsibility.

Where will the special counsel team be located:

Patrick Henry Building located at 601 D Street, N.W.

Who is the best press contact:

The special counsel team has not announced their press person. We will update you when we have more information and inquiries can continue to come to OPA.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:08 AM
To: elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com; Savage, Charlie
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Q from NYT re Mueller

Here is what we are saying about this:

What is the answer on the ethics waiver:

GOVERNMENT ETHICS REGULATION 5 CFR § 2635.502

Government ethics regulations permit the Department of Justice to authorize an employee to participate in a matter where their former employer represents a party. While we cannot confirm or deny the applicability of the regulation to the matters to which Special Counsel Mueller was appointed, we can confirm that the Department ethics experts have reviewed the matters and determined that Mr. Mueller's participation in the matters assigned to him is appropriate.

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Who is the best press contact:

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Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Williamson, Elizabeth [<mailto:elizabeth.williamson@nytimes.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Press <Press@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Q from NYT re Mueller

Hello,

I am writing (deadline: 3pm today) an editorial about the question raised by the White House on whether

Robert Mueller would need an ethics waiver before serving as special counsel in the FBI Russia investigation, because his former firm has Jared Kushner and Paul Manafort as clients, presenting a potential conflict of interest. I am aware that Mr. Mueller neither represented nor had access to confidential information about those representations, thus clearing DC bar rules regarding potential conflicts.

--Did DoJ explore the potential for this conflict concerning WilmerHale clients before the Mueller nomination?

--What is the opinion of DoJ--will Mueller require a waiver, or not? If that decision is upcoming, when will it be released?

--Given that AG Sessions has recused from the Russia investigation, who did or will make the waiver decision?

All my contact information is below. Many thanks for the assistance on this.

Elizabeth Williamson

Elizabeth Williamson

Editorial Board, National Politics

o: 202 862 0382

(b) (6)

<https://twitter.com/NYTLiz>

Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA); Savage, Charlie; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Abueg, Mark (OPA)
Subject: RE: 4th circuit surveillance ruling

This is actually CIV, so adding Mark

From: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:08 AM
To: Savage, Charlie <savage@nytimes.com>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: 4th circuit surveillance ruling

Wyn is handling NSD now

Ian D. Prior
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Office: 202.616.0911
Cel (b) (6)

From: Savage, Charlie [<mailto:savage@nytimes.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:02 AM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: 4th circuit surveillance ruling

Hi there - I'd ask Marc Raimondi this but he's at NSC now. Does DOJ have a react to the 4th Circuit ruling on upstream surveillance? Will the USG appeal to en banc or Supreme Court?

Thanks!

Charlie Savage
The New York Times

Phone: 202 862 0317
Ce (b) (6)

Savage, Charlie

From: Savage, Charlie
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: Re: 4th circuit surveillance ruling

Oh yeah Wyn you told me that at that hacks and flacks thing the other week. Sorry -

Any comment Wyn?

Charlie Savage
The New York Times

Phone: 202-862-0317
Cel (b) (6)

On Tue, May 23, 2017 at 11:07 AM, Prior, Ian (OPA) <Ian.Prior@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.33656)



Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:22 AM
To: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com
Subject: RE: Mueller waiver

Here's what we are saying:

What is the answer on the ethics waiver:

GOVERNMENT ETHICS REGULATION 5 CFR § 2635.502

Government ethics regulations permit the Department of Justice to authorize an employee to participate in a matter where their former employer represents a party. While we cannot confirm or deny the applicability of the regulation to the matters to which Special Counsel Mueller was appointed, we can confirm that the Department ethics experts have reviewed the matters and determined that Mr. Mueller's participation in the matters assigned to him is appropriate.

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Where will the special counsel team be located:

Patrick Henry Building located at 601 D Street, N.W.

Who is the best press contact:

The special counsel team has not announced their press person. We will update you when we have more information and inquiries can continue to come to OPA.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:19 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Mueller waiver

Hey Sarah,

I see the Post has this. Can you send me an update? Does this mean he can investigate anyone, even if his previous law firm represents them?

Thank you,

Julia

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 3:51 PM
To: Ainsley, Julia E. (Reuters News)

Subject: RE: Mueller waiver

I don't have an update yet. We will hopefully have a press contact for you shortly as well.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com [<mailto:julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2017 3:00 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Mueller waiver

Hi Sarah,

Just checking in on this. Can you give me an update? Has the waiver been granted or is Mueller still under review?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:20 AM
To: Ainsley, Julia E. (Reuters News)
Subject: RE: Mueller waiver

The regulation spells this out and the timing is post appointment

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com [<mailto:julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Mueller waiver

Thanks! And one follow-up: Why wasn't this done before the announcement? If DOJ does not grant him the waiver, won't he be unable to work?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 19, 2017, at 11:03 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Confirmed!

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com [<mailto:julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 10:48 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Mueller waiver

Hi Sarah,

Can you confirm for me what you confirmed for the Post last night?

Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said Thursday that the agency will conduct a background investigation and detailed review of conflict-of-interest issues, a process outlined in the regulation governing special counsels under which he was appointed.

Julia Edwards Ainsley

Reuters News

Thomson Reuters

Mobil (b) (6)

julia.edwards@thomsonreuters.com

[Reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com)

Savage, Charlie

From: Savage, Charlie
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 1:18 PM
To: Abueg, Mark (OPA)
Subject: RE: 4th circuit surveillance ruling

Ty

On May 23, 2017 12:02 PM, "Abueg, Mark (OPA)" <Mark.Abueg@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Hi, Charlie.

DOJ declines to comment.

Best,

Mark

Mark Abueg
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Public Affairs

Office: [\(202\) 353-6836](tel:(202)353-6836)

Cell: (b) (6)

Email: mark.abueg@usdoj.gov

Website: www.justice.gov

From: Savage, Charlie [mailto:savage@nytimes.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:02 AM

To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: 4th circuit surveillance ruling

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.33656)

Perez, Evan

From: Perez, Evan
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:52 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: AG Sessions - SF86

thanks. i'll check back

Evan Pérez
Correspondent
CNN

mobile (b) (6)
office 202.772.2756
Twitter @evanperez

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:50:56 PM
To: Perez, Evan
Subject: RE: AG Sessions - SF86

So the only person who would know is his executive assistant who has definitely left for the day. So I won't even know who to talk to until tomorrow am at this point.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
(b) (6)

From: Perez, Evan [mailto:Evan.Perez@turner.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:40 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: AG Sessions - SF86

not immediate. i know it's 640p.
if you can reach folks let me know.

Evan Pérez
Correspondent
CNN

mobile (b) (6)
office 202.772.2756
Twitter @evanperez

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:31:11 PM

To: Perez, Evan

Subject: RE: AG Sessions - SF86

I'm not sure who to ask about his SF86. Whats your deadline? I can try to find out.

But off the record, the one "meeting" was a handshake after a speech with a lot of other folks standing around and also shaking his hand and introducing themselves before walking away. I don't think the SF86 would require a US Senator to be responsible for remembering every person who introduces themselves after a speech with incidental contact.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Perez, Evan [<mailto:Evan.Perez@turner.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:16 PM

To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: AG Sessions - SF86

Hi, can you talk for a minute?

Can you advise if the AG disclosed the Russia contacts [the ones that got all the hot and heavy attention back in February] on his SF86 form?

We're told at least one of those was left off.

anything you can share?

Evan Pérez
Correspondent

CNN

mobile (b) (6)

office 202.772.2756

Twitter @evanperez

Adam Goldman

From: Adam Goldman
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 9:58 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: You free for a quick chat?

Adam

Adam Goldman
Reporter
The New York Times
(m (b) (6))
(o) 202.862.0362

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 11:04 AM
To: Wilber, Del
Subject: RE: wainstein

You mean last week?

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Wilber, Del [mailto:del.wilber@wsj.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: wainstein

I'm told he interviewed with sessions/rosenstein next week.

anyone else interviewed you want to throw out there? going to do a blog post about that and the news that lieberman is done.

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU
O: (202) 862.6624 | M (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 11:27 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: would Mullaney

usually they blame public affairs. but we shall see. figured it's worth a try

On Wed, May 24, 2017 at 11:24 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

No objection here. He may not want to though.

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Wilber, Del [mailto:del.wilber@wsj.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 11:20 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Fwd: would Mullaney

is this something you would go for?

This guy is very sharp and I think it's important to remind people about terrorism.

everyone is way focused on russia.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wilber, Del** <del.wilber@wsj.com>

Date: Wed, May 24, 2017 at 11:17 AM

Subject: would Mullaney

To: "Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)" <Wyn.Hornbuckle@usdoj.gov>

ever sit down for a Q/A? I would ask a bunch of questions and then pick the best five to run on our website in the format of "Five things I have learned." It would focus on what he has learned about terrorism since being in such a key job -- from Al Qaeda to ISIS.

It would be timely now. Mostly just broad things. Educational for my readers (and my bosses).

Figured it was worth a shot.

--

Del Quentin Wilber

WASHINGTON BUREAU

O: [\(202\) 862.6624](tel:(202)862.6624) | M: (b) (6) DOJ: [\(202\) 216-0860](tel:(202)216-0860)

E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber

A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036

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--

Del Quentin Wilber

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[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 1:44 PM
To: Perez, Evan
Subject: here's what ive been saying

The recommendation to remove Director Comey was a personnel decision based on concerns about the effectiveness of his leadership as set forth in the Attorney General's letter. The recommendation had nothing to do with the substance of any investigation.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Wilber, Del; Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: where did the interim search lead?

No updates on this

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Wilber, Del [mailto:del.wilber@wsj.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 12:47 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: where did the interim search lead?

did it end? sticking with mccabe until you name a full-time replacement?

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU
O: (202) 862.6624 | M (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 6:04 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: CNN report?

Hi, do you have a statement about Sessions?

Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 6:08 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Fwd: CNN: AG Sessions did not disclose meetings with Russian officials, DOJ says

This true?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter
NBC News

(b) (6)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rodriguez, Janelle (NBCUniversal)" <Janelle.Rodriguez@nbcuni.com>
Date: May 24, 2017 at 6:07:05 PM EDT
To: "Greenberg, Richard (NBCUniversal)" <Richard.Greenberg@nbcuni.com>, "Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal)" <pete.williams@nbcuni.com>, "Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)" <Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com>
Subject: CNN: AG Sessions did not disclose meetings with Russian officials, DOJ says

CNN: AG Sessions did not disclose meetings with Russian officials, DOJ says

Washington (CNN)Attorney General Jeff Sessions did not disclose meetings he had last year with Russian officials when he applied for his security clearance, the Justice Department told CNN Wednesday.

Sessions, who met with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak at least two times last year, didn't note those interactions on the form, which requires him to list "any contact" he or his family had with a "foreign government" or its "representatives" over the past seven years, officials said.

The new information from the Justice Department is the latest example of Sessions failing to disclose contacts he had with Russian officials. He has come under withering criticism from Democrats following revelations that he did not disclose the same contacts with Kislyak during his Senate confirmation hearings earlier this year.

Sessions initially listed a year's worth of meetings with foreign officials on the security clearance form, according to Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores. But she says he and his staff were then told by an FBI employee who assisted in filling out the form, known as the SF-86, that he didn't need to list dozens of meetings with foreign ambassadors that happened in his capacity as a senator.

The FBI declined to comment for this story.

A legal expert who regularly assists officials in filling out the form disagrees with the Justice Department's explanation, suggesting that Sessions should have disclosed the meetings.

"My interpretation is that a member of Congress would still have to reveal the appropriate foreign government contacts notwithstanding it was on official business," said Mark Zaid, a Washington attorney who specializes in national security law.

Zaid added that in a similar circumstance he advised a member of Congress to list all foreign contacts -- including those made during official US government business.

To obtain a security clearance, a federal official is not required to list the meetings if they were part of a foreign conference he or she attended while conducting government business. Sessions' meetings, however, do not appear to be tied to foreign conferences.

The omission comes after problems that Trump adviser Jared Kushner and the President's ex-national security adviser, Michael Flynn, have had on their own security forms. Kushner prematurely submitted his SF-86 form without listing foreign contacts and had to notify the FBI the next day that he was willing to provide the information. Flynn is under investigation for not properly disclosing payments linked to Russia for his foreign trips.

Lawmakers have raised questions about Sessions' meetings with Russian officials while he played a prominent role in the Trump campaign -- meetings that he only disclosed after The Washington Post revealed them. He is under scrutiny as well for his role in the firing of FBI Director James Comey despite his recusal from the Russia investigation.

Sessions could be a witness before the House and Senate intelligence panels as part of their ongoing probes into potential Trump campaign

collusion with Russia, lawmakers said. And attendees at a classified House briefing last week with the deputy attorney general, Rod Rosenstein, said Sessions' name was raised when lawmakers asked if the attorney general had a role in the Comey firing. Rosenstein, sources said, declined to comment, but noted that such matters could be investigated by Robert Mueller, the recently named special counsel in the Russia probe.

Manafort turns over hundreds of pages of documents to Senate intel
Flores said the "recommendation to remove Comey was a personnel decision based on concerns about the effectiveness of his leadership" at the bureau and that it had "nothing to do with the substance of the investigation." Since the firing, President Donald Trump acknowledged in an interview with NBC News that the Russia investigation was on his mind as he dismissed Comey.

Sessions' meetings with Kislyak have become a major political problem for the new attorney general.

At his confirmation hearing January 10, Sessions testified that he "did not have communications" with the Russians during the campaign. He made the same assertion in an official questionnaire.

He was sworn in as attorney general February 9 and subsequently received a security clearance, even though he didn't mention the Kislyak meetings on his paperwork.

The Washington Post reported March 1 that Sessions had two undisclosed meetings with Kislyak during the campaign, which brought Sessions into the widening Russia scandal for the first time.

Sessions recused himself from overseeing the FBI's Russia investigation one day later.

"Let me be clear," Sessions said before announcing his recusal, "I never had meetings with Russian operatives or Russian intermediaries about the Trump campaign."

Trump's supporters aren't abandoning him in this Pennsylvania town
He then amended his Senate Judiciary Committee testimony to note the two reported interactions he had with Kislyak. In the amended testimony, the former Alabama senator said he spoke "briefly" in July 2016 to the Russian ambassador during the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. He also said that he spoke with the Russian ambassador in September 2016 in his Senate office with his staff members. He said he

did not initially list those meetings because he did not think they were relevant to the questions asked during the confirmation proceedings. He added: "I do not recall any discussions with the Russian ambassador or any other representative of the Russian government, regarding the political campaign on these occasions or any other occasion."

Lawmakers on the House and Senate intelligence committees say it is possible that Sessions could be questioned about those meetings and his role in the campaign -- as well as the circumstances around the Comey firing.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Senate minority leader, told CNN in an April 28 interview, "I'd be happy if they brought him before the committee and had him testify."

"Look, there are a lot of questions about Jeff Sessions," the New York Democrat said of his former colleague. "That's why I called on him to resign."

CNN's Brian Rokus and Marshall Cohen contributed to this report.

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 6:42 PM
To: Carrie Johnson
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: CNN: First on CNN: AG Sessions did not disclose meetings with Russian officials, DOJ says

Check in w Ian I'm on a plane. Off the record--They're story is sloppy and wrong. Last paragraph tells you what you need--instructed to take it off.

On May 24, 2017, at 6:41 PM, Carrie Johnson <CJohnson2@npr.org> wrote:

Can you confirm? Send statement?

Thanks
Carrie

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Muthoni Muturi <MMuturi@npr.org>
Date: May 24, 2017 at 6:36:43 PM EDT
To: Carrie Johnson <CJohnson2@npr.org>
Subject: CNN: First on CNN: AG Sessions did not disclose meetings with Russian officials, DOJ says

Seeing this now.

First on CNN: AG Sessions did not disclose meetings with Russian officials, DOJ says
CNN

Attorney General Jeff Sessions did not disclose meetings he had last year with Russian officials when he applied for his security clearance, the Justice Department told CNN Wednesday. [Read the full story](#)

Shared from [Apple News](#)

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 6:58 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: CNN report

Ok. Ian, just tried you again. Please call me as soon as you can. I need to publish something

Sent from my iPhone

On May 24, 2017, at 6:46 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

To start--he did disclose all of it. To the investigator. Who then told him not to put it on the form bc routine contacts as part of your senate job isn't to be included.

On May 24, 2017, at 6:46 PM, Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org> wrote:

Thanks. I did speak with Ian briefly and he's going to call me back. What part of it is wrong exactly?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 6:36 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: CNN report

Check in w Ian I'm on a plane. Off the record--They're story is sloppy and wrong. Last paragraph tells you what you need--instructed to take it off.

On May 24, 2017, at 6:14 PM, Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org> wrote:

http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/24/politics/jeff-sessions-russian-officials-meetings/index.html?adkey_bn

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 7:06 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: CNN report

I'm sorry, I really have to publish.

Can I just say that he omitted his contacts with foreign ambassadors from his security clearance form, but that he reported them all to the FBI official who was helping him with the form and was told that he didn't need to include them because they were routine contacts as part of his Senate job.

Is that all accurate for starters?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 6:56 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: CNN report

No. Wait for Ian.

On May 24, 2017, at 6:50 PM, Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org> wrote:

OK, thanks. Is that publishable and attributable to you?

So basically, he revealed all of his meetings with foreign ambassadors to the FBI official who was helping him with the form. But the official told him not to include it. And that's the reason why all of the meetings, including with Kislyak, were excluded?

Also, do you know when he submitted it?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 6:47 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: CNN report

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.33887)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 8:12 PM
To: pete.williams@nbcuni.com
Subject: Fwd: STATEMENT ON CNN STORY

Let me know if y'all are going to cover this at all--it's a nothing burger of a story

Begin forwarded message:

From: "USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)" <Ex_PAOMailbox@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Date: May 24, 2017 at 6:45:52 PM CDT
To: "USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs (SMO)" <Ex_PAOMailbox@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: STATEMENT ON CNN STORY



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AG

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV

(202) 514-2007
TTY (866) 544-5309

STATEMENT ON CNN STORY

WASHINGTON Deputy Director of Public Affairs Ian Prior issued the following statement in response to this evening's CNN story:

"As a United States Senator, the Attorney General met hundreds if not thousands of foreign dignitaries and their staff. In filling out the SF-86 form, the Attorney General's staff consulted with those familiar with the process, as well as the FBI investigator handling the background check, and was instructed not to list meetings with foreign dignitaries and their staff connected with his Senate activities."

###

DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE USE THE CONTACTS IN THE MESSAGE OR CALL THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT 202-

514-2007.

Prior, Ian (OPA)

From: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 10:13 AM
To: sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov; Barrett, Devlin
Subject: FW: Oops

I knew one of these days I was going to include Devlin when I meant to include Devin!

Ian D. Prior
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Office: 202.616.0911
Ce (b) (6)

From: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 10:13 AM
To: sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov; 'Barrett, Devlin' <Devlin.Barrett@washpost.com>
Subject: Oops

http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID_687fac79-0b81-419b-b0b4-4722da94d984

Ian D. Prior
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Office: 202.616.0911
Ce (b) (6)

Carrie Johnson

From: Carrie Johnson
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 10:33 AM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA); Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Fwd: REPORTABLE: White House statement on intelligence sharing

Hey there WH just put out this statement on leaks. You guys have anything to add? We have a local reporter on the ground to see AG Sessions today.

Thanks!

Carrie

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tamara Keith <TKeith@npr.org>
Date: May 25, 2017 at 10:29:51 AM EDT
To: NewsDesk <NewsDesk@npr.org>
Subject: REPORTABLE: White House statement on intelligence sharing

Sean Spicer just sent this to me (probably assuming I am still pool today)

The alleged leaks coming out of government agencies are deeply troubling. These leaks have been going on for a long time and my Administration will get to the bottom of this. The leaks of sensitive information pose a grave threat to our national security.

I am asking the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies to launch a complete review of this matter, and if appropriate, the culprit should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

There is no relationship we cherish more than the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Sent from my iPhone

Please pardon my clumsy thumbs. This message was sent from my iPhone.

Tamara Keith
White House Correspondent
NPR

(b) (6)

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 11:16 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Re: anything new on the uk leaks stuff?

yep. we used a paraphrased version for space.

On Thu, May 25, 2017 at 11:12 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:
Did you ever use my quote from yesterday?

On May 25, 2017, at 9:21 AM, Wilber, Del <del.wilber@wsj.com> wrote:

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU
O: (202) 862.6624 | M: (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

--

Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU
O: (202) 862.6624 | M: (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 11:19 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: anything new on the uk leaks stuff?

nobody in the media? Hah!

On Thu, May 25, 2017 at 11:15 AM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:
Maybe it did--just odd bc nobody else asked me for it and normally they do.

On May 25, 2017, at 9:21 AM, Wilber, Del <del.wilber@wsj.com> wrote:

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.34435)

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 11:21 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA); Keshwani, Sonya (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: Seeking comment on Trump comments this morning

Hi guys, just seeing if there's any comment from the department on Trump demanding a DOJ Investigation into apparent leaks in the Manchester bombing investigation? Thanks a lot.

Eric

Wilber, Del

From: Wilber, Del
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 1:10 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: question on leak investigations

is there anyone there who can provide guidance on what happens if president asks/orders one?

it appears potus has asked for one regarding the manchester stuff.

leak investigations are a nightmare!

--
Del Quentin Wilber
WASHINGTON BUREAU
O: (202) 862.6624 | M (b) (6) DOJ: (202) 216-0860
E: del.wilber@wsj.com | T: @delwilber
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036
[A Good Month for Murder](#)
[Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan](#)

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 1:40 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFF SESSIONS ON LEAKS FOLLOWING THE MANCHESTER TERROR ATTACK

Thanks, but what does that last sentence mean then?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 1:39 PM
To: Tucker, Eric
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFF SESSIONS ON LEAKS FOLLOWING THE MANCHESTER TERROR ATTACK

We don't confirm or deny the existence or non existence of investigations

On May 25, 2017, at 12:38 PM, Tucker, Eric <etucker@ap.org> wrote:

Hi. Does this last sentence mean a leak investigation is underway?

From: USDOJ Office of Public Affairs (SMO) [mailto:USDOJ.Office.of.Public.Affairs@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 1:28 PM
To: USDOJ Office of Public Affairs (SMO)
Subject: STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFF SESSIONS ON LEAKS FOLLOWING THE MANCHESTER TERROR ATTACK

<image001.jpg><image002.png>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017

(202) 514-

2007

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TTY (866) 544-5309

**STATEMENT FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFF SESSIONS ON LEAKS
FOLLOWING THE MANCHESTER TERROR ATTACK**

WASHINGTON Attorney General Jeff Sessions today issued the following statement on the recent leaks following the Manchester terror attack:

“I share the president's deep concern and talked to Home Secretary Rudd yesterday about this matter. These leaks cannot be tolerated and we will make every effort to put an end to it. We have already initiated appropriate steps to address these rampant leaks that undermine our national

security.”

#

17-575

DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE USE THE CONTACTS IN THE MESSAGE OR CALL THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT 202-514-2007.

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 2:42 PM
To: Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: Response to 4th Circuit ruling

Yes

On May 25, 2017, at 1:41 PM, Williams, Pete (NBCUniversal) <pete.williams@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Will you all have a statement this afternoon?

Many thanks.

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 2:49 PM
To: Zapotosky, Matt
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: Re: comment on travel ban ruling?

We will

On May 25, 2017, at 1:14 PM, Zapotosky, Matt <matt.zapotosky@washpost.com> wrote:

Hey

Not totally my issue today, but do you guys have a statement on the travel ban ruling?

Best,

Matt Zapotosky | The Washington Post

(b) (6) (cell)
(202) 334-5873 (office)

Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 3:01 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: do you have time for a call

Yes, thanks 202 885 5107, backup (b) (6)

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit



O: (202) 885-5107

(b) (6)
@KenDilanianNBC

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 3:00 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: Re: do you have time for a call

Yeah--can I call in 20 minutes or so?

On May 25, 2017, at 1:59 PM, Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) <Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com> wrote:

It's about person of interest. Can you break free for 5?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit
<image001.png>
O: (202) 885-5107
C (b) (6)
@KenDilanianNBC

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 2:57 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: Re: do you have time for a call

I'm traveling w the boss until 7ish tonight.

On May 25, 2017, at 1:56 PM, Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) <Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com> wrote:

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit
<image001.png>
O: (202) 885-5107

(b) (6)

@KenDilanianNBC

Tucker, Eric

From: Tucker, Eric
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: Appointment for Peter?

Oops, sorry!

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Tucker, Eric
Subject: RE: Appointment for Peter?

Check your inbox☺

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Tucker, Eric [mailto:etucker@ap.org]
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 9:30 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Appointment for Peter?

Hi guys, just saw on Twitter that Peter has been named the spokesman for the special counsel. Is that indeed true?

Thanks,
Eric

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 9:35 AM
To: Carrie Johnson
Subject: RE: Special Counsel Team press contact (and new folks intro)

Thank you! You too!

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Carrie Johnson [mailto:CJohnson2@npr.org]
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 9:32 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Special Counsel Team press contact (and new folks intro)

THANKS FOR THIS. Hope it's a peaceful weekend. And that you can see some live music there too.

Carrie

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 9:30 AM
To: Carr, Peter (OPA)
Cc: Prior, Ian (OPA); O'Malley, Devin (OPA); Laco, Kelly (OPA); Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: Special Counsel Team press contact (and new folks intro)

The email you've all been waiting for...

Starting Tuesday, Peter Carr will be moving over to the special counsel team to handle their press inquiries and media requests. His email and contact info will stay the same as will his sunny disposition. Wyn will now have the criminal and NSD portfolios.

In other news, I want to make sure you've all met Devin O'Malley and Kelly Laco who have joined our team. Devin will be doing press advance on our trips, handling civil rights division, and overall helping Ian deal with all you. Kelly joined us this week as our press assistant, making sure the trains are running on time so go introduce yourselves!

Hope everyone has a wonderful Memorial Day weeken (b) (6)

S

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 2:16 PM
To: Perez, Evan
Subject: RE: Call

Pls email

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Perez, Evan [mailto:Evan.Perez@turner.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Call

it's about a CNN story that my colleagues are doing.
I can give you a rundown via email if you prefer.
let me know how you want to handle.

Evan Pérez
Correspondent

CNN

mobile (b) (6)
office 202.772.2756
Twitter @evanperez

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 2:08:09 PM
To: Perez, Evan
Subject: RE: Call

About to step into meetings. What is it regarding?

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Perez, Evan [mailto:Evan.Perez@turner.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 1:57 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>

Subject: Call

Can I call you for a couple mins?
or you can try me (b) (6)

Evan Pérez
Correspondent

CNN

mobile (b) (6)

office 202.772.2756

Twitter @evanperez

Perez, Evan

From: Perez, Evan
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 5:02 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: Fwd: story about April 27 Mayflower meeting

Evan Pérez
Correspondent
CNN

(b) (6)
o [202.772.2756](tel:202.772.2756)
@evanperez

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Perez, Evan" <Evan.Perez@turner.com>
Date: May 31, 2017 at 4:20:09 PM EDT
To: Sarah Isgur Flores <sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: story about April 27 Mayflower meeting

my apologies. the intention is to do this story at 6pm.
please advise if the earlier statement from you has changed.
or if you have any thoughts or concerns.

thanks,

Evan Pérez
Correspondent

CNN

mobile (b) (6)
office 202.772.2756
Twitter @evanperez

From: Perez, Evan
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 4:03:25 PM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
Subject: Re: story about April 27 Mayflower meeting

fyi. here's the language we have from you previously on this event, when it was first raised in February.

we have you saying on the AG's behalf that while the then-Senator was there, you couldn't confirm that Kislyak was there and then added:

Flores said that the aide who was with Sessions at the event “remembered many other people who were there and specific conversations with them” but that the aide “can’t even confirm that ambassador was in the room.”

“But if he was, he didn’t meet the Senator as far as she knows and she was with him throughout the hold room time,” Flores said.

Evan Pérez
Correspondent

CNN

mobile (b) (6)
office 202.772.2756
Twitter @evanperez

From: Perez, Evan
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 2:46:16 PM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
Cc: Perez, Evan
Subject: story about April 27 Mayflower meeting

As discussed, my CNN colleagues are doing a story that says the following:

- congressional investigators are examining whether the Attorney General last year [while he was still senator and supporting the Trump campaign] had an additional meeting with Russian officials. This is sourced to Republican, Democratic and intelligence sources.
- the meeting in question would be the April 27, 2016 event at the Mayflower Hotel, where the then-candidate Trump was delivering a foreign policy address.
- the congressional investigators are seeking information from the AG, including schedules and other documents, that may shed light on the event. [[as you may recall, I asked you about whether the AG has received a preservation of records request from lawmakers, and you said you'd check with OLA]]
- in addition, FBI investigators are trying to determine the extent of interactions between people associated with the campaign and Russian officials at the event, including a smaller gathering at the Mayflower on the same day.
- we are saying thing that DOJ has previous said that the AG has no recollection of any interaction between the then-Sen Sessions and Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador, at the event. [[As I recall, an aide who was with the senator at the time doesn't recall whether the two men even shook hands.]]
- the congressional and FBI investigators haven't established whether there was a private meeting or whether, as has been described by DOJ, the contact was incidental.

If you want to talk about this, please let me know.

thanks,

Evan Pérez
Correspondent

CNN

mobile (b) (6)

office 202.772.2756

Twitter @evanperez

Prior, Ian (OPA)

From: Prior, Ian (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 5:08 PM
To: Carrie Johnson; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Subject: RE: March for Life sends letter to DOJ pushing for Planned Parenthood investigation

Checking

Ian D. Prior
Principal Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Office: 202.616.0911
Cel (b) (6)

From: Carrie Johnson [mailto:CJohnson2@npr.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 1:45 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FW: March for Life sends letter to DOJ pushing for Planned Parenthood investigation

You guys have anything on this? I'm still in the press room for a few more hours.

Thanks

Carrie

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mari Buttarazzi <mbuttarazzi@crcpublicrelations.com>
Date: May 31, 2017 at 1:42:50 PM EDT
To: <smccammon@npr.org>
Subject: March for Life sends letter to DOJ pushing for Planned Parenthood investigation

Hi Sarah,

Last night, March for Life sent both Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Acting Director of the FBI Andrew McCabe a [letter](#) urging them and their respective departments to investigate Planned Parenthood for past paid fetal tissue transfers. The coalition letter, co-signed by leading pro-life organizations including Susan B. Anthony List, Americans United for Life, American Conservative Union and Family Research Council, requests that the Justice Department continue the investigative work of the 114th Congress' [Select Panel](#) – which made 15 criminal and regulatory referrals of tissue procurement of Planned Parenthood and its affiliates.

This letter comes just as a new undercover [video](#) continues to spark controversy after its footage, which shows Planned Parenthood Directors and others admitting to gross illegalities like “pull[ing] off a leg or two, so it’s not PBA [partial-birth abortion]” and “certainly do[ing] D&Es [dilation and extraction, a method that is illegal under federal law]”, was [pulled](#) from YouTube hours after its release at CA District Judge Orrick’s order.

Full letter attached. March for Life is available for further comment.

All the best,
Mari Buttarazzi - mbuttarazzi@crcpublicrelations.com; 703-683-5004x1120

If you would rather not receive future communications from March for Life, let us know by clicking [here](#).
March for Life, 2760 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22314 United States

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 6:47 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: Re: letters

Will send you something very shortly

On May 31, 2017, at 6:35 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

No. Please do not use.

On May 31, 2017, at 6:22 PM, Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) <Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com> wrote:

This is your on the record statement, right?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [<mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 5:45 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: letters

It didn't happen. This is another "anonymous source" who will never be held to account for peddling a false story and whose credibility will never get public scrutiny. So let me be clear: I'm putting my name on this because I've talked to the people who staffed then-Senator Sessions that day, I have his private schedule for that day, and I've talked to him myself. There was no private meeting.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [<mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 5:12 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: letters

The Leahy Franken letter to the FBI cites the Huff Po account of the Mayflower meeting. Says he "may have had contact." To be clear, this is not consistent with what I have been told the evidence suggests. I'm told there is evidence of a private meeting.

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter, Investigative Unit
<[image001.png](#)>
O: (202) 885-5107
(b) (6)

@KenDilanianNBC

Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 6:55 PM
To: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA); Prior, Ian (OPA)
Subject: RE: Confirming Weissmann to Muller team

Julia,

On background, confirming that Weissmann is being detailed to the office of special counsel, and Sandra Moser will be acting head of the fraud section.

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 1:46 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Cc: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Confirming Weissmann to Muller team

Ok thanks. Wyn, can you confirm?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 1:45 PM
To: Ainsley, Julia E. (Reuters News); Prior, Ian (OPA)
Cc: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Subject: RE: Confirming Weissmann to Muller team

Wyn has the criminal portfolio now

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com [mailto:julia.ainsley@thomsonreuters.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 1:44 PM
To: Prior, Ian (OPA) <IPrior@jmd.usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Confirming Weissmann to Muller team

Hi Ian and Sarah,
Can you confirm that Andrew Weissmann, head of DOJ's fraud section, is joining Muller's investigation, as Bloomberg has reported? And where does this leave the fraud section?
Thank you,
Julia

Julia Edwards Ainsley
Reuters News
Thomson Reuters

Mobil (b) (6)

julia.edwards@thomsonreuters.com

[Reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com)

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 7:50 PM
To: Perez, Evan
Subject: RE: statement

And I got yours! Huge!

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Perez, Evan [mailto:Evan.Perez@turner.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 7:49 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: statement

Got it. Thanks

Evan Pérez
Correspondent
CNN

(b) (6)
o [202.772.2756](tel:202.772.2756)
@evanperez

On May 31, 2017, at 7:45 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

On the record from me:

The Department of Justice appointed special counsel to assume responsibility for this matter.

We will allow him to do his job. It is unfortunate that anonymous sources whose credibility will never face public scrutiny are continuously trying to hinder that process by peddling false stories to the mainstream media. The facts haven't changed; the then-Senator did not have any private or side conversations with any Russian officials at the Mayflower Hotel.

Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 8:02 PM
To: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: letters

No

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 8:01 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: letters

Did they publish yet?

Ken Dilanian
National Security Reporter
NBC News

(b) (6)

On May 31, 2017, at 7:44 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

On the record from me:

The Department of Justice appointed special counsel to assume responsibility for this matter.

We will allow him to do his job. It is unfortunate that anonymous sources whose credibility will never face public scrutiny are continuously trying to hinder that process by peddling false stories to the mainstream media. The facts haven't changed; the then-Senator did not have any private or side conversations with any Russian officials at the Mayflower Hotel.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Dilanian, Ken (NBCUniversal) [<mailto:Ken.Dilanian@nbcuni.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 6:22 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FW: letters

Duplicative Material (Document ID: 0.7.22207.37187)