

From: "Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)" (b)(6)

To: "Carr, Peter (PAO)" (b)(6)

Subject: Re: Hi Peter

Date: Thu, 25 May 2023 01:18:22 -0000

Importance: Normal

Thanks.

On May 24, 2023, at 8:35 PM, Carr, Peter (PAO) (b)(6) wrote:

Brad, I'm covering for Wyn while he is out on leave. Just flagging the inquiry below from FOX.

I declined to comment.

Peter Carr

(b)(6)

From: Spunt, David (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 8:32:39 PM

To: Carr, Peter (PAO) (b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hi Peter

Any comment from DOJ regarding the allegation made by IRS whistleblower Gary Shapley who says DOJ slow walked the investigation that we know is Hunter Biden tax probe ?

Thanks!

David Spunt
Correspondent
Fox News

(b)(6)

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From: "Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO)" (b)(6)

To: "Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)" (b)(6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] CNN Request for Comment

Date: Tue, 16 May 2023 15:43:16 +0000

Importance: Normal

This would be helpful

From: Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:33 AM

To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] CNN Request for Comment

I am talking to Klapper about a response along the following lines, which would be from DOJ spox:

The Department cannot comment on the matter. As to any investigation of Hunter Biden, as the Attorney General has said, that investigation is being handled by U.S. Attorney David Weiss, who has full authority to make investigative decisions and to bring charges in any jurisdiction as he deems appropriate. I refer you to U.S. Attorney Weiss for any questions concerning his investigation.

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 8:31 AM

To: Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG) (b)(6)

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] CNN Request for Comment

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Murray, Sara" (b)(6)

Date: May 16, 2023 at 7:03:11 AM EDT

To: "Dulaney, Emma (PAO)" (b)(6), "Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO)" (b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] CNN Request for Comment

Hey there, checking to see if you all can comment on this claim from the IRS whistleblower's attorney saying an IRS investigative team, including his client, was removed from the Hunter Biden probe. According to the letter from the attorneys, the change was at the request of DOJ. Thanks!

<https://nypost.com/2023/05/15/irs-cans-investigative-team-from-hunter-biden-probe-in-move-whistleblower-claims-is-clearly-retaliatory/>

Sara Murray

CNN

C: (b)(6)

From: "Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO)" (b)(6)

To: "Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)" (b)(6)

Subject: FW: CBS - IRS

Date: Tue, 16 May 2023 15:29:04 +0000

Importance: Normal

From: Legare, Robert (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:26 AM

To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b)(6); Stueve, Joshua (PAO) (b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] CBS - IRS

Good morning Wyn and Josh –

Reaching out for comment after the attorney for an IRS Criminal Supervisory Special Agent whistleblower wrote to members of Congress yesterday saying the agent "and his entire investigative team are being removed" from an investigation into a "high-profile, controversial subject" who CBS News has previously confirmed is Hunter Biden. The attorney wrote that the team's removal was "at the request of the Department of Justice.

Thanks,
Rob

From: "Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)" (b)(6)

To: "Blier, William M.(OIG)" (b)(6)

Subject: FW: The Wall Street Journal: IRS Whistleblower Says U.S. Is Mishandling Hunter Biden Probe

Date: Wed, 19 Apr 2023 23:13:45 -0000

Importance: Normal

FYSA. Many characterizations here are wrong. Happy to discuss further if you would like.

Thanks, Brad.

From: Dulaney, Emma (PAO) (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:28 PM

To: Zdeb, Sara (OLA) (b)(6); Uriarte, Carlos F. (OLA) (b)(6); Hinojosa, Xochitl (PAO) (b)(6); Kohlman, Abby K. (OLA) (b)(6); Bond, Slade (OLA) (b)(6); Brennan, Shea (OLA) (b)(6); Iverson, Dena (PAO) (b)(6); Evers, Austin (ODAG) (b)(6); Benson, Adrienne (ODAG) (b)(6); Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b)(6); Gao, Greta G. (OLA) (b)(6); Hanson, Matthew B. (OLA) (b)(6); Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO) (b)(6); Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG) (b)(6); Morris, Catherine (PAO) (b)(6); Miller, Marshall (ODAG) (b)(6)

Subject: The Wall Street Journal: IRS Whistleblower Says U.S. Is Mishandling Hunter Biden Probe

[The Wall Street Journal: IRS Whistleblower Says U.S. Is Mishandling Hunter Biden Probe](#)

In letter to lawmakers, Internal Revenue Service supervisor says he has information of 'preferential treatment and politics'

By [Aruna Viswanatha](#)

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, [Sadie Gurman](#)

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and [C. Ryan Barber](#)

Hunter Biden, pictured in February in Syracuse, N.Y., denies wrongdoing in a criminal investigation related to his taxes. Photo: Patrick Semansky/Associated Press

WASHINGTON—An IRS supervisor has told lawmakers he has information that suggests the Biden administration is improperly handling [the criminal investigation](#) into President Biden's son, Hunter Biden, and is seeking whistleblower protections, according to people familiar with the matter.

A letter sent to Congress on Tuesday says a career Internal Revenue Service criminal supervisory special agent has information that would contradict sworn testimony by a "senior political appointee." The supervisor also has information about a "failure to mitigate clear conflicts of interest in the ultimate disposition of the case," according to the letter.

The supervisor has details that show “preferential treatment and politics improperly infecting decisions and protocols that would normally be followed by career law enforcement professionals in similar circumstances if the subject were not politically connected,” according to the letter.

The letter says the supervisor has been overseeing an “ongoing and sensitive investigation of a high-profile, controversial subject since early 2020,” which it doesn’t name. The investigation at issue is into the younger Mr. Biden, the people familiar with the matter said.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Biden didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

Hunter Biden is facing a criminal investigation related to his taxes and whether he made a false statement in connection with a gun purchase. When he said in December 2020 that his tax matters were under investigation, Hunter Biden said he was “confident that a professional and objective review of these matters will demonstrate that I handled my affairs legally and appropriately.”

Investigators [have believed for months they had enough evidence](#) to indict the younger Mr. Biden, the Journal and other news outlets have reported. Prosecutors have also weighed whether Hunter Biden’s well-documented drug addiction would present a defense against a potential criminal tax case, the Journal previously reported. He hasn’t been charged with any wrongdoing.

The investigation has been led by a Trump-appointed U.S. attorney, David Weiss, who has remained the top federal prosecutor in Delaware under the Biden administration. During a March oversight hearing, Attorney General Merrick Garland said Mr. Weiss has [broad independence](#) to pursue charges.

“He has been advised he is not to be denied anything he needs,” Mr. Garland testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 1. “I have not heard anything from that office to suggest that they are not able to do everything the U.S. attorney wants to do.”

The Justice Department investigation has [unfolded against the backdrop](#) of congressional inquiries scrutinizing the Biden family’s finances and, specifically, Hunter Biden’s income from work overseas. In March, the Republican-led House Oversight Committee released a memo saying the president’s family indirectly received money from a Chinese oil company in 2017, after Mr. Biden stepped down as vice president.

As part of their investigation, Republican lawmakers have also received access to government reports of suspicious financial transactions related to members of President Biden’s family.

The Tuesday letter, from Mark Lytle, a lawyer for the IRS agent, said his client wants whistleblower protections to provide his information. It was addressed to both Republican and Democratic leaders on the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

“Despite serious risks of retaliation, my client is offering to provide you with information necessary to exercise your constitutional oversight function and wishes to make the disclosures in a nonpartisan manner to the

leadership of the relevant committees on both sides of the political aisle,” said the letter, signed by Mr. Lytle.

According to the letter, the employee previously disclosed his information internally at the IRS and to the Justice Department’s inspector general. He is restricted from sharing some of the information due to privacy laws that shield Americans’ tax return information, the letter said.

Write to Aruna Viswanatha at aruna.viswanatha@wsj.com, Sadie Gurman at sadie.gurman@wsj.com and C. Ryan Barber at ryan.barber@wsj.com

From: "Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)" (b)(6)

To: "Weiss, David (USADE)" (b)(6)

Subject: FW: The Wall Street Journal: IRS Whistleblower Says U.S. Is Mishandling Hunter Biden Probe

Date: Wed, 19 Apr 2023 21:29:00 -0000

Importance: Normal

It goes without saying that this reporting is wrong, or at least the whistleblower does not have accurate information. While you have conferred with other USAOs, as appropriate and consistent with Department practice, we have been very clear that the cases are yours to charge as you see fit, and you will be designated as a Special Attorney pursuant to 28 USC 515 to handle any prosecution you choose to bring in another jurisdiction. So the views of other USAOs are in no way controlling. But there is nothing we can say about a pending investigation, consistent with longstanding policy. I am not sure there is much we can do at this point in response to this reporting. (b)(5)

[REDACTED]

Thanks, Brad.

Brad Weinsheimer
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Rm. 4113
Washington, DC 20530

(b)(6)

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (PAO) (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:31 PM

To: Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG) (b)(6)

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FYSA

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(b)(6); Hanson, Matthew B. (OLA) (b)(6); Pietranton, Kelsey (PAO)
(b)(6); Klapper, Matthew B. (OAG) (b)(6); Morris, Catherine (PAO)
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By [Aruna Viswanatha](#)

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Write to Aruna Viswanatha at aruna.viswanatha@wsj.com, Sadie Gurman at sadie.gurman@wsj.com and C. Ryan Barber at ryan.barber@wsj.com

From: "Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)" (b)(6)

To: "Weiss, David (USADE)" (b)(6)

Cc: "Weinsheimer, Bradley (ODAG)" (b)(6)

Subject: RE: New York Times Inquiry re Hunter Biden

Date: Tue, 15 Mar 2022 21:59:01 +0000

Importance: Normal

Embedded: [EXTERNAL]_Hunter_Biden_story_questions

Hi David,

I've attached Katie's email to me about this investigation, which I know nothing about and would not comment on as consistent with DOJ policies.

Anthony D. Coley, Director
Office of Public Affairs &
Sr. Advisor to the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Direct: (b)(6)
Cell: (b)(6)
@AnthonyColeyDOJ

From: Weiss, David (USADE) (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 5:39 PM

To: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) (b)(6)

Subject: New York Times Inquiry re Hunter Biden

Anthony,

My PIO received an inquiry from Katie Benner at the Times about the Hunter Biden investigation. I understand that the reporter has also been in touch with you. If accurate, can you fill me in on some of the background here?

Thanks for your assistance.

David Weiss
United States Attorney
District of Delaware

From: Katie Benner (b)(6)

To: "Coley, Anthony D. (PAO)" (b)(6)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hunter Biden story questions

Date: Mon, 14 Mar 2022 15:23:13 -0400

Importance: Normal

Hi Anthony,

I'm working on a story on the Hunter Biden investigation, essentially a status update on the case. I wanted to run the following fact checks and queries by you. I'm aiming to pub tomorrow, but the deadline is not firm, given that we have some final reporting threads to wrap up.

Thank you so much,
Katie

1. We understand that Hunter Biden has told people that he paid the US govt about \$2 million to resolve his outstanding federal income tax liability. Is that correct? Does this settle his outstanding civil tax matter?
2. We understand that Hunter is still being investigated for three possible criminal charges: a criminal tax offense, a FARA offense, and money laundering.
 - The criminal tax case would be greatly weakened if he paid off his tax bill, given that juries rarely criminally convict tax cheats who have paid their bills.
 - If prosecutors can't show intent, the FARA piece of the investigation could be treated as a civil, rather than a criminal matter.
 - A money laundering offense cannot be charged without a predicate crime, like criminal FARA. The prosecutors' inability to prove criminal FARA could impede a money laundering charge.
3. Federal prosecutors are looking at whether Blue Star, a consulting company that Hunter introduced to Burisma, violated the law by repping the Ukrainian energy company without registering under FARA.
 - Prosecutors are inspecting whether Hunter was also involved in Blue Star's lobbying work.
4. History of the case in short: The Tax Division and the IRS began inspecting his tax issues under AG Lynch. Based on evidence in that inquiry, a criminal money laundering case was opened in the US Attorney's office in Delaware under AG Sessions. Given that there was little thought at the time that Joe Biden would run for president, the case did not involve Public Integrity. But the FARA and money laundering issues meant that NSD and the Criminal Division's Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section have been involved in the case.
5. When is the last time prosecutors have reached out to Hunter's team?

--

Katie Benner

@ktbenner

Check out my recent stories [here](#)