
From: Sweeney, Laura (SMO)
To: Sweeney, Laura (SMO); Raman, Mythili; Weinstein, Jason; Blanco, Kenneth; Swartz, Bruce
Sent: 3/10/2011 8:54:07 AM
Subject: RE: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

Adding Bruce

From: Sweeney, Laura (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:51 AM
To: Raman, Mythili (CRM); Weinstein, Jason (CRM); Blanco, Kenneth (CRM)
Subject: FW: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

See below for what we just sent back to group

From: Schmalzer, Tracy (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:50 AM
To: 'O'Reilly, Kevin M.'; Sweeney, Laura (SMO); Restrepo, Daniel A.; 'PascualC@state.gov'; ATF (ATF); Avery, Heidi E.; Cogswell, Patricia; Kendall, Sarah M.; Croley, Steve
Cc: 'rooneymm@state.gov'; 'JacobsonRS@state.gov'; 'FeeleyJD@state.gov'; 'williamsjha@state.gov'; Johnston, Deborah A. (ODAG)
Subject: RE: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

These are the press points AG used and will use for the hearing this morning.

We continue to work with our law enforcement counterparts here and in Mexico to stem the flow of weapons, cash and drugs across our borders and interdict people whose only goal is to evade law enforcement.

Fighting criminal activity along the Southwest Border – including the illegal trafficking of guns to Mexico – has been a priority of this Administration and this Department of Justice. The mission of ATF and other law enforcement agencies is to stop the flow of illegal weapons and drugs across the Border – and it will continue to be.

We're not going to comment on the specifics of any operation, but we are aware of questions that have been raised by ATF agents. We take those very seriously, and that's why the Attorney General has asked the Inspector General to get to the bottom of it.

Keep in mind it is legal to purchase guns in this country. At any time, a law-abiding citizen can walk into a federal firearms licensee, or licensed gun dealer, and purchase one or more firearms without any special requirement from the federal government. That makes gun investigations by their very nature different from investigations into drugs. But in any case, good, smart, effective law enforcement requires nuanced and difficult judgments as we try to catch and interdict people whose only goal is to evade law enforcement.

Transcript

REPORTER: There were questions today raised about fast and furious. Has the program been suspended? And why were Mexican, why wasn't the Mexican Government informed of it at the time?

ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: Well, we are, as I guess you all know, I have asked our Inspector General's Office to look into that matter. The aim of the ATF is to try to stop the flow of guns. I think they do a good job in that regard.

Questions have been raised by ATF agents about the way in which some of these operations have

been conducted. I think those questions have to be taken seriously, and on that basis I have asked the Inspector General to look at it.

REPORTER: In a general way, as someone who has overseen dozens and hundreds of investigations, as an investigative tool, have you ever heard of a situation where you would allow heavily on high-powered weapons to go over a border, and then not know what happens on the other end? Unlike dummy drugs or dummy bombs that you have used extensively in other cases, how does that happen?

ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: Well, I think one has to understand that there is a difference between the investigations and using the examples that you have, you supplied.

The purchase of drugs is illegal, and we know that from the beginning of an investigation. The use of or transmission of a bomb is something that we know is illegal.

You can purchase weapons legally. They can be transferred legally. It makes those investigations more difficult, more complex in some ways, than other investigations.

Now, whether there should be guns allowed to travel, or let them run, whatever the phrase is, is something that I think we have to look at and examine. And that's one of the reasons I've asked the Inspector General to look at, look at the facts and see exactly what happened, and whether or not what happened was appropriate.

From: Kevin M. O'Reilly
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:11 AM
To: Sweeney, Laura (SMO); Restrepo, Daniel A.; 'PascualC@state.gov'; ATF (ATF); Avery, Heidi E.; Cogswell, Patricia; Kendall, Sarah M.; Croley, Steve
Cc: 'rooneymm@state.gov'; 'JacobsonRS@state.gov'; 'FeeleyJD@state.gov'; 'williamsjha@state.gov'; Schmalzer, Tracy (SMO); Johnston, Deborah A. (ODAG)
Subject: Re: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

DOJ,

Could you circulate to this list what the Attorney General said yesterday & the press points you've derived from his statements?

It would help coordination with Mexican authorities, & doing so before the AG's testimony limits the risk that the Mexicans spin off in an unexpected direction after his testimony.

Kevin O'

Kevin M O'Reilly
Director
North American Affairs
National Security Staff
The White House

Privacy

From: O'Reilly, Kevin M.

To: 'laura.sweeney2@usdoj.gov' <laura.sweeney2@usdoj.gov>; Restrepo, Daniel A.: 'PascualC@state.gov' <PascualC@state.gov>; ATF Avery, Heidi E.; Cogswell, Patricia; Kendall, Sarah M.; Croley, Steve
Cc: 'rooneymm@state.gov' <rooneymm@state.gov>; 'JacobsonRS@state.gov' <JacobsonRS@state.gov>; 'FeeleyJD@state.gov' <FeeleyJD@state.gov>; 'williamsjha@state.gov' <williamsjha@state.gov>; 'Tracy.Schmalder@usdoj.gov' <Tracy.Schmalder@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 10 07:21:09 2011
Subject: Re: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

Thank you.

Kevin M O'Reilly
Director
North American Affairs
National Security Staff
The White House

Privacy

From: Sweeney, Laura (SMO) <Laura.Sweeney2@usdoj.gov>
To: O'Reilly, Kevin M.; Restrepo, Daniel A.; 'PascualC@state.gov' <PascualC@state.gov>; ATF ATF Avery, Heidi E.; Cogswell, Patricia; Kendall, Sarah M.; Croley, Steve
Cc: 'rooneymm@state.gov' <rooneymm@state.gov>; 'JacobsonRS@state.gov' <JacobsonRS@state.gov>; 'FeeleyJD@state.gov' <FeeleyJD@state.gov>; 'williamsjha@state.gov' <williamsjha@state.gov>; Schmalder, Tracy (SMO) <Tracy.Schmalder@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 10 07:15:45 2011
Subject: Re: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

Hearing is at 11 am today.

From: Sweeney, Laura (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 07:09 AM
To: Kevin M. O'Reilly; Kevin M. O'Reilly; Daniel A. Restrepo; Daniel A. Restrepo; 'PascualC@state.gov' <PascualC@state.gov>; Breuer, Lanny A. (CRM); ATF ATF; Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Heidi A. Avery; Patricia Cogswell; Patricia Cogswell; Sarah M. Kendall; Sarah M. Kendall; Steven P. Croley
Cc: 'rooneymm@state.gov' <rooneymm@state.gov>; 'JacobsonRS@state.gov' <JacobsonRS@state.gov>; 'FeeleyJD@state.gov' <FeeleyJD@state.gov>; 'williamsjha@state.gov' <williamsjha@state.gov>; Schmalder, Tracy (SMO)
Subject: Re: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

Adding Tracy from DOJ's press office. I'll send the public comments that the AG made yesterday when asked about FF at a press conference yesterday, which might address some of the concerns below. We can also review the suggested edits to the talking points. At this time, DOJ doesn't think we're in a position to issue a proactive statement, but if there are additional public statements today in response to questions during the AG's Congressional testimony, we'll make sure to provide those to you as well.

From: Kevin M. O'Reilly
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 07:01 AM
To: Daniel A. Restrepo; 'PascualC@state.gov' <PascualC@state.gov>; Breuer, Lanny A. (CRM); Sweeney, Laura (SMO); ATF ATF; Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Avery, Heidi E. Heidi A. Avery; Patricia Cogswell; Patricia Cogswell; Kendall, Sarah M. Sarah M. Kendall; Steven P. Croley
Cc: 'rooneymm@state.gov' <rooneymm@state.gov>; 'JacobsonRS@state.gov' <JacobsonRS@state.gov>; 'FeeleyJD@state.gov' <FeeleyJD@state.gov>; 'williamsjha@state.gov' <williamsjha@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

+ Steve Croley

Kevin M O'Reilly
Director
North American Affairs
National Security Staff
The White House

Privacy

From: Restrepo, Daniel A.

To: 'PascualC@state.gov' <PascualC@state.gov>; 'Lanny.Breuer@usdoj.gov' <Lanny.Breuer@usdoj.gov>;

'Laura.Sweeney2@usdoj.gov' <Laura.Sweeney2@usdoj.gov>

ATF

ATF

'Ken.Melson'

ATF

<Ken.Melson'

ATF

O'Reilly, Kevin M.; Avery, Heidi E.;

Cogswell, Patricia; Kendall, Sarah M.

Cc: 'rooneymm@state.gov' <rooneymm@state.gov>; 'jacobsonrs@state.gov' <jacobsonrs@state.gov>; 'FeeleyJD@state.gov'

<FeeleyJD@state.gov>; 'williamsjha@state.gov' <williamsjha@state.gov>

Sent: Thu Mar 10 06:22:49 2011

Subject: Re: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

+ Heidi Avery, Patty Cogswell, and Sarah Kendall

From: Pascual, Carlos (Mexico City) <PascualC@state.gov>

To: Lanny.Breuer@usdoj.gov <Lanny.Breuer@usdoj.gov>; Laura.Sweeney2@usdoj.gov <Laura.Sweeney2@usdoj.gov>;

ATF

Ken.Melson'

ATF

<Ken.Melson'

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Restrepo,

Daniel A.; O'Reilly, Kevin M.

Cc: Rooney, Matthew M <RooneyMM@state.gov>; Jacobson, Roberta S <JacobsonRS@state.gov>; Feeley, John D (Mexico City) <FeeleyJD@state.gov>; Williams, James H (Mexico City) <williamsjha@state.gov>

Sent: Thu Mar 10 03:04:05 2011

Subject: Fw: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

Help! See below.

This message has been sent via BlackBerry

From: Privacy

To: Pascual, Carlos (Mexico City)

Sent: Thu Mar 10 01:52:52 2011

Subject: Urgent -- Fast and Furious Case

Colleagues,

DP

DP

Many thanks.

Carlos

Our original points:

DP

STATE/Privacy *email follows.*

On Thu, Mar 10, 2011 at 1:42 AM, Pascual, Carlos (Mexico City) <PascualC@state.gov> wrote:

This message has been sent via BlackBerry

From: **State/Privacy**

To: Pascual, Carlos (Mexico City)

Cc: Feeley, John D (Mexico City)

Sent: Thu Mar 10 00:35:24 2011

Subject: draft

Carlos, following this evening's meeting,

State

State