
From: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ)
To: Weinstein, Jason (CRM)
Sent: 3/4/2011 11:58:07 AM
Subject: RE: AZ gun trafficking case

Thanks for all your support. Means a lot.

Quite a dearth of understanding at Main Justice in how these cases work. Glad that you are there to shine some light on it.

Remind me never to get in a foxhole w/ many of them.

From: Weinstein, Jason (CRM)
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 9:51 AM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ)
Subject: Fw: AZ gun trafficking case

Just fyi, this is what I sent up last weekend. Your guys are great.

Jason M. Weinstein
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From: Weinstein, Jason
To: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG) (SMO); Wilkinson, Monty (OAG) (SMO); Moran, Molly (OAG) (SMO)
Cc: Breuer, Lanny A.; Raman, Mythili
Sent: Sat Feb 26 22:09:52 2011
Subject: AZ gun trafficking case

Stuart/Monty/Molly,

As you know, the DAG asked me to obtain more information about the manner in which the Arizona gun trafficking investigation known as "Fast and Furious" was put together.

The investigation spanned well over a year and included: ATF

ATF

I will attempt to capture as much of the relevant information as possible in this email, but am available to discuss further – I'm around all weekend on berry (202-ATF).

The information that follows was provided by Emory and Pat during our call.

Background

A little background on the players may be instructive:

- The lead case agent is a very experienced and skilled agent who has had extensive experience working firearms trafficking cases.
- Emory is regarded as the District's preeminent expert on federal gun laws. Like the case agent, Emory has a lot of experience pursuing straw purchasers and building firearms trafficking cases. I would add parenthetically that both yesterday and in my prior dealings with him, I have found him to be a very sharp and impressive AUSA, and he seems like the kind of thoughtful AUSA you would want handling a case of this magnitude and complexity.
- [ATF] in many of the sales at issue here (including the sales of the guns found at or near the scene of the Terry murder), has [ATF] even before the Fast and Furious case began, providing voluntary reports of multiple sales of long guns.
- The District of Arizona is a place where guns, including long guns, are prevalent. It is not at all uncommon - nor is it illegal - for people to have guns in their vehicles in Arizona.

The Investigation

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As indicated above, this was an extraordinarily complex case, and I can give you only a higher-altitude view of it,

based on the information provided by the USAO and ATF. But based on my conversation yesterday with the AUSA and Crim Chief, and based on prior conversations with Dennis Burke and with the ATF SAC, this investigation was conducted - and the decisions about when to seize guns were made - thoughtfully, carefully, and strategically.

I hope this is helpful.

Jason