

To: Goldberg, Stuart (ODAG)[Stuart.Goldberg@usdoj.gov]
From: Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF)
Sent: Wed 3/2/2011 11:44:33 PM
Subject: FW: Questions for DOJ

Stuart: Thanks for the heads up. I spoke to our public affairs people and they did get the email from Tracy. We have not received any documents from Solomon yet, but will continue trying when we talk tomorrow. Ken.

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

From: Thomasson, Scot L.
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 6:40 PM
To: Melson, Kenneth E.
Subject: FW: Questions for DOJ

Sir,

We are going to speak to him tomorrow to make the point suggested below.

Scot L. Thomasson
Chief
ATF Public Affairs Division
Washington, DC
Desk 202-648-7089
Cell 206-730-0005

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

From: Schmalder, Tracy (SMO) [mailto:Tracy.Schmalder@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 5:45 PM
To: Thomasson, Scot L.
Subject: FW: Questions for DOJ

Hey -- see below chain: these are the q's he posed to us. I asked for facts surrounding premise of #1 and he sent me the below quotes ... is there some kind of case summary? Folks here didn't know. Also -- did you get q's from him or talk w. him?

DP
DP

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

From: Solomon, John [mailto:jsolomon@publicintegrity.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 12:18 PM
To: Schmalder, Tracy (SMO)
Cc: Solomon, John
Subject: FW: Questions for DOJ

Tracy:

Here are the questions for which we need on the record answers from DOJ:

1.) What did Main Justice know about the ATF operation code named Fast and Furious in Phoenix? Did the attorney general or Lanny Breuer know about ATF's efforts to let guns flow to straw buyers as part of a larger

strategy to making bigger cases against Mexican drug organizations?

[FROM JOHN ON MY QUESTION RE: BASIS FOR THIS -- "I have confirmed this with DOJ employees and internal DOJ memos. If you read the F&F case summary sent to main Justice you'll see there are specific numbers given for the number of weapons ATF permitted to be sold to know straw and suspect buyers and then monitored between October 2009 and January 2011. If you want to dispute that premise, I'll be glad to quote you."]

2.) Why did lawyers from the US Attorney's office in Phoenix meet with FFLs and encourage them to keep selling guns to known straw buyers, including [ATF] after [ATF] was already listed in ATF's database as a suspect buyer? How did DOJ lawyers address the concerns of gun sellers about civil liability or future prosecution if they continued to let the gun sales proceed?

3.) Does DOJ believe its answers last month to Sen. Grassley were accurate and complete? If so, why?

4.) Is DOJ contemplating any action against ATF agents who talked to Sen. Grassley about their concerns?

5.) What if any concerns does DOJ have if ATF agents are monitoring the sales of guns to suspected straw buyers or begin seeing the guns they have been monitoring show up in crimes on both sides of the border?

Thanks

John