
From: Featherstone, Alex (Mexico City)
To: Pascual, Carlos (Mexico City); Feeley, John D (Mexico City); Williams, James H (Mexico City)
CC: William.D.Newll@usdoj.gov; Breuer, Lanny A. (CRM); Thomasson, Scot L. (ATF); ATF
(ATF); Schmalzer, Tracy (SMO); Sweeney, Laura (SMO); Kevin M. O'Reilly
Kaypaghian, Gabriel
Sent: 3/14/2011 12:36:41 PM
Subject: Proceso singles out Bill Newell for hiding F&F from the GOM
Attachments: 110312 Proceso on Bill Newell.pdf

“Proceso” magazine had several stories on Fast and Furious, but the attached 3-page article was noteworthy because it says Bill Newell (“The Fast & Furious Envoy”) will be the new head of ATF here, and it singles him out as “one of those responsible for implementing it and who opposed informing the Mexican authorities about it.”

Citing a February 3 letter that blogger Mike Vanderboegh sent to Salvador de Lara, Mexican consul in Atlanta, Proceso said Vanderboegh claimed that Newell hid the details of F&F from Darren Gil “who had a confrontation with Newell over whether the GOM should be notified.” According to Vanderboegh, “Newell insisted that there be no notification to the Mexican authorities,” after which Gil contacted his higher-ups in Washington, but they backed up Newell.

“In a meeting which included Lanny Breuer, AAG for DOJ’s Criminal Division, and ATF Acting Director Kenneth Melson and various subordinates, it was decided to keep the GOM in the dark,” wrote Vanderboegh in his letter. He indicates that Gil was “forced to retire and so he did on December 31.” Proceso says GOM sources confirmed that Gil departed post very suddenly and without explanation, without even saying goodbye.

Proceso also refers to some other blogs like CleanUpATF.org, Sipsey Street Irregulars.com and Examiner.com.

-- Alex

Alexander A. Featherstone

Agregado de Prensa / Press Attaché
Embassy of the United States of America
Mexico City

Embassy website: <http://mexico.usembassy.gov/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/USEmbassyMex>; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/mexico.usembassy>

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