

To: [Attorney General] Richardson, Margaret (OAG)[Margaret.Richardson@usdoj.gov]
From: Grindler, Gary (OAG)
Sent: Thur 10/6/2011 10:50:46 AM
Subject: RE: Fwd: Darrell Issa to Eric Holder: Admit you knew - MJ Lee - POLITICO.com

OK

From: [Attorney General]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 11:04 PM
To: Grindler, Gary (OAG); Richardson, Margaret (OAG)
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Darrell Issa to Eric Holder: Admit you knew - MJ Lee - POLITICO.com

We move

From: [Attorney General]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 10:59 PM
To: [Attorney General]
Subject: Fwd: Darrell Issa to Eric Holder: Admit you knew - MJ Lee - POLITICO.com

Sent from my iPad2 - forgive my typos.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Matthew Miller <[Matthew Miller]>
Date: October 5, 2011 9:40:46 PM EDT
To: "Ohlson, Kevin \ (ODAG\)" <Kevin.Ohlson@usdoj.gov>, [Attorney General]
[Attorney General]
Subject: Re: Fwd: Darrell Issa to Eric Holder: Admit you knew - MJ Lee - POLITICO.com
Reply-To: Matthew Miller <[Matthew Miller]>

Reading Kevin's advice after I sent mine. I think we agree strategically that you personally need to answer this, and the rest is just tactics (who you talk to, when, etc).

The more I think about the offense versus defense part, I do think you should go on offense, too. After explaining what happened, you could go back at them by saying something like: "But let's be

clear what this is all about. I've ordered an investigation into what happened. But there are people on the Hill who don't care about what really happened. For them this has become about scoring political points and weakening an agency charged with cracking down on gun violence. There are a lot of powerful lobbyists and their allies on the hill who have wanted to cripple the ATF for a long time, and they're using this as an opportunity to do so. I'm not going to let them. It's clear the ATF made mistakes here. We've cleaned house, and we're going to fix the agency, but we're not going to allow it to be put out of business by people carrying water for the gun lobby."

This part has to be really carefully crafted and delivered, but I think it could be effective as a one-two punch. (One, explain what happened with your testimony; two, punch back.)

From: "Ohlson, Kevin (ODAG)" <Kevin.Ohlson@usdoj.gov>

To: Attorney General

Matthew Miller

Matthew Miller

Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2011 9:18 PM

Subject: Re: Fwd: Darrell Issa to Eric Holder: Admit you knew - MJ Lee - POLITICO.com

This story is gaining traction. You need to stop it from snowballing -- now. Having unnamed sources in the Department defend you is never going to work. I would suggest an immediate on the record pen-and-pad with all regular DOJ reporters (no interlopers who want to agitate) -- and no cameras -- in your conference room. Then you lay it all out showing that this drumbeat from the Right is bullshit.

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Attorney General

Sent: