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UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



February 14, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

John Greenewald, Jr.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

john@greenewald.com

Tracking No: OGE FOIA FY 17/108

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

The U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) is granting in part and denying in part your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was received by the OGE FOIA Office on January 17, 2017 and assigned tracking number OGE FOIA FY 17/108. In your request, you asked for “a copy of records, electronic or otherwise, of all emails, to and from Walter M. Shaub, Jr., Director, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, that contain the word ‘TRUMP’.”

In response, we are enclosing 23 pages, 13 pages of which are subject to deletions made in accordance with FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), as information the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The deletions are each marked with a reference “(b)(6)” in the enclosed copies.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact me by telephone at 202-482-9267. As OGE’s FOIA Public Liaison, I am available for assisting in reducing delays, increasing transparency and understanding of the status of requests, and assisting in the resolution of disputes. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

The OGE official responsible for this FOIA determination is the undersigned. In accordance with the FOIA, as codified at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A), and OGE’s updated FOIA regulations, at 5 C.F.R. § 2604.304, you may administratively appeal this



John Greenewald, Jr.

Page 2

determination to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005-3917. Any such appeal must be in writing and must be sent within 90 days of the date you receive this response letter. If you do appeal, you should include copies of your request and this response, together with a statement of why you believe this initial determination is in error. Also, if you appeal, you should clearly indicate on the envelope and in the letter that it is a "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

**RACHEL
DOWELL**

Digitally signed by RACHEL DOWELL
DN: o=U.S. Government,
ou=Office of Government Ethics,
cn=RACHEL DOWELL,
0.9.2342.1.9200300.100.1.1=95491002
670133
Date: 2017.02.14 14:12:41 -05'00'

Rachel K. Dowell
OGE FOIA Officer

Enclosures

From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#); [Dale A. Christopher](#); [Nelson Cabrera Jr.](#)
Cc: [Matthew A. Marinec](#)
Subject: FW: OGE FOIA FY 17-101
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 9:40:25 AM

Please also search your text messages for the word "Trump" between Oct. 15, 2016 and January 13, 2017. Thank you.

From: Elizabeth D. Horton
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 9:27 AM
To: Director of OGE; Shelley K. Finlayson; Dale A. Christopher; Nelson Cabrera Jr.
Cc: Matthew A. Marinec
Subject: OGE FOIA FY 17-101

Good morning.

OGE has received a FOIA request seeking "emails and text messages sent or received by Walter M. Shaub, Dale 'Chip' Christopher, Nelson Cabrera and Shelley Finlayson that mention 'Trump' 'DJT' 'DT' or 'president elect' between Oct. 15, 2016 and January 13, 2017 and any emails or texts sent or received by these people between January 1 to January 12, 2017 that mention 'Brookings Institute'."

You have searched your email accounts and provided responsive emails with the word "Trump" for previous FOIA requests through December 3, 2016, so please search your email accounts for the word "Trump" from December 3, 2016 through January 13, 2017. Additionally please conduct a new search for all emails and text messages containing the additional search terms (DJT, DT or president elect) between October 15, 2016 and January 13, 2017 and for "Brookings" between January 1 and January 12, 2017.

Please search your email account and text messages for any records responsive to this request and provide any responsive records by COB January 31, 2017.

If you do not have any responsive records for this most recent FOIA request, please reply with a "no records" response.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Lix

Elizabeth D. Horton
Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
Program Counsel Division
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
(202) 482-9211
Elizabeth.Horton@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#); [David J. Apol](#); [Seth Jaffe](#); [Deborah J. Bortot](#); [Heather A. Jones](#); [Matthew A. Marinec](#)
Subject: OGE FOIA FY 17-104
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 4:14:58 PM

Good afternoon.

OGE has received a FOIA request seeking “all Office of Government Ethics emails regarding Director Walter Shaub’s speech on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Brookings Institution. Please also provide copies of internal emails regarding Donald Trump’s ethics plan for his businesses, which was announced at a press conference on Wednesday, Jan. 11.”

Please search your email account for any records responsive to this request and provide any responsive records by COB January 24, 2017.

If you do not have any responsive records for this FOIA request, please reply with a “no records” response.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.



Elizabeth D. Horton
Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
Program Counsel Division
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
(202) 482-9211
Elizabeth.Horton@oge.gov

Visit OGE’s website: www.oge.gov
Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
To: [Director of OGE](#)
Cc: [Matthew A. Marinec](#)
Subject: OGE FOIA FY 17-108
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 10:21:17 AM

Good morning Walt.

In order to cover the emails sought in FOIA request 17-108 (beyond those sought in request 17-101), please expand the search of your emails for the word "Trump" from December 3, 2016 through the present. Thank you.



Elizabeth D. Horton
Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
Program Counsel Division
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
(202) 482-9211
Elizabeth.Horton@oge.gov

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From: [Kelsey D. Phipps](#)
To: [Agency Wide: News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Thursday, January 26, 2017
Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017 11:20:06 AM

The House and Senate are not in session.

Legislative Branch Ethics and Related News

AJC.com reports on Sen. Isakson's thoughts on the President's conflicts of interest.
[What Senate ethics chief Johnny Isakson makes of Trump's conflict of interest plans](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple sources report that President Donald Trump and his hotel and real estate business on Wednesday separately named ethics counselors. [White House, Trump Organization name ethics advisers](#) [Trump's Family Business Gets Two New Ethics Overseers, Source Says](#) [Trump's company picks GOP lawyer, own attorney for ethics team](#) [Trump announces new White House ethics team](#) [Trump announces White House ethics team](#) [Trump Organization Names Two Lawyers to Handle Ethics Concerns](#) [Trump Organization names ethics overseers](#) [Trump company names ethics advisers, but critics call it an 'impossible spot'](#) [Trump And His Organization Lawyer Up For The Ethics War Ahead](#)

Multiple sources report on the President's conflicts of interest. ['It Is Unacceptable': Ethics Doubts Swirl as Trump Club Doubles Fee](#) [Can Groups Sue Over Trump's Business Conflicts Even If They Weren't Harmed?](#) [Lawsuit Claims Trump Conflicts of Interest Violates U.S. Constitution](#)

Financial Times reports on Carl Icahn's conflicts of interest and "Norman Eisen, a former legal ethics adviser for Barack Obama, said Mr Icahn's title, responsibilities and involvement in personnel choices make him a 'de facto special government employee' subject to conflicts rules preventing work on matters relating to his investments." [Trump adviser Carl Icahn gains as markets see biofuel rule change](#)

PR Watch reports on potential conflict of interest of Betsy DeVos. [Betsy DeVos Ethics Report Reveals Ties to Student Debt Collection Firm](#)

The Washington Free Beacon reports that Elizabeth Warren failed to report a home equity line of credit on her financial disclosure forms. [The Time Elizabeth Warren Used Loophole to Avoid Disclosing \\$1.3M Line of Credit](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: January 26-27; February 9-10

Senate: February 20-24

Kelsey D. Phipps
Assistant Counsel, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
Program Counsel Division
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(202) 482-9318

kelsey.phipps@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: [Brandon A. Steele](#)
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Cc: [News Clippings](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Tuesday, January 24, 2017
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 2:45:56 PM

The Senate reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

The Senate reconvenes at 10:45 a.m. and will be in a period of morning business. The Senate will recess from 12:30-2:15 p.m. for weekly caucus lunches. Confirmation votes are possible.

The House reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 7) that would permanently prohibit the use of federal funds and resources to provide for abortion or abortion coverage and prohibit individuals and small businesses from receiving federal subsidies under the 2010 health care overhaul to purchase health care plans that cover abortions. The chamber is also expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets discuss President Trump purportedly resigning from his businesses. [Has Donald Trump resigned from his businesses? Here's what we know.](#) [Trump claims he resigned from 400 businesses](#) [Trump Files Documents To Shift Management Of Businesses To His Sons](#)

Various sources discuss different aspects of the Dir's meeting. [Donald Trump Never Gave Business Documents To Ethics Office, Democrat Says](#) [U.S. Ethics Official Slammed For 'Unethical' Donald Trump Tweets](#) [Head of Ethics Office Receives Bipartisan Rebuke From Congress](#) [Chaffetz on meeting with ethics watchdog: 'Everybody's blood pressure is coming down here'](#) [Lawmakers admonish ethics official over tweets about Trump](#) [Walter Shaub Receives Bipartisan Condemnation For "Highly Unethical" Actions](#) [Ethics chief says Trump plan to divest holdings is insufficient](#) [Closed-Door Meeting with Top Government Ethics Official](#) [Ethics Office Chief Reportedly Never Received Trump Business Documents](#)

Various outlets discuss the transition. [The Status Of Trump's Cabinet: Where Everyone Is In The Process And How It Works](#) [Trump retains FBI Director James Comey, sources say](#) [Mulaney defends nanny tax lapse, tangles with Democrats on budget](#) [Nikki Haley clears committee vote](#) [DeVos paid legal fees, but not election fine, for Ohio school choice group](#) [Commerce committee gives Chao the nod](#) [Banking Committee approves Ben Carson's HUD nomination](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Fed Smith discusses the hiring freeze. [Details Announced About Trump's Hiring Freeze](#)

Politico opines that the "White House is installing senior aides atop major federal agencies to shadow the administration's Cabinet secretaries, creating a direct line with loyalists who can monitor and shape White House goals across the federal bureaucracy." [Trump assembles a shadow Cabinet](#)

International Ethics and Related News

ACNS reports that Kenya's Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has a new chair. [Former Archbishop sworn in as head of ethics body](#)

New Europe reports on Swedish measures to address the revolving door between public service and the private sector. Among the steps proposed, parliament would set “quarantine periods” and approve jobs taken by former ministers. [Sweden aspires to block political revolving door to the private sector](#)

Transparency International reports that it will release its 22nd annual Corruption Perceptions Index on January 25, 2017. [CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX TO BE LAUNCHED ON 25 JANUARY 2017](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: January 26-27

Senate: February 20-24

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From: [Jim Robertson](#)
To: [Agency Wide](#)
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, January 25, 2017
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 12:58:33 PM

The Senate is not in session.

The House is not in session.

Legislative and Related News

The Huffington Post reports that the House Oversight Committee voted against an amendment to the committee's rule that would have prohibited the committee from approving any legislation that could directly benefit President Trump and his business empire. [GOP Committee Members Take First Vote To Protect Trump's Conflicts of Interest](#)

The Washington Post editorial board opines that Representative Price's trading activities while a member of the House demonstrate why congressional ethics requirements are too lax. [Tom Price is Exhibit A for congressional ethics reform](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

The Washington Post reports that some senators and watchdog groups believe there remain important unanswered questions about the financial interests that Education Secretary nominee Betsy DeVos will continue to hold. [Betsy DeVos's ethics review raises further questions for Democrats and watchdogs](#) However, according to *CNN*, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions rejected the ranking member's request for a second hearing with Betsy DeVos. [Democrats won't get a second hearing with Betsy DeVos, Trump's education pick](#)

The Washington Post reports that three nominees were confirmed by the Senate this week but others will have to wait for confirmation until the Senate returns next week. [Three Trump nominees confirmed, but still no deal for the others](#)

Reuters reports that the recent emoluments lawsuit filed against President Trump by the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington is part of a larger strategy by the group to highlight its concerns and put political pressure on the White House. [U.S. ethics lawsuits against Trump part of groups' political strategy](#) *The Hill* reports that President Trump views the lawsuit as being "without merit." [Trump: Ethics lawsuit 'without merit'](#)

Politico reports that President Donald Trump's company has hired an outside lawyer and promoted one of its own attorneys as part of its plan to address the president's potential conflicts of interest. [Trump's company picks GOP lawyer, own attorney for ethics team](#)

CITYA.M. reports that the *Economist Intelligence Unit* has downgraded the United States in its recently released Democracy Index. Erosion of public trust in the government and elected officials moved the U.S. system of government from a "full democracy" to a "flawed democracy." [US labelled a "flawed" democracy over collapsing public trust](#)

The Washington Examiner reports that the Secret Service is investigating possible Hatch Act

violations by one of its employees in connection with the employee's Facebook postings.
[Senior Secret Service agent suggests she wouldn't take 'a bullet' for Trump](#)

International and Related News

Deutsche Welle reports that Transparency International has published its annual Corruption Perceptions Index and, in connection with that publication, has expressed fears that a global rise of populism risks undermining the fight against corruption. [Rise in populism risks worsening corruption, warns transparency watchdog](#) View the full report [here](#).

Voice of America reports that broader issues of public trust made an appearance at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. [Elites Gather in Davos; Some Worry About Plunging Public Trust](#)

[Next Scheduled Recess:](#)

House: [January 26-27](#)

Senate: [February 20-24](#)

From: [Cohen, Brian \(Warren\)](#)
To: [Walter M. Schaub](#); [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
Cc: [Slaughter, Rebecca Kelly \(Schumer\)](#)
Subject: FW: Letter from Sens. Schumer and Warren
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 7:00:19 PM
Attachments: [Schumer Warren Letter to Schaub 010516.pdf](#)

[This time with the correct email for Mr. Schaub](#)

From: Cohen, Brian (Warren)
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 6:57 PM
To: 'walter.schaub@oge.gov' ; 'skfinlay@oge.gov'
Cc: Slaughter, Rebecca Kelly (Schumer)
Subject: Letter from Sens. Schumer and Warren

Good evening – attached you will find a letter from Sens. Schumer and Warren with questions about the OGE review process for President-Elect Trump’s Cabinet nominees. Please let Rebecca or me know if you have any questions. We look forward to your timely response.

Brian

Brian A. Cohen
Oversight and Investigations Director
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

(b) (6)

From: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
To: [Heather A. Jones](#); [David J. Apol](#)
Subject: FW: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 10:17:08 AM

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

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

From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2017 10:15 AM
To: 'Gorelick, Jamie'
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake
Subject: RE: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Thanks for sharing this, Jamie. Blake gave me a heads up that an article was in the works. The letter I sent Ed yesterday highlights some suggestions for protecting your client against potential conflicts of interest and other ethics issues.

I have one additional suggestion. There is a strong temptation for lawyers to think that it's enough to put together ethics arrangements that are legally compliant. As you know from your own time in government, senior officials invariably find themselves operating in a fast-paced work environment in which they necessarily move from one vaguely defined subject to another quickly throughout the day. Ethics issues arise unexpectedly, and they don't come with the label "Caution! I'm an ethics issue." For this reason, we encourage folks to set up ethics arrangements that put senior officials two steps back from the line between what is permissible and what is not. OGE can enforce that approach in the nominee program, but White House appointees are at the mercy of the attention span of a White House Counsel's office with a thousand other things to do. As things are currently shaping up, it's not clear that this new White House will have a fully functioning ethics office of its own on the first day. For that reason, caution is advisable. The further you can put him back from the line, the better you will protect him.

Walt

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

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

From: Gorelick, Jamie [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)](#)]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Gorelick, Jamie

Subject: Fw: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Walt -

Just a heads up so you know this is out there. Our proposed plan contemplates steps to remove and mitigate sources of conflict.

Best -

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
Original Message

<http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/07/us/politics/jared-kushner-trump-business.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

As Donald J. Trump's son-in-law prepares for a White House role, his undisclosed talks with a secretive Chinese company highlight potential conflicts of interest.

From: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
To: [Gorelick, Jamie](#)
Cc: [Siskel, Edward N](#); [Roberts, Blake](#); [Brown, Reginald](#)
Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 11:28:32 AM

Thanks. That's good to hear!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message
From: Gorelick, Jamie
Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 10:36 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Brown, Reginald
Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Walt -

I know you have been trading notes with Reg. (b) (6) is
done. As he mentioned, (b) (6). We obviously represent Kushner. (b) (6)
You will see the same conservative approach
with each.

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
Original Message
From: Gorelick, Jamie
Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 10:28 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Gorelick, Jamie
Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

We agree. We are trying to make a workable and conservative plan. We have met with the person who will be doing ethics for McGahn so he can become familiar with the issues and be of help in keeping Jared clear of the line. Your advice is welcome!

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
Original Message
From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 10:17 AM
To: Gorelick, Jamie
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake
Subject: RE: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

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I have one additional suggestion. There is a strong temptation for lawyers to think that it's enough to put together

ethics arrangements that are legally compliant. As you know from your own time in government, senior officials invariably find themselves operating in a fast-paced work environment in which they necessarily move from one vaguely defined subject to another quickly throughout the day. Ethics issues arise unexpectedly, and they don't come with the label "Caution! I'm an ethics issue." For this reason, we encourage folks to set up ethics arrangements that put senior officials two steps back from the line between what is permissible and what is not. OGE can enforce that approach in the nominee program, but White House appointees are at the mercy of the attention span of a White House Counsel's office with a thousand other things to do. As things are currently shaping up, it's not clear that this new White House will have a fully functioning ethics office of its own on the first day. For that reason, caution is advisable. The further you can put him back from the line, the better you will protect him.

Walt

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

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

From: Gorelick, Jamie [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2017 9:42 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Gorelick, Jamie
Subject: Fw: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Walt -

Just a heads up so you know this is out there. Our proposed plan contemplates steps to remove and mitigate sources of conflict.

Best -

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
Original Message

<http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/07/us/politics/jared-kushner-trump-business.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

As Donald J. Trump's son-in-law prepares for a White House role, his undisclosed talks with a secretive Chinese company highlight potential conflicts of interest.

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From: [Gorelick, Jamie](#)
To: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 3:01:02 PM

That would be fine, Walt. It is certainly a true statement. And we have appreciated and followed that advice, for example, with regard to the (b) (6)

Best -

Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Walter M. Shaub

Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 2:51 PM

To: Gorelick, Jamie

Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Jamie,

Do you have any concerns if at some point I state publicly that, "We have consulted with attorneys for Jared Kushner to provide assistance in connection with some steps he may take to avoid conflicts of interest if he comes into government." This seems to be consistent with what you told the NY Times.

Walt

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Gorelick, Jamie

Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 11:37 AM

To: Walter M. Shaub

Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Will do.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: Walter M. Shaub

Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 11:32 AM

To: Gorelick, Jamie

Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

They have not shared with us that they've hired someone. If you get the chance, please let him know that I'd love to meet with him. Emory Rounds of my office and I can give him some ideas for setting up shop.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: Gorelick, Jamie

Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2017 10:27 AM

To: Walter M. Shaub

Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Gorelick, Jamie
Subject: Re: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

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Jamie

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

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

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To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Siskel, Edward N; Roberts, Blake; Gorelick, Jamie
Subject: Fw: NYTimes: Jared Kushner, a Trump In-Law and Adviser, Chases a Chinese Deal

Walt -

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Best -

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/07/us/politics/jared-kushner-trump-business.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

As Donald J. Trump's son-in-law prepares for a White House role, his undisclosed talks with a secretive Chinese company highlight potential conflicts of interest.

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From: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
To: [Vincent Salamone](#)
Subject: FW: Wall Street Journal reporter hoping to talk regarding Trump business plan
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 1:51:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917
Telephone: 202.482.9292
Email: walter.shaub@oge.gov

From: Berzon, Alexandra [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 2:55 PM
To: Walter M. Shaub

Subject: Wall Street Journal reporter hoping to talk regarding Trump business plan
Hi Walter, I'm a reporter at the Wall Street Journal. I've been covering Donald Trump's business conflicts for quite some time (actually over a year) and was very struck by your comments Wednesday. I'm working on a follow up story to Trump's business plan announcement and was really hoping to talk to you and/or someone who could help clarify a few things. I am especially interested in all the remaining questions and lack of transparency from Trump folks since their announcement.

One thing that you mentioned in your speech was that Mr. Trump wanted OGE to approve assets - would it be possible to explain what you mean by that and what purpose that would have for Trump - some have suggested it might be for tax benefits - is there any other reason they would have for this?

Have you sought or been able to get answers to any questions from Trump folks or had any further contact with them?

Also do you have any comment on the Chaffetz comments on you?

I'd also just love to talk more generally if that would be possible. I am at (b) (6).

Thanks so much.

Best,
Alexandra

Alexandra Berzon
REPORTER



M: (b) (6) O: 323-591-6502 [NOTE NEW NUMBER]

E: (b) (6)

T: @alexandraberzon

A: 5900 Wilshire Blvd. Ste 2900 Los Angeles, CA 90036 (NOTE NEW ADDRESS)



From: [Libby Nelson](#)
To: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
Subject: Interview?
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 5:44:43 PM

Mr. Shaub:

I'm a reporter with Vox who's covering the intersection of President Trump's businesses and his presidency — and the many potential conflicts of interest that might entail. I've been very interested in your public speeches on this issue and on the role the Office of Government Ethics played in the run-up to the inauguration, and I'd be really interested in writing a profile on the work that you and the office do.

Would you be available for an interview sometime in the next couple of weeks? (Sooner is always better, but I suspect this subject will be of public interest for some time!)

I can be reached by email at (b) (6) or by phone at (b) (6).

Thanks!

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Libby Nelson

1201 Connecticut Ave. NW, Floor 11 | Washington, DC 20036



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Watch: [Vox's Ezra Klein and Sarah Kliff interview President Obama](#)

From: (b) (6)
To: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
Subject: Thank you for insisting that Donald Trump address his conflicts of interest
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 2:40:41 PM

Dear Mr. Shaub:

I am writing to commend you for standing up to Donald Trump in insisting that he resolve the many potential conflicts of interest he will have the minute he is sworn in as President. It is terribly unfortunate that so many Republicans have criticized you for insisting that Mr. Trump meet the standards that recent presidents and well as their cabinet nominees have met to resolve their potential conflicts of interest.

Keep up your great work and please do not be intimidated by Rep. Chaffetz's threats of investigating your actions.

(b) (6)

[REDACTED]

From: (b) (6)
To: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
Subject: Urge POTUS to delay transition of power for six months to complete ethics investigation of Trump
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 9:39:23 AM

walter.shaub@oge.gov Telephone: 202.482.9292

To: Walter M. Shaub, Jr., Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Dear Director Shaub,

Please courier a letter to President Obama urging him to delay the transition of power until investigations related to Donald Trump can be finalized. Your letter could explain:

Our Office of Government Ethics was created to achieve a high level of public confidence in the integrity of executive branch programs and operations.

It is our mission to provide overall leadership and oversight of the executive branch ethics program designed to prevent and resolve conflicts of interest.

Your letter can go further:

1. It is our task to investigate Mr. Trump's finances and external activities to determine potential conflicts of interest.
2. As a public servant, Mr. Trump would be subject to regulations including:
 - a. An employee may be required to seek approval before engaging in an outside activity.
 2. An employee may be disqualified from working on a particular Government matter while engaged in an outside activity.
 3. An employee may be prohibited from accepting compensation for an activity.
 4. An employee may be prohibited from engaging in an outside activity.
3. Mr. Trump has indicated that he has no intention to provide us his tax returns.
4. Mr. Trump has avoided providing our office with statements of his outside activities both within and outside the U. S.
5. Mr. Trump has indicated that he has no intention to divest of his business assets to qualify for public service.

Mr. Trump is currently under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Election Commission, and intelligence agencies for anti-American, and/or internal illegal business. Mr. *Trump's* companies face open *cases* of fraud, unpaid bills, contract disputes and sexual discrimination suits. He will have to address charges of libel, fees, and sexual harassment.

6. Please delay transfer of government to Mr. Trump until our ethics investigation is complete.