

Holland, Austin

n: Trinity, Frank
: Sunday, June 14, 2009 8:08 PM
'Elana_J._Tyrangiel'
Subject: Can you send me my statement to review?

I know we went over on the phone but if possible I'd like to see it in writing. Thanks.

----- Original Message -----
From: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
To: Trinity, Frank; Eisen, Norman L.; Meltzer, Daniel
Sent: Sun Jun 14 13:27:12 2009
Subject: RE: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Call-in information for 3:30:

Code:

-----Original Message-----
From: Trinity, Frank [mailto:]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2009 11:30 AM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Subject: Re: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Elana,
Frank Gearan's elderly mother has taken ill so he will be unable to do a call this
noon. He will keep us posted on availability.
I would like to speak with you about our agency response to Grassley's June 12 letter to our
Board.
What time today would work?

----- Original Message -----
From: Trinity, Frank
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Sent: Sat Jun 13 17:19:29 2009
Subject: RE: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

I spoke with Laysha Ward. She is available tomorrow to speak.
Best contact is via email, and then she can call you back. Email:

Cell is
Laysha works for Target and has some preliminary questions about how a statement would be
used (she has spoken with Target's GC about this).
She did not take notes but does recollect the May 20 meeting.

Laysha described a Grassley letter to Alan Solomont. It makes a detailed
information/document request -- I will forward a copy when I get it, as some of the
information/documents relate to communications with WH.

-----Original Message-----
From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [mailto:]
Sent: Sat 6/13/2009 4:35 PM
To: Trinity, Frank
Subject: RE: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

OK, we'll aim for 2!

From: Trinity, Frank (mailto: [REDACTED])
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2009 4:35 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Subject: Re: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Mark Gearan can do a call tomorrow. 2 pm is best for him.

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [REDACTED]
To: Trinity, Frank
Sent: Sat Jun 13 15:27:16 2009
Subject: RE: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Thank you!

From: Trinity, Frank [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2009 3:27 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Subject: Re: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Jus received a note from Stan Soloway -- He's available till 4:30 today.

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [REDACTED]
To: Trinity, Frank
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Samose, Emily
Sent: Sat Jun 13 12:52:08 2009
Subject: RE: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Thank you.

From: Trinity, Frank [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2009 12:13 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Samose, Emily
Subject: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Confirmed availability:

Alan Solomont

Cell [REDACTED]

Steve Goldsmith
[REDACTED]

Eric Tanenblatt

Cell [REDACTED]

mark Gearan

Cell [REDACTED] (after 2 pm.)

Nicola Goren

Cell [REDACTED] (after 1 p.m.)

Frank Trinity

Cell [REDACTED]

Email and cell phone messages left -- no contact

Stan Soloway

Cell [REDACTED]

Julie Cummings

Cell [REDACTED]

Email messages sent but not acknowledged (trying to get cell numbers now)

Hyepin Im

Laysha Ward

Jim Palmer (we know he's on vacation till June 17)

Holland, Austin

From: Trinity, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 9:20 PM
To: Glickman, Rhoda
Subject: FW: CNCS Board Letter to Senator Grassley re IG

Can you call me?

Frank R. Trinity
General Counsel
Corporation for National and Community Service
202-606-6677 (direct)

From: Terrell, Louisa [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 9:02 PM
To: Trinity, Frank; Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Subject: Re: CNCS Board Letter to Senator Grassley re IG

Hi frank.

I just spoke to Elana and we are square to get the Grassley ltr tonight and then do the seven-day tomorrow. Elana will give the final green light. But in the meantime here are the addresses:

Jason_Foster@finance-rep.senate.gov
Stephen_hedger@mccaskill.senate.gov
Brandon_millhorn@hsgac.senate.gov
Michael_alexander@hsgac.senate.gov

From: Trinity, Frank
To: Terrell, Louisa
Cc: Glickman, Rhoda
Sent: Wed Jun 17 20:42:08 2009
Subject: CNCS Board Letter to Senator Grassley re IG
Louisa,

Attached is a PDF of our Board's letter to Senator Grassley. As discussed, can you send us email and contact information for us to send electronically this evening with hard copies hand-delivered by us tomorrow morning?

I am sending a separate email regarding "seven day letter".

Thanks for your help on this.

Frank

the CNCS bylaws.

5. Records relating to any vote of the board directing or authorizing contact with the White House regarding the Inspector General's Office or its activities relative to St. HOPE, Kevin Johnson, or RFCUNY.
6. Materials provided to the Board Members in preparation for the May 20th board meeting.

When you produce documents, please identify the specific areas in Sen. Grassley's original request and our prioritization requests to which the documents are responsive in addition to providing a privilege log of any responsive documents identified but withheld.

Cordially,
Jason A. Foster
Senior Investigative Counsel

Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

ph (202) 228-5968
fx. (202) 228-2131

From: Trinity, Frank
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2009 9:31 PM
To: Anderson, William
Subject: FW:
Attachments: 2009-06-12 Letter to Mr. Solomont CNCS Chairman.pdf

Note statement in letter that St. HOPE settlement agreement "ignored the Suspension and Debarment procedures".

Also, we will likely need to compile docs quickly this week re St. HOPE Academy and CUNY, so be thinking about who in CFO would have such docs.

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

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [REDACTED]
Sent: Sat 6/13/2009 5:14 PM
To: Eisen, Norman L.; Messina, James A.; Meltzer, Daniel; Terrell, Louisa; Earnest, Joshua R.; Wilson, Denise R.; Oleske, James M.; Perez, Alejandro; Maher, Shawn P.; Goren, Nicola; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit
Cc:
Subject:

Attached please find a letter Senator Grassley sent to the board members of the Corporation for National and Community Service yesterday.

Holland, Austin

From: Terrell, Louisa [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2009 4:21 PM
To: Trinity, Frank; Glickman, Rhoda
Subject: Logistics

Hi there,
I write to confirm logistics for next week and to also inquire about schedules.

First, as Rhoda and I discussed, Chairman Lieberman will not invite members outside of the Homeland Security Committee to Monday's briefing. Accordingly, it will be just staff from Lieberman and Collins office (probably 4). Can you confirm that the requisite letters have been and received from the Committee about the briefing? Also, could you confirm who from the Board (Eric Teneblatt and Alan Godlsmieth?) will be present with Frank? Time is 12-2 and I will confirm location with the Committee.

Second, could the Board and Frank be available for another meeting with the HELP Committee from say 2:45 – 3:45? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Can you let me know about availability and any concerns you have about doing another meeting? If you confirm this afternoon, I can ask staff if they can make the time on Monday.

[REDACTED]

Many thanks for everything. I am at my desk now, and available anytime at mobile 503-5290. Many thanks,
Louisa

From: Trinity, Frank [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2009 1:03 PM
To: Weideman, Christian; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: email from Jason Foster

Frank R. Trinity
General Counsel
Corporation for National and Community Service
202-606-6677 (direct)

From: Foster, Jason (Finance-Rep) [mailto:Jason_Foster@finance-rep.senate.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2009 12:48 PM
To: Trinity, Frank; Bryant, Tom
Cc: Downey, Brian (Finance-Rep); DiSanto, Emilia (Finance-Rep); Kelly, Misha (Finance-Rep); Armstrong, Chris (Finance-Rep)
Subject: Document production

Please provide an update on when we should expect the next document production. Also, please prioritize in your document search and production efforts the following:

1. Records relating to the May 20th board meeting.
2. Records relating to communications with White House personnel.
3. Records relating to communications with Justice Department or U.S. Attorney's Office personnel.
4. The record of the vote to hold a closed meeting on May 20th, pursuant to Article II, 2.02(b)(2) of

Holland, Austin

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Cell [REDACTED] (after 2 pm.)

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Holland, Austin

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To: 'Elana_J_Tyrangiel' [REDACTED]
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Cell [REDACTED] (after 2 pm.)

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Cell [REDACTED] (after 1 p.m.)

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Nicola Goren

Holland, Austin

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2009 11:34 AM
To: Trinity, Frank
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I'm at the office, we can speak anytime from now until 5:30, though it probably makes sense to do this earlier than later. If you give me a time, I may try to loop Norm too.

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From: Trinity, Frank [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2009 11:30 AM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Subject: Re: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Elana,
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Holland, Austin

From: Trinity, Frank
Date: Sunday, June 14, 2009 12:51 PM
To: 'Elana_J_Tyrangiel' [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Would 3:30 work?

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Holland, Austin

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cc: Trinity, Frank
Subject: RE: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Sure, that's great. Talk then; if Norm wants to join, I'll send around a conference number or hook us all in.

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From: Trinity, Frank [mailto: [REDACTED]]
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Sat Jun 13 17:19:29 2009
Subject: RE: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

I spoke with Laysha Ward. She is available tomorrow to speak.
Best contact is via email, and then she can call you back. Email:

Cell is [REDACTED]
Laysha works for Target and has some preliminary questions about how a statement would be used (she has spoken with Target's GC about this).
She did not take notes but does recollect the May 20 meeting.

Laysha described a Grassley letter to Alan Solomont. It makes a detailed information/document request -- I will forward a copy when I get it, as some of the information/documents relate to communications with WH.

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

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Sat 6/13/2009 4:35 PM
To: Trinity, Frank
Cc:
Subject: RE: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

OK, we'll aim for 2!

From: Trinity, Frank [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2009 4:35 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Subject: Re: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Mark Gearan can do a call tomorrow. 2 pm is best for him.

m: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [REDACTED]
Trinity, Frank
Sent: Sat Jun 13 15:27:16 2009
Subject: RE: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Thank you!

From: Trinity, Frank [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2009 3:27 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Subject: Re: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Jus received a note from Stan Soloway -- He's available till 4:30 today. '

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [REDACTED]
To: Trinity, Frank
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Samose, Emily
Sent: Sat Jun 13 12:52:08 2009
Subject: RE: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Thank you.

m: Trinity, Frank [mailto:[REDACTED]]
at: Saturday, June 13, 2009 12:13 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Samose, Emily
Subject: contacting CNCS Board and staff today (status as of 12 noon)

Confirmed availability:

Alan Solomont

Cell [REDACTED]

Steve Goldsmith

Cell [REDACTED]

Eric Tanenblatt

Cell [REDACTED]

rk Gearan

Cell [REDACTED] (after 2 pm.)

Nicola Goren

l [REDACTED] (after 1 p.m.)

Frank Trinity

Cell [REDACTED]

Email and cell phone messages left -- no contact

Stan Soloway

Cell [REDACTED]

Julie Cummings

Cell [REDACTED]

all messages sent but not acknowledged (trying to get cell numbers now)

Hyepin Im

Laysha Ward

Jim Palmer (we know he's on vacation till June 17)

Holland, Austin

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 9:11 PM
To: Eisen, Norman L.; Oleske, James M.; Goren, Nicola; Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

Here's the first version of the AP story:

Obama to fire inspector general of AmeriCorps

By ANN SANNER and PETE YOST – 15 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama plans to fire the inspector general who investigates AmeriCorps and other national service programs amid a controversy between the IG and Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, who is an Obama supporter and former NBA basketball star.

The IG, Gerald Walpin, was criticized by the U.S. attorney in Sacramento for the way he handled an investigation of Johnson and his nonprofit group, which received hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal grants from the Corporation for National Community Service. The corporation runs the AmeriCorps program.

On Thursday, Obama said in a letter to Congress that he had lost confidence in Walpin. Neither the president nor deputy White House press secretary Josh Earnest would give details.

The president must give Congress 30 days' notice before removing Walpin, who is being suspended with pay for the 30 days.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, criticized the White House's reluctance to specify why Walpin is being fired. Grassley pointed to a Senate committee report that says the requirement to notify Congress when an IG is removed is designed to ensure that inspectors general are not removed for political reasons.

The report accompanied an IG reform law passed by Congress last year. Grassley said Walpin had identified millions of dollars in AmeriCorps funds that were wasted or misspent.

"For obvious reasons, we won't get into details of a personnel decision like this, but I can tell you that the president lost confidence in Mr. Walpin's performance," Earnest said. "The president will appoint a replacement in whom he has full confidence as the corporation carries out its important mission."

Walpin serves at the pleasure of the president, the corporation said.

Messages left for Walpin seeking comment were not immediately returned.

The IG found that Johnson, a former all-star point guard for the Phoenix Suns, had used AmeriCorps grants to pay volunteers to engage in school-board political activities, run personal errands for Johnson and even wash his car.

In August 2008, Walpin referred the matter to the local U.S. attorney's office, which said the IG's conclusions seemed overstated and did not accurately reflect all the information gathered in the investigation.

"We also highlighted numerous questions and further investigation they needed to conduct, including the fact that they had not done an audit to establish how much AmeriCorps money was actually misspent," the U.S. attorney's office said in an April 29 letter to the federal counsel of inspectors general.

Walpin's office made repeated public comments just before the Sacramento mayoral election,

prompting the U.S. attorney's office to inform the media that it did not intend to file any criminal charges.

The U.S. attorney's office reached a settlement in the matter. Brown cited press accounts that said Johnson and the nonprofit would repay half of nearly \$850,000 in grants it received.

Ken Bach, who works in the inspector general's office at the corporation, will be acting inspector general until Obama appoints someone to the position.

Walpin, a New York attorney, was appointed by President George W. Bush and sworn into office in January 2007 after being confirmed by the Senate, according to a news release on AmeriCorps' Web site. Walpin graduated from College of the City of New York in 1952 and received a law degree in 1955 from Yale Law School. He was a partner with the New York City law firm Katten Muchin and Rosenman LLP for more than 40 years.

On Wednesday night, Alan Solomont, a Democrat and the board chairman of the government-run corporation, and Stephen Goldsmith, a Republican and the board's vice chair, said they backed the president's decision.

In a written statement, Solomont and Goldsmith said: "We strongly endorse the president's decision with respect to Inspector General Gerald Walpin. We look forward to working with a new inspector general."

From: Eisen, Norman L.

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 9:04 PM

To: Oleske, James M.; 'Goren, Nicola'; Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; 'Trinity, Frank'; 'Schmelzer, Ranit'; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa

Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

Edits still coming in, circulate final in a bit.

From: Oleske, James M.

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 9:04 PM

To: 'Goren, Nicola'; Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Eisen, Norman L.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa

Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

Same here.

From: Goren, Nicola [mailto:████████████████████]

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 8:57 PM

To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Eisen, Norman L.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Oleske, James M.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa

Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

We are fine with the letter.

Nicola Goren

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Corporation for National and Community Service

Your World. Your Chance to Make it Better.

www.nationalservice.gov

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 8:40 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Eisen, Norman L.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; Goren, Nicola; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Oleske, James M.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

The latest version of the letter is attached.

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 8:07 PM
To: Eisen, Norman L.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; 'ngoren [REDACTED]'; 'Trinity, Frank'; 'Schmelzer, Ranit'; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Oleske, James M.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

Attached please find a draft response to the Grassley letter. Please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than an hour from now, if you see any problems. Thanks much.

From: Eisen, Norman L.
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 6:52 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; 'ngoren [REDACTED]'; 'Trinity, Frank'; 'Schmelzer, Ranit'; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Oleske, James M.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter
Importance: High

Letter from Grassley complaining about Walpin firing attached. We are drafting a response for everyone's consideration. Note his erroneous statement that Congress was not notified.

Holland, Austin

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 9:58 PM
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Trinity, Frank
Subject: Re: Just talked to AP

I'll let u know if I hear from her.

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Cc: Goren, Nicola ; Trinity, Frank
Sent: Wed Jun 10 21:29:27 2009
Subject: Just talked to AP

Ann is not going to write tonight, but may do something in the morning. She wants to know what the circumstances were. I stuck to our TPs on background (as an Official from CNCS). I assume she'll call the WH tomorrow for comment if she writes. Let me know if you have Qs.

Ranit Schmelzer
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Corporation for National & Community Service
Tel: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]

Flowe, Meredith

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2009 2:31 PM
To: Trinity, Frank
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Glickman, Rhoda; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: IG

[REDACTED]

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

From: Trinity, Frank [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2009 2:25 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Glickman, Rhoda
Subject: FW: IG

We are alerting Steve Goldsmith, our vice-Chair, to see if he can reach out to Senator Collins' office to address her concerns. Let us know if you think that is inadvisable.

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

From: Glickman, Rhoda
Sent: Fri 6/12/2009 2:03 PM
To: Trinity, Frank; Goren, Nicola
Cc:
Subject: IG

I just spoke to Lisa Newman with Senator Collins' office. I told her I had forwarded her concerns about the IG to the WH. She is very interested in hearing CNCS's stand on this. (I told her I was new and hadn't been involved.) She is already working with the WH (Eisen) and has requested more info from him - reasons for firing etc. but she has made it clear that if they don't get this information to their satisfaction, they will be sending a letter to the President TODAY saying he did not follow the law on this.

Not sure it makes any difference if you call her (I said you were out of the office) but if you think it helps to talk to her, she can be reached at [REDACTED]

Flowe, Meredith

From: Trinity, Frank
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2009 2:25 PM
To: Elana_J._Tyrangiel [REDACTED]
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Glickman, Rhoda
Subject: FW: IG

We are alerting Steve Goldsmith, our vice-Chair, to see if he can reach out to Senator Collins' office to address her concerns. Let us know if you think that is inadvisable.

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Flowe, Meredith

From: Trinity, Frank

Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 10:09 PM

To: 'Tyranziel, Elana J.'; 'Iterrell [REDACTED]'; 'Denise_R. Wilson [REDACTED]'

Cc: Goren, Nicola; Schmelzer, Ranit; Glickman, Rhoda

Subject: update on CNCS transmittals to Congress

1. Board letter to Grassley. We sent by email to Grassley, with copies to McCaskill, Collins, Lieberman, Enzi, and Kennedy. We will hand-deliver tomorrow. Jason Foster acknowledged receipt of the electronic copy.
2. Supplemental response to IG's 7-day letter on St. HOPE Academy. We will transmit our supplemental response to the IG's 7-Day letter tomorrow, both electronically and by hand-delivery.

Frank R. Trinity
General Counsel
Corporation for National and Community Service
[REDACTED] (direct)

Flowe, Meredith

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 6:19 PM
To: Holland, Austin
Subject: FW: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

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

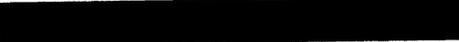
From: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 9:47 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

Hey Josh,

2 quick things

- I'm playing phone tag w/the Sacramento Bee. Will let you know.
- I heard through the grapevine that the Chronicle of Philanthropy is working on an op-ed criticizing the WH on the choice of Maria Eitel and the process around her nomination. The paper hasn't called me.

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

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto: 
Sent: Thu 6/11/2009 9:11 PM
To: Eisen, Norman L.; Oleske, James M.; Goren, Nicola; Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

Here's the first version of the AP story:

Obama to fire inspector general of AmeriCorps

By ANN SANNER and PETE YOST - 15 minutes ago

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama plans to fire the inspector general who investigates AmeriCorps and other national service programs amid a controversy between the IG and Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, who is an Obama supporter and former NBA basketball star.

The IG, Gerald Walpin, was criticized by the U.S. attorney in Sacramento for the way he handled an investigation of Johnson and his nonprofit group, which received hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal grants from the Corporation for National Community Service. The corporation runs the AmeriCorps program.

On Thursday, Obama said in a letter to Congress that he had lost confidence in Walpin. Neither the president nor deputy White House press secretary Josh Earnest would give details.

The president must give Congress 30 days' notice before removing Walpin, who is being suspended with pay for the 30 days.

n. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, criticized the White House's reluctance to specify why Walpin is being fired. Grassley pointed to a Senate committee report that says the requirement to notify Congress when an IG is removed is designed to ensure that inspectors general are not removed for political reasons.

The report accompanied an IG reform law passed by Congress last year. Grassley said Walpin had identified millions of dollars in AmeriCorps funds that were wasted or misspent.

For obvious reasons, we won't get into details of a personnel decision like this, but I can tell you that the president lost confidence in Mr. Walpin's performance," Earnest said. "The president will appoint a replacement in whom he has full confidence as the corporation carries out its important mission."

Walpin serves at the pleasure of the president, the corporation said.

Messages left for Walpin seeking comment were not immediately returned.

The IG found that Johnson, a former all-star point guard for the Phoenix Suns, had used AmeriCorps grants to pay volunteers to engage in school-board political activities, run personal errands for Johnson and even wash his car.

In August 2008, Walpin referred the matter to the local U.S. attorney's office, which said the IG's conclusions seemed overstated and did not accurately reflect all the information gathered in the investigation.

"We also highlighted numerous questions and further investigation they needed to conduct, including the fact that they had not done an audit to establish how much AmeriCorps money was actually misspent," the U.S. attorney's office said in an April 29 letter to the federal counsel of inspectors general.

Walpin's office made repeated public comments just before the Sacramento mayoral election, prompting the U.S. attorney's office to inform the media that it did not intend to file any criminal charges.

The U.S. attorney's office reached a settlement in the matter. Brown cited press accounts that said Johnson and the nonprofit would repay half of nearly \$850,000 in grants it received.

Ken Bach, who works in the inspector general's office at the corporation, will be acting inspector general until Obama appoints someone to the position.

Walpin, a New York attorney, was appointed by President George W. Bush and sworn into office in January 2007 after being confirmed by the Senate, according to a news release on AmeriCorps' Web site. Walpin graduated from College of the City of New York in 1952 and received a law degree in 1955 from Yale Law School. He was a partner with the New York City law firm Katten Muchin and Rosenman LLP for more than 40 years.

On Wednesday night, Alan Solomont, a Democrat and the board chairman of the government-run corporation, and Stephen Goldsmith, a Republican and the board's vice chair, said they backed the president's decision.

In a written statement, Solomont and Goldsmith said: "We strongly endorse the president's decision with respect to Inspector General Gerald Walpin. We look forward to working with a new inspector general."

From: Eisen, Norman L.
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 9:04 PM
To: Oleske, James M.; 'Goren, Nicola'; Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; 'Trinity, Frank'; 'Schmelzer, Ranit'; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

Edits still coming in, circulate final in a bit.

From: Oleske, James M.
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 9:04 PM
To: 'Goren, Nicola'; Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Eisen, Norman L.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

Same here.

From: Goren, Nicola [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 8:57 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Eisen, Norman L.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Oleske, James M.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

We are fine with the letter.

Nicola Goren

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Corporation for National and Community Service
[REDACTED]

Your World. Your Chance to Make it Better.

www.nationalservice.gov <<http://www.nationalservice.gov/>>

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 8:40 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Eisen, Norman L.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; Goren, Nicola; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Oleske, James M.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

The latest version of the letter is attached.

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 8:07 PM
To: Eisen, Norman L.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; 'ngoren@cns.gov'; 'Trinity, Frank'; 'Schmelzer, Ranit'; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Oleske, James M.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa

Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter

Attached please find a draft response to the Grassley letter. Please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than an hour from now, if you see any problems. Thanks much.

From: Eisen, Norman L.
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 6:52 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Meltzer, Daniel; Messina, James A.; Earnest, Joshua R.; 'ngoren [REDACTED]'; 'Trinity, Frank'; 'Schmelzer, Ranit'; Singiser, Dana E.; Wilson, Denise R.; Oleske, James M.; Maher, Shawn P.; Perez, Alejandro; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: Grassley letter re CNCS matter
Importance: High

Letter from Grassley complaining about Walpin firing attached. We are drafting a response for everyone's consideration. Note his erroneous statement that Congress was not notified.

Flowe, Meredith

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 6:09 PM
To: Holland, Austin
Subject: FW: Grassley upset about Walpin

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 6:12 PM
To: Eisen, Norman L.; Tyrangiel, Elana J.; Schmelzer, Ranit
Subject: Grassley upset about Walpin

FYI...

I'll call the reporter and asked her if she showed our letters to Grassley. Will keep you posted.

From: Sanner, Ann [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 6:07 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: RE: the letters

This is headed your way. Let me know if you have a response.

The text of Grassley's letter to the President is below.

June 11, 2009

Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I was troubled to learn that last night your staff reportedly issued an ultimatum to the Americorps Inspector General Gerald Walpin that he had one hour to resign or be terminated. As you know, Inspectors General were created by Congress as a means to combat waste, fraud, and abuse and to be independent watchdogs ensuring that federal agencies were held accountable for their actions. Inspectors General were designed to have a dual role reporting to both the President and Congress so that they would be free from undue political pressure. This independence is the hallmark of all Inspectors General and is essential so they may operate independently, without political pressure or interference from agencies attempting to keep their failings from public scrutiny.

Last year, President Bush signed the Inspector General Reform Act (P.L. 110-409) into law. Both you and

Flowe, Meredith

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 6:13 PM
To: Holland, Austin
Subject: FW: Press Call on IG - Fox News.com

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:50 PM
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Subject: RE: Press Call on IG - Fox News.com

I'll call him.

From: Schmelzer, Ranit [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:35 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: Fw: Press Call on IG - Fox News.com

Do you want me to point him to your statement or have him call you?

From: Scott, Sandy
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Tue Jun 16 15:29:55 2009
Subject: Press Call on IG - Fox News.com
Judd Berger at Fox News.com – he is requesting additional information about Grassley letter request additional information from the Corporation about removal of Gerald Walpin. He wants to know if there was any contact with the First Lady's office or if the letter was "off base" [REDACTED]

From: Unity Messaging System - UNITY1
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:10 PM
To: Scott, Sandy
Subject: Message from an unidentified caller

Flowe, Meredith

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 6:13 PM
To: Holland, Austin
Subject: FW: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 4:02 PM
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Subject: RE: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Two things:

First, can you get in touch with Carrie and send her the joint statement from Goldsmith and Solomont?

[REDACTED]

-Josh

From: Schmelzer, Ranit [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:59 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: Re: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Great. I'm not going to call either unless they call again. Sound ok?

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Tue Jun 16 15:54:58 2009
Subject: RE: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily
Done with Judd. I'll call Carrie too - just to check in.

From: Schmelzer, Ranit [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:35 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: Fw: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Fyi

From: Scott, Sandy

To: Schmelzer, Ranit

Sent: Tue Jun 16 15:26:01 2009

Subject: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Kari Dann - CongressDaily -- following saga of Jerry Walpin - [REDACTED] - no specific questions

From: Unity Messaging System - UNITY1

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:17 PM

To: Scott, Sandy

Subject: Message from an unidentified caller

Flowe, Meredith

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Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 6:13 PM
To: Holland, Austin
Subject: FW: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:55 PM
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Subject: RE: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Done with Judd. I'll call Carrie too – just to check in.

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Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:35 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: Fw: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Fyi

From: Scott, Sandy
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Tue Jun 16 15:26:01 2009
Subject: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily
Kari Dann – CongressDaily – following saga of Jerry Walpin – [REDACTED] - no specific questions

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Subject: FW: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:59 PM
To: 'Joshua_R_Earnest' [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Great. I'm not going to call either unless they call again. Sound ok?

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To: Schmelzer, Ranit
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Fyi

From: Scott, Sandy
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Tue Jun 16 15:26:01 2009
Subject: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily
Kari Dann – CongressDaily – following saga of Jerry Walpin – [REDACTED] – no specific questions

From: Unity Messaging System - UNITY1
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:17 PM
To: Scott, Sandy
Subject: Message from an unidentified caller

Flowe, Meredith

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2009 6:17 PM
To: Holland, Austin
Subject: FW: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 4:04 PM
To: 'Earnest, Joshua R.'
Subject: RE: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Thanks, will do.

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 4:02 PM
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Subject: RE: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Two things:

First, can you get in touch with Carrie and send her the joint statement from Goldsmith and Solomont?

[REDACTED]

-Josh

From: Schmelzer, Ranit [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:59 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: Re: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Great. I'm not going to call either unless they call again. Sound ok?

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Tue Jun 16 15:54:58 2009
Subject: RE: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily
Done with Judd. I'll call Carrie too – just to check in.

From: Schmelzer, Ranit [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:35 PM

To: Earnest, Joshua R.

Subject: Fw: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Fyi

From: Scott, Sandy

To: Schmelzer, Ranit

Sent: Tue Jun 16 15:26:01 2009

Subject: Press Call on Walpin from Kari Dann of CongressDaily

Kari Dann – CongressDaily – following saga of Jerry Walpin – [REDACTED] - no specific questions

From: Unity Messaging System - UNITY1

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 3:17 PM

To: Scott, Sandy

Subject: Message from an unidentified caller

Flowe, Meredith

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 9:58 PM
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Trinity, Frank
Subject: Re: Just talked to AP

I'll let u know if I hear from her.

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Cc: Goren, Nicola ; Trinity, Frank
Sent: Wed Jun 10 21:29:27 2009
Subject: Just talked to AP

Ann is not going to write tonight, but may do something in the morning. She wants to know what the circumstances were. I stuck to our TPs on background (as an Official from CNCS). I assume she'll call the WH tomorrow for comment if she writes. Let me know if you have Qs.

Ranit Schmelzer
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Corporation for National & Community Service
Tel: [REDACTED]
Cell: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Flowe, Meredith

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J. [REDACTED]
ent: Friday, June 12, 2009 2:31 PM
o: Trinity, Frank
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Glickman, Rhoda; Terrell, Louisa
Subject: RE: IG

[REDACTED]

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

From: Trinity, Frank [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2009 2:25 PM
To: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Glickman, Rhoda
Subject: FW: IG

We are alerting Steve Goldsmith, our vice-Chair, to see if he can reach out to Senator Collins' office to address her concerns. Let us know if you think that is inadvisable.

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

From: Glickman, Rhoda
Sent: Fri 6/12/2009 2:03 PM
To: Trinity, Frank; Goren, Nicola
Cc:
Subject: IG

I just spoke to Lisa Newman with Senator Collins' office. I told her I had forwarded her concerns about the IG to the WH. She is very interested in hearing CNCS's stand on this. (I told her I was new and hadn't been involved.) She is already working with the WH (Eisen) and has requested more info from him - reasons for firing etc. but she has made it clear that if they don't get this information to their satisfaction, they will be sending a letter to the President TODAY saying he did not follow the law on this.

Not sure it makes any difference if you call her (I said you were out of the office) but if you think it helps to talk to her, she can be reached at [REDACTED]

Flowe, Meredith

From: Trinity, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 10:09 PM
To: 'Tyrangiel, Elana J.'; 'Terrell [REDACTED]'; 'Denise_R._Wilson [REDACTED]'
Cc: Goren, Nicola; Schmelzer, Ranit; Glickman, Rhoda
Subject: update on CNCS transmittals to Congress

1. Board letter to Grassley. We sent by email to Grassley, with copies to McCaskill, Collins, Lieberman, Enzi, and Kennedy. We will hand-deliver tomorrow. Jason Foster acknowledged receipt of the electronic copy.
2. Supplemental response to IG's 7-day letter on ST HOPE Academy. We will transmit our supplemental response to the IG's 7-Day letter tomorrow, both electronically and by hand-delivery.

Frank R. Trinity
General Counsel
Corporation for National and Community Service
[REDACTED]

From: Trinity, Frank
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 10:56 PM
To: Goren, Nicola; Schmelzer, Ranit; Glickman, Rhoda
Subject: RE: Grassley upset about Walpin

Yes Grassley was on the list -- they worked off our 7-day letter distribution list.

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

From: Goren, Nicola
Sent: Thu 6/11/2009 6:32 PM
To: Schmelzer, Ranit; Trinity, Frank; Glickman, Rhoda
Cc:
Subject: Re: Grassley upset about Walpin

Was he on outreach list? We need to get Steve in to see him.

Sent via blackberry - please excuse typos

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
To: Trinity, Frank; Goren, Nicola; Glickman, Rhoda
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:30:51 2009
Subject: Fw: Grassley upset about Walpin

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [REDACTED]
To: Eisen, Norman L. [REDACTED]; Tyrangiel, Elana J.
[REDACTED]; Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:11:41 2009
Subject: Grassley upset about Walpin

FYI...

I'll call the reporter and asked her if she showed our letters to Grassley. Will keep you posted.

From: Sanner, Ann [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 6:07 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: RE: the letters

This is headed your way. Let me know if you have a response.

The text of Grassley's letter to the President is below.

June 11, 2009

Barack Obama
President of the United States of America

7/17/2009

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I was troubled to learn that last night your staff reportedly issued an ultimatum to the Americorps Inspector General Gerald Walpin that he had one hour to resign or be terminated. As you know, Inspectors General were created by Congress as a means to combat waste, fraud, and abuse and to be independent watchdogs ensuring that federal agencies were held accountable for their actions. Inspectors General were designed to have a dual role reporting to both the President and Congress so that they would be free from undue political pressure. This independence is the hallmark of all Inspectors General and is essential so they may operate independently, without political pressure or interference from agencies attempting to keep their failings from public scrutiny.

Last year, President Bush signed the Inspector General Reform Act (P.L. 110-409) into law. Both you and I were cosponsors of this important legislation that was introduced to strengthen the independence and integrity of the Inspectors General. One of the most important provisions of the legislation we cosponsored was Section 3 which amended the procedures for the removal of Inspectors General. Specifically, Section 3 requires that, "the President shall communicate in writing the reasons for any such removal or transfer to both Houses of Congress, not later than 30 days before the removal or transfer." No such notice was provided to Congress in this instance.

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Given that you were a cosponsor of this vital legislation I am deeply troubled to learn of the ultimatum given Inspector General Walpin absent Congressional notification.

There have been no negative findings against Mr. Walpin by the Integrity Committee of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), and he has identified millions of dollars in Americorps funds either wasted outright or spent in violation of established guidelines.

We cannot afford to have Inspector General independence threatened. In light of the massive increases in federal spending of late, it is more critical than ever that we have an Inspector

General community that is vigorous, independent, and active in rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. I urge you to review the Inspector General Reform Act you cosponsored and to follow the letter of the law should you have cause to remove any Inspector General.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley

United States Senator

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 3:28 PM
To: Sanner, Ann
Subject: RE: the letters

Yes.

From: Sanner, Ann [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 3:23 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: RE: the letters

Thanks. So I can say he 'is being suspended with pay for 30 days'?

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 3:20 PM
To: Sanner, Ann
Subject: the letters

As we discussed...

Josh Earnest
Deputy White House Press Secretary
[REDACTED] (desk)

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[IP US DISC]
msk dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

From: Goren, Nicola
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 6:37 PM
To: Glickman, Rhoda; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit
Subject: Re: Grassley upset about Walpin

Not sure - you may want to coordinate with him on this.

Sent via blackberry - please excuse typos

From: Glickman, Rhoda
To: Goren, Nicola
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:34:55 2009
Subject: Re: Grassley upset about Walpin

Who is handling this? Assume you will speak to Steve?

From: Goren, Nicola
To: Schmelzer, Ranit; Trinity, Frank; Glickman, Rhoda
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:32:44 2009
Subject: Re: Grassley upset about Walpin

Was he on outreach list? We need to get Steve in to see him.

Sent via blackberry - please excuse typos

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
To: Trinity, Frank; Goren, Nicola; Glickman, Rhoda
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:30:51 2009
Subject: Fw: Grassley upset about Walpin

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [REDACTED]
To: Eisen, Norman L. [REDACTED]; Tyrangiel, Elana J.
[REDACTED]; Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:11:41 2009
Subject: Grassley upset about Walpin

FYI...

I'll call the reporter and asked her if she showed our letters to Grassley. Will keep you posted.

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We cannot afford to have Inspector General independence threatened. In light of the massive increases in federal spending of late, it is more critical than ever that we have an Inspector General community that is vigorous, independent, and active in rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. I urge you to review the Inspector General Reform Act you cosponsored and to follow the letter of the law should you have cause to remove any Inspector General.

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[REDACTED] (desk)

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From: Glickman, Rhoda
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 6:38 PM
To: Goren, Nicola
Subject: Re: Grassley upset about Walpin

Can u send me his number or email?

From: Goren, Nicola
To: Glickman, Rhoda; Trinity, Frank; Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:36:46 2009
Subject: Re: Grassley upset about Walpin

Not sure - you may want to coordinate with him on this.

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Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:36:46 2009
Subject: Re: Grassley upset about Walpin

Not sure - you may want to coordinate with him on this.

Sent via blackberry - please excuse typos

From: Glickman, Rhoda
To: Goren, Nicola
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:34:55 2009
Subject: Re: Grassley upset about Walpin

Who is handling this? Assume you will speak to steve?

From: Goren, Nicola
To: Schmelzer, Ranit; Trinity, Frank; Glickman, Rhoda
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:32:44 2009
Subject: Re: Grassley upset about Walpin

Was he on outreach list? We need to get steve in to see him.

Sent via blackberry - please excuse typos

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
To: Trinity, Frank; Goren, Nicola; Glickman, Rhoda
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:30:51 2009
Subject: Fw: Grassley upset about Walpin

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [REDACTED]
To: Eisen, Norman L. [REDACTED]; Tyrangiel, Elana J.
[REDACTED]; Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thu Jun 11 18:11:41 2009
Subject: Grassley upset about Walpin

FYI...

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I'll call the reporter and asked her if she showed our letters to Grassley. Will keep you posted.

From: Sanner, Ann [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 6:07 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: RE: the letters

This is headed your way. Let me know if you have a response.

The text of Grassley's letter to the President is below.

June 11, 2009

Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I was troubled to learn that last night your staff reportedly issued an ultimatum to the AmeriCorps Inspector General Gerald Walpin that he had one hour to resign or be terminated. As you know, Inspectors General were created by Congress as a means to combat waste, fraud, and abuse and to be independent watchdogs ensuring that federal agencies were held accountable for their actions. Inspectors General were designed to have a dual role reporting to both the President and Congress so that they would be free from undue political pressure. This independence is the hallmark of all Inspectors General and is essential so they may operate independently, without political pressure or interference from agencies attempting to keep their failings from public scrutiny.

Last year, President Bush signed the Inspector General Reform Act (P.L. 110-409) into law. Both you and I were cosponsors of this important legislation that was introduced to strengthen the independence and integrity of the Inspectors General. One of the most important provisions of the legislation we cosponsored was Section 3 which amended the procedures for the removal of Inspectors General. Specifically, Section 3 requires that, "the President shall communicate in writing the reasons for any such removal or transfer to both Houses of Congress, not later than 30 days before the removal or transfer." No such notice was provided to Congress in this instance.

As you may recall, the Senate Committee Report (S. Rep. 110-262) accompanying the Inspector General Reform Act stated the intent of Congress. That report stated:

"The Committee intends that Inspectors General who fail to perform their duties properly whether through malfeasance or nonfeasance, or whose personal actions bring discredit upon the office, be removed. The

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requirement to notify the Congress in advance of the reasons for the removal should serve to ensure that Inspectors General are not removed for political reasons.”

Given that you were a cosponsor of this vital legislation I am deeply troubled to learn of the ultimatum given Inspector General Walpin absent Congressional notification.

There have been no negative findings against Mr. Walpin by the Integrity Committee of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), and he has identified millions of dollars in Americorps funds either wasted outright or spent in violation of established guidelines.^[1] In other words, it appears he has been doing his job.

We cannot afford to have Inspector General independence threatened. In light of the massive increases in federal spending of late, it is more critical than ever that we have an Inspector General community that is vigorous, independent, and active in rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. I urge you to review the Inspector General Reform Act you cosponsored and to follow the letter of the law should you have cause to remove any Inspector General.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley

United States Senator

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 3:28 PM
To: Sanner, Ann
Subject: RE: the letters

Yes.

From: Sanner, Ann [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 3:23 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: RE: the letters

Thanks. So I can say he 'is being suspended with pay for 30 days'?

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 3:20 PM
To: Sanner, Ann
Subject: the letters

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As we discussed...

Josh Earnest
Deputy White House Press Secretary
[REDACTED] (desk)

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[IP_US_DISC]

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Holland, Austin

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 8:33 AM
To: Bach, Kenneth
Cc: Trinity, Frank; Goren, Nicola
Subject: Fw:
Attachments: letter to Congress.doc; Walpin Q&A.doc; walpin quote.doc

Ken – here are the WH materials in case they're helpful.

From: Earnest, Joshua R. [REDACTED]
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Wed Jun 10 09:30:31 2009
Subject: FW:

Hey Ranit:

I should have forwarded this to you last week. It's the basic language that we've agreed upon that should be helpful as you draft a news release today.

I'm in meetings this morning – but you can get me on bberry at this email address or on my cell at [REDACTED]

Let me know if I can be helpful, Josh

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2009 3:59 PM
To: Earnest, Joshua R.
Subject: FW:

From: Tyrangiel, Elana J.
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2009 2:46 PM
To: Vietor, Thomas F.
Cc: Eisen, Norman L.
Subject:

Tommy, attached are some materials on the removal of the IG, which will likely happen this afternoon (Walpin will be offered a chance to resign first). Could we chat as soon as possible about coordination with the Corporation for National and Community Service? I'm at [REDACTED] Thanks.