



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

June 14, 2007

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter, dated April 26, 2007, which requested information and supporting documents in connection with the Committee's oversight inquiry regarding political briefings pertaining to elections or candidates provided to Department of Justice employees by officials in the White House between January 20, 2001, and April 26, 2007. We are sending copies of this letter to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who requested information regarding this matter in a letter, dated April 26, 2007.

In response to your request, Departmental components were asked to determine whether any of their political appointees attended, or were aware of any employee within the component having attended, a briefing with White House officials as described in your request. Components were asked to have the appointees review their calendars and, if an appointee attended or was aware of any such briefing, they were to collect and preserve any communications or documents about the briefing, and the name of the individual was to be provided to the Justice Management Division for further inquiry. The Department's Office of Information and Privacy and the Executive Secretariat also conducted searches of the electronic and paper files, when available, of David Higbee, Jan Williams, Susan Richmond, and Monica Goodling, all of whom served in the position of White House Liaison during the relevant time period, and Kyle Sampson (former Chief of Staff to the Attorney General). Although we were able to search Ms. Williams' electronic files, we were unable to find paper records from her tenure with the Department.

These search efforts did not reveal information indicating that briefings of the type described in your letter were held at the Department of Justice. Our information indicates that Department employees attended the following briefings at the White House's Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) and, in one instance, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Our records do not indicate whether all of the meetings described in this letter or the supporting documents actually included a political briefing regarding elections or candidates; however, where we were uncertain, we included the meeting in our response, which may be over-inclusive as a result.

- **3/12/01:** A luncheon for agency White House liaisons. According to the invitation, the agenda included Karl Rove providing a "political update"; Ken Mehlman discussing "how we can work together to advance the President's agenda"; and Matt Schlapp providing an "update on personnel and hiring processes." Our records indicate that David Higbee, then the Department's White House Liaison, attended this luncheon.
- **4/6/01:** A meeting between Karl Rove, agency White House Liaisons, the White House Office of Public Liaison, and the White House Office of Political Affairs. According to the invitation, the agenda included a "briefing on the status of White House political and coalition activities/organization." Our records indicate that David Higbee, then the Department's White House Liaison, attended this briefing.
- **5/18/01:** A meeting for agency White House liaisons hosted by the White House Office of Political Affairs and Office of Presidential Personnel. According to the invitation, the agenda included a "political update" presented by Ken Mehlman. Our records indicate that David Higbee, then the Department's White House Liaison, attended this briefing.
- **7/12/01:** A meeting for agency Chiefs of Staff and White House liaisons. According to the invitation, Ken Mehlman would "deliver a political briefing and update." Our records indicate that David Higbee, then the White House Liaison, and Susan Richmond, then the Deputy White House Liaison, attended this meeting.
- **12/14/01:** A meeting for agency White House liaisons and Chiefs of Staff hosted at the USDA. According to the invitation from the White House, the agenda included a "political update" to be presented by either Ken Mehlman or Matt Schlapp from the White House Office of Political Affairs. Our records indicate that Susan Richmond, then the Department's Deputy White House Liaison, attended this meeting.
- **3/04/02:** A meeting for agency Chiefs of Staff and White House liaisons hosted by Brett Kavanaugh (White House Counsel's Office) and Ken Mehlman. According to the invitation, the agenda included providing "advice and counsel with regard to the do's and don'ts regarding your participation in politically-related activities." Our records indicate that David Higbee, then the Department's White House Liaison, and Susan Richmond, then the Deputy White House Liaison, attended this meeting.
- **5/21/02:** A briefing hosted by the White House Office of Public Liaison regarding "outreach," which included presentations by Karl Rove, Senior Advisor to the President, Lezlee Westine, Director of the Office of Public Liaison, Ken Mehlman, Director of Political Affairs, and Albert Hawkins, Cabinet Secretary. Although this meeting appeared on a calendar for David Higbee, then the White House Liaison, we found no records confirming his attendance.

- **3/2/03:** An agency White House liaisons meeting hosted by the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, Office of Political Affairs, and Cabinet Affairs, which included presentations by Dina Powell, Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel, Matt Schlapp, Deputy Director of Political Affairs, Brian Montgomery, Deputy Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary, Karl Rove, Senior Advisor to the President, and Andrew Card, Chief of Staff. Our records indicate that David Higbee, then the Department's White House Liaison, attended this briefing.
- **3/14/06:** A Political Briefing for agency White House liaisons, senior legislative affairs staff, and senior intergovernmental affairs staff hosted by Sara Taylor, White House Political Director, which included the following speakers from the White House, in addition to Ms. Taylor: Heidi Smith, Director of Cabinet Liaison; Ruben Barrales, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs; Candi Wolff, Director of Legislative Affairs; and Liza Wright, Director of Presidential Personnel. Our records indicate that Jan Williams, then the Department's White House Liaison, Crystal Jezierski (then the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison), and Rebecca Seidel (Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs) attended this briefing.
- **8/8/06:** A briefing for political appointees in agencies' public liaison and intergovernmental affairs offices hosted by the White House Office of Public Liaison and Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, which included a political briefing and presentation of information about the midterm elections from the White House Office of Political Affairs. Our records indicate that Crystal Jezierski, then the Director of the Department's Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison, Katherine Green, then the Research Assistant to the Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison, and Brian Cohen, Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison, attended this briefing.
- **8/11/06:** On this date, a regularly scheduled briefing for Hispanic political appointees from federal agencies included, among the agenda items, a presentation of information about midterm election trends. Our records indicate that the following Department of Justice representatives attended this particular briefing: Eric Holland (Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison), and Arthur Schwartz (Office of Public Affairs). Mr. Holland attended the meeting to give a presentation about what the Department of Justice is doing for Hispanic-American citizens.
- **9/5/06:** A briefing by the White House Office of Political Affairs for agency Chiefs of Staff and White House Liaisons hosted by the Office of Cabinet Liaison. According to the invitation, the briefing would be led by Karl Rove. Our records show that Monica Goodling, then the Department's White House Liaison, requested that the briefing be noted on her calendar and Kyle Sampson, then the Chief of Staff to the Attorney General, responded that he would attend. However, our records do not indicate whether Ms. Goodling or Mr. Sampson, who are no longer Department employees, actually attended this briefing.

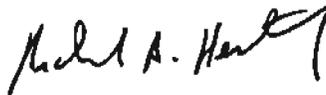
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• 9/8/06: The White House hosted an "Agency Legislative Affairs Meeting," at which Sara Taylor, Director of Political Affairs, gave a "brief political affairs update." Our records indicate that William Moschella (then the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs) attended this meeting.

Enclosed are 160 pages of supporting documents responsive to your request. In the enclosed documents, we have redacted information that would implicate the privacy interests of Department of Justice employees, including dates of birth and social security numbers.

We hope that this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may be of further assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Hertling
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Minority Member, Senate Judiciary Committee