



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 05 2017

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cummings:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated May 30, 2017, which requested information about the Department of Justice's (the Department) provision of documents in response to the Committee's subpoenas of January 5, 2015 and January 3, 2017, in connection with Operation Fast and Furious. We also understand that you are interested in the availability of a Department witness for a Committee hearing on June 7, 2017.

As you noted, the Committee filed suit against the Department in order to compel production of documents in connection with its oversight investigation about Fast and Furious. That litigation remains pending in the Court of Appeals, and the case is currently being "held in abeyance pending further order of the court" with the "parties . . . directed to file a status report by June 15, 2017." *Committee on Oversight & Government Reform v. Sessions*, Order, No. 16-5078 (D.C. Cir. May 23, 2017). The parties sought abeyance because "settlement discussions between the parties are continuing" and an "abeyance will provide the parties with additional time to pursue the possibility of a negotiated resolution." Joint Status Report, No. 16-5078 (filed May 15, 2017). Those court filings are enclosed.

Under these circumstances, we are not in a position to provide additional information in response to your questions, nor to have a Department witness testify about them at a congressional hearing.

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
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We hope that this information is helpful and appreciate your understanding in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel R. Ramer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Samuel R. Ramer
Acting Assistant Attorney General

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman

United States Court of Appeals
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

No. 16-5078**September Term, 2016****1:12-cv-01332-ABJ****Filed On: May 23, 2017 [1676448]**

Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform, United States House of
Representatives,

Appellant

v.

Jeff Sessions, in his official capacity as
Attorney General of the United States,

Appellee

ORDER

Upon consideration of the joint status report and motion to continue abeyance, it
is

ORDERED that this case remain in abeyance pending further order of the court.
The parties are directed to file a status report by June 15, 2017.

FOR THE COURT:

Mark J. Langer, Clerk

BY: /s/
Rebecca L. Thompson
Deputy Clerk

[ORAL ARGUMENT NOT SCHEDULED]

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM OF THE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Plaintiff-Appellant,

v.

JEFFERSON B. SESSIONS III, in his official
capacity as Attorney General of the United
States,

Defendant-Appellee.

No. 16-5078

**JOINT STATUS REPORT AND
MOTION TO CONTINUE ABEYANCE**

On January 19, 2017, this Court granted Appellant's unopposed motion to hold this appeal in abeyance pending further settlement negotiations between the parties. This Court's order directed the parties to file motions to govern future proceedings by March 15, 2017. On March 14, 2017, the parties notified the Court that their settlement negotiations were ongoing and asked the Court to enter an order continuing to hold the appeal in abeyance, with a status report to be filed by May 15,

2017. The Court granted the parties' request and entered a corresponding order. This joint status report and motion is in response to that order.

The settlement discussions between the parties are continuing. The parties have made progress, but have not completed those negotiations. The parties therefore respectfully request that this Court enter an order continuing to hold the appeal in abeyance, with a status report to be filed by June 15, 2017. This further abeyance will provide the parties with additional time to pursue the possibility of a negotiated resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Thomas G. Hungar

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/s/Gerard Sinzduk

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MAY 2017

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 15, 2017, I electronically filed the foregoing motion with the Clerk of the Court by using the appellate CM/ECF system. Service will be accomplished by the appellate CM/ECF system.

/s/ Gerard Sinzduk
GERARD SINZDAK