



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

34 press calls

Interaction #: 10260

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: James

Last Name: Lipton

Title: Reporter - NYT

Position:

Email: (b)(6)

Phone:

Other Notes: This contact is a stand-in contact for the 34 separate news organizations who contacted us and who received our statement on the issue.

Interaction Details

Initiated: 11/30/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Seth Jaffe

Watching:

Questions

We received inquiries from 34 separate news organizations concerning tweets from OGE's twitter account addressing the President-elect's plans to avoid conflicts of interest.

Category(s)

Conflicting Financial Interests

Interaction History

12/1/2016: **Resolved**

Seth Jaffe

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it. The tweets that OGE posted today were responding only to the public statement that the President-elect made on his Twitter feed about his plans regarding conflicts of interest. OGE's tweets were not based on any information about the President-elect's plans beyond what was shared on his Twitter feed. OGE is non-partisan and does not endorse any individual. <https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>

12/1/2016: **Interaction Created**

Seth Jaffe

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 11/30/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it. The tweets that OGE posted today were responding only to the public statement that the President-elect made on his Twitter feed about his plans regarding conflicts of interest. OGE's tweets were not based on any information about the President-elect's plans beyond what was shared on his Twitter feed. OGE is non-partisan and does not endorse any individual. <https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: More than 8 hours

Individuals Credited: Leigh Francis, Seth Jaffe

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Questions concerning President-elect's previous 278 filing (Voice of America)

Interaction #: 10281

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Masood

Last Name: Farivar

Title: Reporter, Voice of America

Position:

Email: None provided.

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/1/2016

Call Origination: Email

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

Reporter is writing a story about the President-elect Trump's business interests. He has some questions about his most recent form 278e, such as What period does it cover? is the income listed in the form for the calendar or fiscal year 2015 or another period?

Category(s)

278s

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

I directed the reporter to information (available on OGE's website) that provided the reporter with information about the reporting periods for the President-elect's most recent public financial disclosure filing and related information concerning the reporting of income (both earned and investment income) on the 278e report as well as other requested information.

12/1/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/1/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

I directed the reporter to information (available on OGE's website) that provided the reporter with information about the reporting periods for the President-elect's most recent public financial disclosure filing and related information concerning the reporting of income (both earned and investment income) on the 278e report as well as other requested information.

Complexity: 1

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Call about GSA Lease

Interaction #: 10242

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Jackie

Last Name: Northam

Title:

Position:

Email:

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 11/29/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Leigh Francis, Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

Does OGE have any comment on the terms of a lease between the GSA and the Trump Organization?

Category(s)

Procurement Integrity

Interaction History

11/29/2016: **Resolved**

Leigh Francis

Off-the-record and on background, I advised that a GSA lease and its terms were outside OGE's jurisdiction. I advised what OGE's jurisdiction covered, and that it did not include PIA, contracting laws or regulations, generally, or contract provisions.

11/29/2016: **Interaction Created**

Leigh Francis

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 11/29/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

Off-the-record and on background, I advised that a GSA lease and its terms were outside OGE's jurisdiction. I advised what OGE's jurisdiction covered, and that it did not include PIA, contracting laws or regulations, generally, or contract provisions.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Leigh Francis, Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Call About GSA Lease

Interaction #: 10244

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Greg

Last Name: Gordon

Title: Reporter

Position:

Email:

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 11/29/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Leigh Francis

Watching:

Questions

Does OGE have any comment regarding the lease between the GSA and the Trump organization?

Category(s)

Procurement Integrity

Interaction History

11/29/2016: **Resolved**

Leigh Francis

Off-the-record and on background, I advised that a GSA lease and its terms were outside OGE's jurisdiction. I advised what OGE's jurisdiction covered, and that it did not include PIA, contracting laws or regulations, generally, or contract provisions.

11/29/2016: **Interaction Created**

Leigh Francis

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 11/29/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

Off-the-record and on background, I advised that a GSA lease and its terms were outside OGE's jurisdiction. I advised what OGE's jurisdiction covered, and that it did not include PIA, contracting laws or regulations, generally, or contract provisions.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Leigh Francis, Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Application of CD rule to the President-elect

Interaction #: 10313

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Steven

Last Name: Rosenthal

Title: Senior Fellow, Urban-Brookings
Tax Policy Center

Position:

Email: (b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/5/2016

Call Origination: Email

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

The requester shared his interpretation and summary about the ability of the President-elect to divest his businesses utilizing certificates of divestiture.

Category(s)

CDs

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

The reporter provided OGE with an article containing his views on whether whether CDs would available to the President-elect in divesting his business interests. No response was requested. The summary is contained in the following link:

<http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxvox/could-president-trump-sell-his-business-tax-free>.

12/5/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/5/2016

Resolution Category: No Response Sent

Response:

The reporter provided OGE with an article containing his views on whether whether CDs would available to the President-elect in divesting his business interests. No response was requested. The summary is contained in the following link: <http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxvox/could-president-trump-sell-his-business-tax-free>.

Complexity: 1

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Comments about OGE tweets/account hacked (Vocativ.com)

Interaction #: 10306

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Kevin

Last Name: Collier

Title: Reporter, Vocativ.com

Position:

Email: None provided

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/2/2016

Call Origination: Email

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

Reporter has questions concerning OGE's twitter account and its recent tweets.

Category(s)

Ethics Program Administration

Other

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

The reporter was informed that OGE had not been hacked and that the OGE tweets were authorized by OGE. I did not provide any further comment concerning the OGE tweets.

12/3/2016: **Update to Title**

Vincent Salamone

Comments about OGE tweets/account hacked (Vocativ.com)

12/3/2016: **Update to Customer Title**

Vincent Salamone

Reporter, Vocativ.com

12/3/2016: **Update to Customer Position**

Vincent Salamone

12/3/2016: **Update to Title**

Vincent Salamone

Comments about OGE tweets/account hacked

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/2/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

The reporter was informed that OGE had not been hacked and that the OGE tweets were authorized by OGE. I did not provide any further comment concerning the OGE tweets.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

GSA Lease Provisions

Interaction #: 10243

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Tory

Last Name: Neumeyer

Title: Reporter

Position:

Email:

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 11/29/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Leigh Francis

Watching:

Questions

Does OGE have any comment on the lease between GSA and the Trump organization?

Category(s)

Procurement Integrity

Interaction History

11/29/2016: **Resolved**

Leigh Francis

Off-the-record and on background, I advised that a GSA lease and its terms were outside OGE's jurisdiction. I advised what OGE's jurisdiction covered, and that it did not include PIA, contracting laws or regulations, generally, or contract provisions.

11/29/2016: **Interaction Created**

Leigh Francis

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 11/29/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

Off-the-record and on background, I advised that a GSA lease and its terms were outside OGE's jurisdiction. I advised what OGE's jurisdiction covered, and that it did not include PIA, contracting laws or regulations, generally, or contract provisions.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Leigh Francis

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:
Hatch Act
Interaction #: 10344
Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Public Citizen	Position:
First Name: R	Email:
Last Name: (b)(6)	Phone:
Title:	Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/7/2016
Call Origination: Email
Assigned: Suzanne Meyer
Watching:

Questions

You have recently indicated that even though Trump isn't legally obligated to distance himself from his businesses that he should anyway. What about Obama/Biden using their positions within the government to influence the last election? Seems like the same thing, they were legally allowed to do this as they were exempted from the Hatch Act but shouldn't they have refrained from campaigning for Clinton anyway the way you expect Trump to divest even though he doesn't have to legally? Where was your voice on the Hatch Act issue? (b)

Category(s)

Hatch Act

Interaction History

12/7/2016: **Resolved**
Suzanne Meyer
Dear (b)(6): Thank you for your e-mail to the United States Office of Government Ethics (OGE). OGE was established by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to be the office responsible for setting policies aimed at the prevention of conflicts of interest in the executive branch of the Federal Government. OGE, a small agency within the executive branch, assists other executive branch departments and agencies to implement ethics rules and policies that deal with conflict-of-interest laws, post-employment restrictions, the standards of ethical conduct, and the public and confidential financial disclosure systems for executive branch federal employees. OGE's jurisdiction extends only to the specific ethics issues described above within the executive branch of the U.S. Government. Information concerning the Hatch Act can be found at <https://osc.gov/>. Thank you, Contact OGE U.S. Office of Government Ethics

12/7/2016: **Interaction Created**

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/7/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

Dear (b)(6): Thank you for your e-mail to the United States Office of Government Ethics (OGE). OGE was established by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to be the office responsible for setting policies aimed at the prevention of conflicts of interest in the executive branch of the Federal Government. OGE, a small agency within the executive branch, assists other executive branch departments and agencies to implement ethics rules and policies that deal with conflict-of-interest laws, post-employment restrictions, the standards of ethical conduct, and the public and confidential financial disclosure systems for executive branch federal employees. OGE's jurisdiction extends only to the specific ethics issues described above within the executive branch of the U.S. Government. Information concerning the Hatch Act can be found at <https://osc.gov/>. Thank you, Contact OGE U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Suzanne Meyer

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Media Coverage of tweets (Mouthwater)

Interaction #: 10311

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Megan

Last Name: (no last name provided)

Title:

Position:

Email:

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/1/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

Reporter has some questions concerning OGE's media coverage involving recent news.

Category(s)

Ethics Program Administration

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

I thanked the requester for bringing their service to OGE's attention but informed her that I did not believe the service was needed at this time. I said that I would get back to the reporter if this position changed. I told her that she was free to send me any type of informational materials that was useful to me in understanding the media-related service.

12/3/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/2/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

I thanked the requester for bringing their service to OGE's attention but informed her that I did not believe the service was needed at this time. I said that I would get back to the reporter if this position changed. I told her that she was free to send me any type of informational materials that was useful to me in understanding the media-related service.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

OGE Transition

Interaction #: 10318

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Public Citizen

First Name: L

Last Name: (b)

Title:

Position:

Email:

Phone:

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/4/2016

Call Origination: Email

Assigned: Suzanne Meyer

Watching:

Questions

Will your office staff and leadership soon include appointees of President Elect Trump? (b)
(b)

Category(s)

Schedule C

Senior Employee

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Suzanne Meyer

Dear (b)(6): Thank you for your email to Contact OGE. The Director is appointed to a five-year term by the President and is confirmed by the Senate. The Director is a member of the Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) and the Integrity Committee of the CIGIE, which reviews allegations of misconduct against inspectors general. The Director also serves as a member of the Administrative Conference of the United States. Thank you. Contact OGE U.S. Office of Government Ethics

12/5/2016: **Interaction Created**

Suzanne Meyer

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/5/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

Dear (b)(6): Thank you for your email to Contact OGE. The Director is appointed to a five-year term by the President and is confirmed by the Senate. The Director is a member of the Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) and the Integrity Committee of the CIGIE, which reviews allegations of misconduct against inspectors general. The Director also serves as a member of the Administrative Conference of the United States. Thank you. Contact OGE U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Suzanne Meyer

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

OGE twitter comments (WMAL Radio)

Interaction #: 10278

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Joseph

Last Name: di Genova

Title: WMAL Radio Presenter

Position:

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: (b)(6) [REDACTED]

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/1/2016

Call Origination: Email

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

The attorney is doing preparation for a legal commentary on this subject for Monday, December 5th, on WMAL RADIO and would like to discuss the process that was utilized to send out the OGE tweets on the above subject. He is looking for the process, who decided to do this, what is the historical precedent for such tweets, what other presidents-elect have received such tweets, etc.

Category(s)

Other

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

I informed the reporter that OGE had not been hacked and that the OGE tweets were authorized by OGE. I did not provide any further comment concerning the OGE tweets in response to several other questions posed by the reporter concerning the tweets.

12/1/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/2/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

I informed the reporter that OGE had not been hacked and that the OGE tweets were authorized by OGE. I did not provide any further comment concerning the OGE tweets in response to several other questions posed by the reporter concerning the tweets.

Complexity: [REDACTED]

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Use of Publishing Platform (Medium)

Interaction #: 10283

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Matt

Last Name: Higginson

Title: None provided

Position:

Email: (b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/1/2016

Call Origination: Email

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

The publishing service wanted to see if someone at OGE, Director Shaub, and/or another voice from OGE might be interested in using Medium to share more about how the agency recommends President-elect Trump proceed to avoid and ethical conflicts between his businesses and the presidency--or see if there is something else the office would like to communicate to the public.

Category(s)

Other

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

I thanked the requester for bringing their service to OGE's attention but informed him that I did not believe the service was needed at this time. I said that I would get back to the reporter if this position changed.

12/1/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/2/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

I thanked the requester for bringing their service to OGE's attention but informed him that I did not believe the service was needed at this time. I said that I would get back to the reporter if this position changed.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Query about whether OGE was hacked and about OGE tweets (Wired)

Interaction #: 10272

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Emily

Last Name: Dreyfuss

Title: Reporter, Wired News and Opinion Editor

Position:

Email: None provided

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/1/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

The editor sought confirmation about whether OGE had been in fact been hacked and posed several questions about OGE's subsequent tweets

Category(s)

Other

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

I informed the editor that OGE's twitter account had not been hacked. I also had a general conversation about subsequent tweets to include the fact that the tweets were in fact authorized OGE tweets.

12/5/2016: **Update to Question**

Vincent Salamone

The editor sought confirmation about whether OGE had been in fact been hacked and posed several questions about OGE's subsequent tweets

12/5/2016: **Reopened**

Vincent Salamone

Reopening Reason: Correct TYPO.

Original Information

Question: The edditor sought confirmation about whether OGE had been in fact been hacked and posed several questions about OGE's subsequent tweets

Response: I informed the editor that OGE's twitter account had not been hacked. I also had a general conversation about subsequent tweets to include the fact that the tweets were in fact

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/1/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

I informed the editor that OGE's twitter account had not been hacked. I also had a general conversation about subsequent tweets to include the fact that the tweets were in fact authorized OGE tweets.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No

OGE tweets.
Categories: Other
Resolution Date: 12/1/2016 12
Resolution Category: ResolvedComplexity
Memorialize: No
Do not destroy: No

12/1/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

I informed the editor that OGE's twitter account had not been hacked. I also had a general conversation about subsequent tweets to include the fact that the tweets were in fact OGE tweets.

12/1/2016: **Update to Customer Title**

Vincent Salamone

Reporter, Wired News and Opinion Editor

12/1/2016: **Update to Customer Position**

Vincent Salamone

12/1/2016: **Reopened**

Vincent Salamone

Reopening Reason: Correct typo.

Original Information

Question: The edditor sought confirmation about whether OGE had been in fact been hacked and posed several questions about OGE's subsequent tweets

Response: I informed the editor that OGE's twitter account had not been hacked. I also had a general conversation about subsequent tweets to include the fact that the tweets were in fact OGE tweets.

Categories: Other
Resolution Date: 12/2/2016 12
Resolution Category: ResolvedComplexity
Memorialize: No
Do not destroy: No

12/1/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

I informed the editor that OGE's twitter account had not been hacked. I also had a general conversation about subsequent tweets to include the fact that the tweets were in fact OGE tweets.

12/1/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Questions about OGE tweets

Interaction #: 10285

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Davis

Last Name: Merritt

Title: Newspaper Columnist

Position:

Email:

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/1/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

Reporter has a couple of questions about events that occurred involving OGE tweets on November 30, 2016.

Category(s)

Other

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

I informed the reporter that OGE had not been hacked and that the OGE tweets were authorized by OGE. I did not provide any further comment concerning the OGE tweets.

12/1/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/1/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

I informed the reporter that OGE had not been hacked and that the OGE tweets were authorized by OGE. I did not provide any further comment concerning the OGE tweets.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Questions concerning OGE's twitter account (USA Today)

Interaction #: 10310

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Eliza

Last Name: (not discernable)

Title: Reporter, USA Today

Position:

Email: None provided

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/2/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

Reporter has some questions about OGE's twitter account.

Category(s)

Ethics Program Administration

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

I informed the reporter that OGE had not been hacked and that the OGE tweets were authorized by OGE. I did not provide any further comment concerning the OGE tweets.

12/3/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/2/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

I informed the reporter that OGE had not been hacked and that the OGE tweets were authorized by OGE. I did not provide any further comment concerning the OGE tweets.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Seeking information about OGE and about recent tweets from OGE (Smithsonian.com)

Interaction #: 10307

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Jackie

Last Name: Masky

Title: Assistant Editor,
Smithsonian.com

Position:

Email: None provided

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/2/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

An Assistance Editor was seeking general information about OGE and its programs and operations. Also, she was seeking comment or information about about recent tweets made by the agency.

Category(s)

Ethics Program Administration

Website

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

With respect to the editor's questions about OGE's recent tweets, I informed the reporter that OGE had not been hacked and that the OGE tweets were authorized by OGE. I did not provide any further comment concerning the OGE tweets. With respect to the editor's questions about OGE's role in the Executive Branch, I directed the reporter to several resources on OGE's website providing her with statistical information that she requested. I also answered a number of questions about OGE and its mission. I also directed the editor to OGE's recently published rule that significantly amended the administration of Executive Branch ethics program and also its ethics training requirements. I noted that The rule was published in November of this year.

12/3/2016: **Update to Customer Position**

Vincent Salamone

12/3/2016: **Update to Customer Title**

Vincent Salamone

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/2/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

With respect to the editor's questions about OGE's recent tweets, I informed the reporter that OGE had not been hacked and that the OGE tweets were authorized by OGE. I did not provide any further comment concerning the OGE tweets. With respect to the editor's questions about OGE's role in the Executive Branch, I directed the reporter to several resources on OGE's website providing her with statistical information that she requested. I also answered a number of questions about OGE and its mission. I also directed the editor to OGE's recently published rule that significantly amended the administration of Executive Branch ethics program and also its ethics training requirements. I noted that The rule was published in November of this year.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Story about OGE tweets, availability of 278e reports and the conflicts of interest review process (The Intercept)

Interaction #: 10330

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Press

First Name: Matt

Last Name: Schwartz

Title: Reporter, National Security

Position:

Email: (b)(6)

Phone: (b)(6)

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/5/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

The reporter called about OGE's thoughts about him possibly writing a back story about OGE's tweets made last week as an unusual and telling bureaucratic response to the coming change of Administrations.

Category(s)

208

Ethics Program Administration

Trusts

Interaction History

12/6/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

I informed the reporter that OGE had provided two written statements (I provided the text of the second statement to the reporter during the call) and various tweets last week and would not be providing any further comment or supporting any "back story" about those tweets. In answer to various other questions. I informed the reporter that I was not able to discuss conflict concerns involving specific individuals or prospective nominees. However, I was able to generally provide information concerning conflicts of interest and to discuss various other ethics rules and requirements. I had a lengthy discussion with the reporter and provided the reporter with a quick overview of some or all of the the following topics: 18 USC 208 and its requirements, remedying conflicts of interests including the availability of CDs, the standards of ethical conduct and impartiality concerns, restrictions on outside activities, earned income restrictions, public financial disclosure reporting, the nominee vetting process, as well as information about other related ethics laws and rules as requested by the reporter. I also discussed OGE's role in the ethics program and in vetting Presidential nominees during the

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/5/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

I informed the reporter that OGE had provided two written statements (I provided the text of the second statement to the reporter during the call) and various tweets last week and would not be providing any further comment or supporting any "back story" about those tweets. In answer to various other questions. I informed the reporter that I was not able to discuss conflict concerns involving specific individuals or prospective nominees. However, I was able to generally provide information concerning conflicts of interest and to discuss various other ethics rules and requirements. I had a lengthy discussion with the reporter and provided the reporter with a quick overview of some or all of the the following topics: 18 USC 208 and its requirements, remedying conflicts of interests including the availability of CDs, the standards of ethical conduct and impartiality concerns, restrictions on outside activities, earned income restrictions, public financial disclosure reporting, the nominee vetting process, as well as information about other related ethics laws and rules as requested by the reporter. I also discussed OGE's role in the ethics program and in vetting Presidential nominees during the Transition. I also directed the reporter to various materials on OGE's website that would provide additional information on many of the above topic areas. I also directed the reporting to relevant ethics regulations and laws as requested.

Complexity:

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No

Transition. I also directed the reporter to various materials on OGE's website that would provide additional information on many of the above topic areas. I also directed the reporting to relevant ethics regulations and laws as requested.

12/6/2016: **Update to Title**

Vincent Salamone

Story about OGE tweets, availability of 278e reports and the conflicts of interest review process (The Intercept)

12/6/2016: **Update to Customer Title**

Vincent Salamone

Reporter, National Security

12/6/2016: **Update to Customer Position**

Vincent Salamone

12/6/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Resolved Interactions Details

Reopen Interaction

Title:

Thanking OGE for recent messages/tweets

Interaction #: 10309

Status: Resolved

Customer Information

Source: Public Citizen

First Name: (b)(6)

Last Name: (b)(6)

Title: None

Position:

Email: None

Phone: None

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/2/2016

Call Origination: Phone

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

Reporter wanted to thank OGE for its recent twitter messages encouraging President-elect to divest his interests. It just felt really good to hear someone making a stand. Thank you.

Category(s)

Ethics Program Administration

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Resolved**

Vincent Salamone

This comment required no response from OGE.

12/3/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone

Resolution Details

Interaction Resolved: 12/2/2016

Resolution Category: Resolved

Response:

This comment required no response from OGE.

Complexity: 1

Amount Of Time Spent On Interaction: 0-1 hour

Individuals Credited: Vincent Salamone

Add To Agency Profile: No

Memorialize Content: No

Do Not Destroy: No



AIMS Agency Information Management System

Announcement: If you create a duplicate interaction, please contact Gwen Cannon-Jenkins to have it deleted

Open Interactions Details

[Flag Interaction](#) [Add Update](#) [Change Assignment](#) [Resolve Interaction](#)

Title: [Edit](#)

Interview to discuss the input of former White House ethics lawyers (Politico)

Interaction #: 10322

Status: Open

Customer Information

[Edit](#)

Source: Press

Position:

First Name: Darren

Email: (b)(6)

Last Name: Samuelsohn

Phone: (b)(6)

Title: Senior reporter, POLITICO

Other Notes:

Interaction Details

Initiated: 12/5/2016

Call Origination: Email

Assigned: Vincent Salamone

Watching:

Questions

[Edit](#)

Reporter is writing about the various ethical issues before President-elect Trump, and taking a step back for a moment to do a feature-length profile of the two ethicists who have been most prominently featured in this story in recent weeks: Norm Eisen and Richard Painter. He is checking in with OGE to see if the OGE Director might be willing to do an interview with me to talk about the two former White House ethics lawyers and what they bring to this discussion.

Category(s)

[Edit](#)

Other

Interaction History

12/5/2016: **Interaction Created**

Vincent Salamone

Notes

[Edit](#)

* This information is deleted upon resolution of interaction.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Kelsey D. Phipps
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 11:00 AM
To: Agency Wide; News Clippings
Subject: Legislative Update for Monday, November 28, 2016

The Senate reconvenes at 3 p.m.

The Senate reconvenes at 3 p.m. and will be in a period of morning business. No roll call votes are expected.

The House is not in session.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Forbes reports that President-elect Donald Trump owns stock in the company building the Dakota Access pipeline, something that protesters say could sway any decision the new president would have to make next year over its fate. [Trump Owns Stake In Hotly Disputed \\$3.8 Billion Oil Pipeline, Conflict Of Interest Looms](#)

The Guardian reports that Constitutional lawyers and White House ethics counsellors from Democratic and Republican administrations have warned Donald Trump his presidency might be blocked by the electoral college if he does not give up ownership of at least some of his business empire. [‘A recipe for scandal’: Trump conflicts of interest point to constitutional crisis](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: December 9-12; 19-30

Senate: December 19-30

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Kelsey D. Phipps
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 11:10 AM
To: Agency Wide; News Clippings
Subject: Legislative Update for Thursday, December 1, 2016

The Senate reconvenes at 9:30 am.

The Senate reconvenes at 9:30 a.m. and will be in a period of morning business. At 1:45 p.m., the Senate will vote on passage of a bill (HR 6297) that would reauthorize the 1996 Iran Sanctions Act for 10 years.

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business.

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 6392) that would eliminate the \$50 billion or greater asset threshold for enhanced supervision and regulation of bank holding companies and a resolution (H Res 933) that would provide additional funding for the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Legislative and Related News

The Daily Beast and *Law Newz* report that all 16 Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee signed a letter to Chairman Bob Goodlatte requesting that they hold hearings on President-elect Trump's conflicts of interest. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/12/01/democrats-target-trump-hotel-as-federal-government-shrugs.html> [dems-call-for-hearing-citing-trumps-tweets-about-conflict-of-interest](#)

Politico reports that top House Democrats are calling on the General Services Administration to explain how it plans to handle legal concerns presented by Donald Trump's lease of the Old Post Office building in Washington. <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/11/democrats-trump-post-office-232030>

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

ABC reports that President-elect Donald Trump announced Wednesday he plans to nominate Todd Ricketts as Deputy Secretary of Commerce. <http://abc7chicago.com/politics/trump-nominates-todd-ricketts-as-deputy-secretary-of-commerce/1632408/>

Bloomberg News reports that former White House ethics attorneys have advised Trump to completely divest his assets. <http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20161130/POLITICS/161139996/president-elect-donald-trump-vows-to-get-out-of-business-operations>

ABC reports that the Trump transition team is requiring applicants to file financial disclosures to avoid conflicts of interest. <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-transition-team-members-disclose-finances-president-elect/story?id=43434537>

Fox Business reports that it is the opinion of attorneys that President-elect Trump must sell his D.C. hotel before inauguration. <http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2016/12/01/lawyers-trump-has-to-sell-dc-hotel-before-taking-office.html>

Multiple outlets report on OGE's tweets regarding President-elect Trump's potential divestiture.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/30/us/politics/donald-trump-transition.html>
<http://www.vox.com/2016/11/30/13801484/vox-sentences-office-of-government-ethics-trump>
<http://www.rollcall.com/news/politics/donald-trump-office-of-government-ethics-tweetstorm>
<https://boingboing.net/2016/11/30/u-s-ethics-office-tweets-sarc.html>
<http://nypost.com/2016/12/01/trump-on-receiving-end-of-twitter-rant-from-feds-ethics-office/>
<http://www.vox.com/2016/11/30/13797226/trump-conflict-of-interest-office-government-ethics-tweets>
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/us-ethics-agency-responds-trumps-business-announcement-snarky-tweets-1594298>
<http://www.theindychannel.com/newsy/the-us-office-of-government-ethics-is-really-really-happy-with-trump>
<http://www.newser.com/story/234810/office-of-government-ethics-sends-odd-tweets-about-trump.html>
http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2016/11/30/office_of_government_ethics_sarcastically_praises_donald_trump_on_twitter.html
https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/trumps-pledge-to-leave-his-business-prompts-calls-to-divest/2016/11/30/e5a12658-b746-11e6-b8df-600bd9d38a02_story.html?utm_term=.1b456783b691
<http://dailycaller.com/2016/11/30/obama-ethics-office-unleashes-tweet-storm-praising-trump/>
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/11/30/office-government-ethics-praises-trump-over-announcement-leave-business/94677196/>
<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/11/30/503879587/not-a-hack-u-s-office-of-government-ethics-tweets-at-trump>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/30/us/politics/donald-trump-business-president-elect.html>
<http://www.dailymail.com/layer8/office-government-ethics-trump-twitter/>
<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/ethics-office-reacts-with-joy-at-trumps-decision-to-avoid-conflicts-of-interest/article/2608541>
<http://kfgo.com/news/articles/2016/nov/30/democrats-urge-hearings-on-trump-conflict-of-interest-rules/>
<https://mic.com/articles/160825/office-of-government-ethics-trolls-donald-trump-in-bizarre-tweetstorm#.5Spl49e6G>
<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2016/11/30/ethics-offices-tweets-at-donald-trump-cause-a-stir/>
<http://money.cnn.com/2016/11/30/news/office-government-ethics-trump-tweets/>
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-government-ethics_us_583f46cee4b017f37fe27a88
<http://www.businessinsider.com/office-government-ethics-trump-business-conflict-2016-11>

Federal Agency and Related News

Federal News Radio reports that a major rewrite of federal HR policies is almost complete and is under final review. <http://federalnewsradio.com/workforce/2016/11/major-rewrite-federal-hr-policies-final-review/>

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: December 9-12; 19-30

Senate: December 19-30

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Brandon A. Steele
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 11:53 AM
To: Agency Wide
Cc: News Clippings
Subject: Legislative Update for Tuesday, December 6, 2016

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m.

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m. and will resume consideration the 21st Century Cures Act (HR 34).

The House reconvenes at 12 p.m.

The House reconvenes at 12 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules.

Legislative and Related News

Federal News Radio reports that the House Appropriations Committee is working on a stopgap government spending bill, known as a continuing resolution (CR). Current government spending expires on Friday. [Stopgap spending bill to be unveiled as Congress finishes up](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

NPR categorizes the alleged conflicts of interest of President-Elect Trump. [Trump's Businesses And Potential Conflicts: Sorting It Out](#)

Fortune reports that Ivanka Trump “was also hammering out a deal with a company backed by a Japan government-owned development bank” while “she sat in on a meeting between her father Donald Trump and Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Nov.” [Ivanka Trump Had Business at Stake When She Met Japan’s Prime Minister](#) *Politico* reports that the State Department is allegedly concerned that President-Elect Trump’s children will “assume the role of freelance ambassadors, further blurring the line between their business affairs and America’s foreign affairs.” [Trump kids' diplomatic forays rattle State Dept.](#)

CNBC reports that the Plum Book -a listing of over 9,000 civil service positions in President-Elect Trump’s administration- dropped Monday. The piece notes that it lists 3 positions at OGE. [Wanna work for Trump? Try the gig protecting humpback whales or 9,000 other jobs](#) *The Washington Post* quotes a transition official as stating: “In addition to imposing a hiring freeze on all federal employees, which will reduce the federal workforce through attrition, the number of political appointees will drop significantly. ‘Drain the swamp’ was not just a campaign slogan.” [The Plum Book is here for those angling for jobs in Trump’s Washington](#)

The Wichita Eagle discusses OGE’s tweets and opines that they were “authorized at the highest level of the OGE” and “were a signal [...] that if he does not fully divest himself of his businesses, the OGE will declare that his position is ethically unsound and invites a compromised administration.” The piece opines that while “OGE has no enforcement power” there is a “1983 agreement between Justice and OGE that, as a matter of policy, presidents should act as if the rules apply to them.” [Ethics office sends signal to Trump on real divesting](#)

Government Executive reports that a Navy contracting official was sentenced to 72 months in prison for accepting bribes as part of the “Fat Leonard” scandal. [Ex-Navy Contract Officer Gets Prison Time in 'Fat Leonard' Scandal](#)

Government Executive and *Politico* discuss the transition. [Is Trump Running the Fastest Transition in 40 Years, and Does That Matter? Trump marginalizes D.C. transition staff](#)

Project on Government Oversight reports that the Senate has not passed the IG Empowerment Act of 2015. The Act would provide IGs with the authority to access all relevant agency information needed to conduct investigations into fraud, waste and abuse. [New Roadblock for Inspectors General Access to Information](#)

The Washington Post reports that the Pentagon appears to have “buried an internal study that exposed \$125 billion in administrative waste in its business operations amid fears Congress would use the findings as an excuse to slash the defense budget.” [Pentagon buries evidence of \\$125 billion in bureaucratic waste](#)

New York Magazine opines that the two things that prevented the US from being governed by “men who use their office to enrich themselves and their families” were “that presidential candidates release publish their tax returns” and “that presidents divest their wealth and place it in a blind trust, so that they cannot knowingly make any decision that might redound to their personal benefit.” [How Republicans Justify Unlimited Trump Corruption](#)

Politico reports that for the second time a foreign embassy will host an event at President-Elect Trump’s DC hotel. The piece refers to these as possible conflicts of interest. [Embassy of Azerbaijan to co-host event at Trump's D.C. hotel](#)

Newsweek discusses the constitutional gift acceptance ban in light of President Elect Trump’s promise to turn over his business to his children. [WHY DONALD TRUMP MAY GET AWAY WITH FLOUTING THE CONSTITUTION'S GIFTS CLAUSE](#)

TPM and *Politico* discuss conflict of interest questions surrounding a member of the transition team. [Thiel Won't Confirm That He's Signed Trump Transition Ethics Agreement](#) [Thiel could gain from Trump transition](#)

Foreign Policy reports that bribery is on the rise internationally. [Bribery Is on the Rise Worldwide, and It Costs A Lot More Than Just Money](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: December 9-12; 19-30

Senate: December 19-30

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Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics



Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Jennifer Matis
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 12:00 PM
To: Agency Wide; News Clippings
Subject: Legislative Update for Tuesday, November 23, 2016

The Senate and the House are not in session.

Legislative and Related News

Roll Call reports that the Pentagon comptroller has warned Congress that continuing to rely on stopgap spending bills will undermine U.S. forces in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. The article notes that lawmakers are expected to send President Obama a continuing resolution that would fund government operations at current levels through the end of March after they return from Thanksgiving break. [Pentagon Warns Stopgap Spending Bill Could Hurt Terrorism Fight](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Politico reports on the process of vetting President-elect Trump's nominees, including a discussion of OGE's role in reviewing nominees' financial disclosure reports. [Inside Trump's freewheeling vetting operation](#)

Mondaq.com published a summary of OGE's changes to the gift rules. [United States: Office Of Government Ethics Revises Executive Branch Gift Rules](#)

Politico and multiple other outlets report on ethics-related issues discussed during President-elect Trump's meeting with The New York Times yesterday. The Politico article provides an in-depth look at George H. W. Bush's role in the passage of the 1989 Ethics Reform Act. [Trump owes ethics exemption to George H.W. Bush](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Federal News Radio reports that, after a six-year freeze, agencies are getting approval to raise their limits on spending for employee awards in fiscal 2017. [Feds' bonuses to grow slightly in 2017, after 6-year freeze](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: November 18-28
Senate: November 19-27

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Brandon A. Steele
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 12:40 PM
To: Agency Wide
Cc: News Clippings
Subject: Legislative Update for Tuesday, November 29, 2016

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m.

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m. and began a period of morning business. The Senate is expected to consider S.2873, the ECHO Act.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

Multiple outlets discuss President-Elect Trump's alleged conflicts of interest. [Trump's Business Tangles Rankle Democrats, Watchdog Groups](#) [Congress needs to restrict the president's financial conflicts We May Not Know If Trump's Foreign Business Deals Violate the Constitution](#) [HOW THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION COULD BE A CONFLICT-RIDDEN NIGHTMARE, A CITIZEN'S GUIDE](#) [The conflict of interest for President-elect Trump that no one's talking about](#) [Dear President-Elect Trump: Here's How to Fix Your Conflict-of-Interest Problem](#) [The Trump conflicts of interest we can see are just the tip of the iceberg](#) [Why Corruption Matters](#)

The Wall Street Journal questions whether President-Elect Trump's son-in-law serving as an unpaid adviser presents conflicts of interest given his business dealings. [Donald Trump Son-in-Law Jared Kushner Could Face His Own Conflict-of-Interest Questions](#)

The National Law Review alleges that a recently issued proposal by the SEC shows that the agency has been captured by institutional investors. [Is SEC's Universal Proxy Proposal Product Of Agency Capture?](#)

The Journal Gazette reports that a former lobbyist working on the Trump Transition Team removed himself from the government's rolls of federal lobbyist two days before the Transition Team announced its policy on registered lobbyists. [Indiana lobbyist on Trump team ends state work](#)

Bloomberg reports that former Rep. Price was nominated to lead HHS. [Trump Picks Tom Price to Lead Health and Human Services](#)

The Washington Times reports that the majority party in Congress warned President Obama's appointees against burrowing in. [GOP warns against Obama appointees 'burrowing in' for career federal jobs](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: December 9-12; 19-30

Senate: December 19-30

Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Elizabeth D. Horton
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:55 AM
To: Agency Wide; News Clippings
Subject: Legislative Update for Wednesday, November 30, 2016

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m.

The Senate reconvened at 10 a.m. and will be in a period of morning business.

The House reconvenes at 12 p.m.

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules.

Legislative and Related News

Roll Call reports that Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen is expected to become the next chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. [Frelinghuysen Poised to Take the Gavel of House Appropriations](#)

The Hill reports that the chairmanship of the House Budget Committee is up for grabs now that President-elect Donald Trump has selected Rep. Tom Price to take the helm of the federal health department. [Budget chairmanship suddenly up for grabs](#)

The Hill reports that Senate Democrats are slamming a GOP plan to pass a continuing resolution ahead of the Dec. 9 deadline to fund the government, but stopped short of pledging to block it. [Senate Dems pan talk of short-term spending bill](#)

Bloomberg BNA reports that the updated 21st Century Cures bill may revise some financial disclosure requirements designed to prevent federally funded scientists from cozying up to drug and device companies. [New Cures Bill to Reconsider Conflict-of-Interest Rules](#)

USA Today reports that Sen. Ben Cardin is planning to ask his colleagues to pass a resolution that would require Donald Trump to hand over control of his businesses to someone who doesn't have a relationship to him while he is president. [Sen. Cardin pushes resolution for Trump blind trust](#)

The Hill and *The Huffington Post* report that House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz brushed off questions about President-elect Donald Trump's potential conflicts of interest with his business empire, arguing such concerns were premature before the real estate mogul takes office. [The Hill - Oversight chairman downplays Trump conflict of interest concerns](#); [The Huffington Post - Top Congressional Watchdog Uninterested In Trump's Conflicts Of Interest Before He Takes Office](#)

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

The Washington Post reports that at least four lobbyists who are involved in the Donald Trump transition or who are being considered for a Cabinet-level position have filed paperwork in the past week and a half to terminate their status as federal lobbyists — an apparent move to comply with the president-elect's new ban on lobbyists in the administration and transition. [Wave of lobbyist deregistrations in Trump orbit after announcement of new policy](#) See also, [The Wall Street Journal - Trump Names Mortgage Industry Lobbyist to HUD Transition Team](#) and [Standard Examiner - Trump's energy-policy advisers have ties to oil industry](#)

Multiple outlets report that President-elect Donald Trump announced that he will leave his "great business in total in order to fully focus on running the country" in the White House. [Politico - Trump to leave business to 'fully focus on running](#)

[the country](#); [Bloomberg - Trump to Outline Plans for 'Leaving My Great Business' Dec. 15](#); [The Washington Post - Trump announces he will leave business 'in total' — leaving open how he will avoid conflicts of interest](#); [Politico - How Trump can keep his company](#); [Talking Points Memo - Trump: I'll Leave My Business 'In Total' To Avoid Conflict Of Interest](#)

A piece in *Government Executive* opines that GSA cannot foist the challenging situation regarding the Trump Organization's lease of the historic Post Office Pavilion on the Office of Government Ethics because "OGE is a policy shop." [GSA's Trump Hotel Lease Debacle](#) Relatedly, multiple outlets report that the lease—in which Donald Trump would, in effect, be both landlord and tenant—presents unprecedented conflicts of interest. [The Washington Times - Donald Trump would be violating D.C. hotel lease once he takes office: Report](#); [McClatchy DC - Could Trump be forced to sell his DC hotel to keep the White House?](#)

Federal Agency and Related News

Federal News Radio reports that President Barack Obama officially raised locality pay for federal employees by 0.6 percent, effective Jan. 1. The increase couples with the 1 percent across-the-board pay raise for all federal employees to equal the 1.6 percent of basic payroll requested in the 2017 budget. [Obama authorizes locality pay raise](#)

Next Scheduled Recess:

House: December 9-12; 19-30

Senate: December 19-30

From: [Paletta, Damian](#)
To: [USOGE](#)
Subject: FOIA Request - Wall Street Journal
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:12:47 PM

OGE FOIA Officer
Office of Government Ethics
Suite 500
1201 New York Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20005-3917
email: usoge@oge.gov

To whom it may concern:

This is a request for records under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

I request a copy of each email sent on November 30, 2016, to or from any of the following OGE employees, which contains the words

"TWITTER" or "Tweet"

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Dale A. Christopher
Barbara A. Mullen-Roth
Lori Kelly
Heather A. Jones
Seth Jaffe
Elaine Newton
Vincent J. Salamone
Monica Ashar
Rachel Dowell
Leigh J. Francis
Patrick Lightfoot
Kimberly Sikora Panza
Christopher Swartz
Rodrick Johnson
Emory Rounds
James T. Cooper
Edith M. Brown
Michael Hanson
Danny Lowery
Timothy Mallon
Leonard Upson
Shelley K. Finlayson
Diana J. Veilleux
Brandon Steele
Heidi Fischer

Elizabeth Horton
Jennifer Matis

This is a request for newsreporting purposes. I agree to pay up to \$25 for applicable fees associated with this request if necessary. Please release all segregable releasable records.

Best,

--

Damian Paletta
The Wall Street Journal.

(b)(6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the bottom portion of the signature block, obscuring the contact information of Damian Paletta.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Avi Asher-Schapiro (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:51 PM
To: USOGE
Subject: FOIA REQUEST: AVI ASHER-SCHAPIRO, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request the following records:

-All communications between any employee of OGE and: President-Elect Donald Trump, his transition team, lawyers representing President-Elect Donald Trump, his children Donald Jr., Eric, and Ivanka, and his son-in-law Jared Kushner, and lawyer's representing the aforementioned individuals, their companies, or business interests, or the individuals themselves. This request includes: emails, meeting minutes, memos, guidelines, or manuals produced to prepare for the aforementioned communications, or prepared afterwards to document such communications.

The time window for the above request is: January 2016-December 1 2016.

-I am also requesting all emails to, from, or cc-ing the following OGE officials: Walter Shaub, Matthew Marinec, Dale A. Christopher, Barbara A. Mullen-Roth, David J. Apol, Seth Jaffe, Diana Veilleux that contain the word "TRUMP

;

I am requesting these records from November 13 to the present.

I request a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records.
I am employed as a

politics reporter with

International Business Times,

a news media organization. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government. The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that fees cannot be waived, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Avi Asher-Schapiro
Politics Reporter, International Business Times

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Ed Beeson (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:21 PM
To: USOGE
Subject: FOIA Request: Law360

Dear Ms. Diana Veilleux:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of all records related to a series of Twitter messages the U.S. Office of Government Ethics published on November 30, 2016, directed to the Twitter account of President-elect Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump).

The requested documents include but are not limited to electronic and written correspondence and notes, such as email, cell phone text messages and handwritten notes, made or received by staff of the Office of Government Ethics staff, including Director William M. Shaub, about the Twitter messages. This includes correspondence between OGE and representatives of the President-elect and his transition team.

In addition, this request seeks copies of correspondence, notes and documents related to the public statement made in the OGE Twitter message, dated 12:57 p.m. on November 30, 2016, which states, "we told your counsel we'd sing your praises if you divested, we meant it." This includes records of any correspondence or meetings with counsel of the President-elect in which OGE's views on asset divestiture were discussed.

I hereby request the documents be made available in electronic format, as searchable PDFs to the extent possible, and delivered to me via email attachment.

In order to help you determine my status for the purpose of assessing fees, you should know that I am a representative of the news media, affiliated with Law360, an online legal news service that continuously publishes news that is of interest to the legal community and the broader public. This request is made as part of news gathering and is not for commercial use.

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for reasonable standard charges for the direct cost of document duplication. However, please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the FOIA Act. I also will expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal a decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone or email if you have questions regarding this request.

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

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Ed Beeson

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Alina Selyukh (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 4:37 PM
To: USOGE
Subject: FOIA request

To whom it may concern:

This is a request for records under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

I request a copy of each email sent on November 30, 2016, to or from any of the following OGE employees, which contains ANY of the following words:

TWITTER

TWEET

TWEETS

TWEETING

TWEETED

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Dale A. Christopher
Barbara A. Mullen-Roth
Lori Kelly
Heather A. Jones
Seth Jaffe
Elaine Newton
Vincent J. Salamone
Monica Ashar
Rachel Dowell
Leigh J. Francis
Patrick Lightfoot
Kimberly Sikora Panza
Christopher Swartz
Rodrick Johnson
Emory Rounds
James T. Cooper
Edith M. Brown
Michael Hanson
Danny Lowery
Timothy Mallon
Leonard Upson
Shelley K. Finlayson
Diana J. Veilleux

Brandon Steele
Heidi Fischer
Elizabeth Horton
Jennifer Matis

This is a request for newsreporting purposes. I agree to pay up to \$25 for applicable fees associated with this request if necessary. Please release all segregable releasable records.

Thank you and all best,

Alina

 Alina Selyukh | [All Tech Considered](#) | (b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 7:21 AM
To: USOGE
Subject: Freedom of Information Act request

December 1, 2016

OGE FOIA Officer
Office of Government Ethics
Suite 500
1201 New York Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20005-3917
email: usoge@oge.gov

Dear OGE FOIA Officer:

This is a request for records under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

I request a copy of each email sent on November 30, 2016, to or from any of the following OGE employees, which contains the word

TRUMP

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Dale A. Christopher
Barbara A. Mullen-Roth
Lori Kelly
Heather A. Jones
Seth Jaffe
Elaine Newton
Vincent J. Salamone
Monica Ashar
Rachel Dowell
Leigh J. Francis
Patrick Lightfoot
Kimberly Sikora Panza
Christopher Swartz
Rodrick Johnson
Emory Rounds
James T. Cooper
Edith M. Brown
Michael Hanson
Danny Lowery
Timothy Mallon
Leonard Upson
Shelley K. Finlayson

Diana J. Veilleux
Brandon Steele
Heidi Fischer
Elizabeth Horton
Jennifer Matis

This is an individual noncommercial request. I agree to pay up to \$25 for applicable fees associated with this request if necessary. Please release all segregable releasable records.

Sincerely,

Michael Ravnitzky

(b)(6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and any accompanying text or contact information for Michael Ravnitzky.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Gordon, Greg (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 7:25 PM
To: USOGE
Subject: Freedom of Information Act request ...

Nov. 30, 2016

OGE FOIA Officer

Office of Government Ethics

Suite 500

1201 New York Avenue, NW.

Washington, DC 20005-3917

Dear sirs and madams:

This is an official request under the Freedom of Information Act, U.S.C. 552, as amended.

I am writing to request all emails transmitted on Nov. 30, 2016 to or from the following employees of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics that contain the word Twitter or the words tweet, tweets or tweeted:

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Dale A. Christopher
Barbara A. Mullen-Roth
Lori Kelly
Heather A. Jones
Seth Jaffe
Elaine Newton
Vincent J. Salamone
Monica Ashar
Rachel Dowell
Leigh J. Francis
Patrick Lightfoot
Kimberly Sikora Panza
Christopher Swartz
Rodrick Johnson
Emory Rounds
James T. Cooper

Edith M. Brown
Michael Hanson
Danny Lowery
Timothy Mallon
Leonard Upson
Shelley K. Finlayson
Diana J. Veilleux
Brandon Steele
Heidi Fischer
Elizabeth Horton
Jennifer Matis

Should some documents be approved for release while others are being withheld, I request that the documents be made available on a piecemeal basis. If any document is redacted, I request that you cite the applicable exemption in the FOIA law being used to withhold that information.

Further, I request that all documents be delivered to me electronically, via email. If this is not possible, I request a phone call to advise where and when I can pick up a CD containing the requested information.

I'd also request expedited processing, given that there is a compelling public interest in the public learning the validity or legitimacy of certain messages that went out over a Twitter account purportedly belonging to the Office of Government Ethics on Nov. 30, 2016. As a Washington correspondent for the nation's third largest newspaper group, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public.

In the event that this request results in research or copying, McClatchy Newspapers requests a public interest fee waiver because the material being sought is likely to be used in a newspaper story. However, I am willing to pay up to \$25 in fees, if necessary. The requested material is not being sought primarily because it is in McClatchy's commercial interest. With 28 daily newspapers and a news service that serves hundreds of other media outlets, McClatchy easily qualifies as acting in the public interest.

Your office may require public records requesters to commit to paying fees. However, we at McClatchy feel strongly that a public interest fee waiver should prevail in this instance. If your office contests this view, I'd be happy to discuss it with you.

If you have questions, you may reach me at (b)(6)

Sincerely,

Gregory Gordon

National correspondent

McClatchy Newspapers

(b)(6)

Our 29 daily newspapers include the Miami Herald, Sacramento Bee, Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, Kansas City Star, Charlotte Observer, Raleigh News & Observer and others.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Esme Cribb (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:29 PM
To: USOGE
Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request copies of the following records:

Records showing correspondence dated November 8, 2016-present from OGE staff regarding concerns about conflicts of interest between President-elect Donald Trump's business empire and the office of the presidency, including but not limited to the President-elect's Nov. 30 tweets that he plans to leave his businesses.

As the FOIA requires, please release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of documents.

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am a representative of the news media affiliated with the Talking Points Memo news website and this request is made as part of news gathering activity and not for commercial use. I request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of how the President-elect may address concerns about conflicts of interest between his business empire and the office of the presidency.

I also request expedited processing. The records requested herein are urgently needed to inform the debate over how the President-elect may resolve conflicts of interest before assuming office, which has become a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at (b)(6) and/or (b)(6). I look forward to receiving your response within the twenty day statutory time period. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Esme Cribb
Talking Points Memo

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Voorhees, Josh (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 5:31 PM
To: USOGE
Subject: Freedom of Information Request: Nov. 30, 2016
Attachments: FOIA.OGE.JoshVoorhees.pdf

To whom it may concern:

This is a request for records under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. I am also attaching a .pdf version of this request to this email.

I request a copy of each email sent on November 29, 2016 or November 30, 2016, to or from any of the following OGE employees, which contains the word "TWITTER," "TWEET," or "TRUMP":

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Dale A. Christopher
Barbara A. Mullen-Roth
Lori Kelly
Heather A. Jones
Seth Jaffe
Elaine Newton
Vincent J. Salamone
Monica Ashar
Rachel Dowell
Leigh J. Francis
Patrick Lightfoot
Kimberly Sikora Panza
Christopher Swartz
Rodrick Johnson
Emory Rounds
James T. Cooper
Edith M. Brown
Michael Hanson
Danny Lowery
Timothy Mallon
Leonard Upson
Shelley K. Finlayson
Diana J. Veilleux
Brandon Steele
Heidi Fischer
Elizabeth Horton
Jennifer Matis

This is a request for news-reporting purposes. I agree to pay up to \$25 for applicable fees associated with this request if necessary. Please release all segregable releasable records.

Sincerely,

Josh Voorhees

Senior writer | *Slate* magazine

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Jared Benoff <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:44 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account

Hi! I work in Twitter's DC office and I wanted to quickly reach out to confirm the activity from your Twitter account today. Thanks!

--

Jared Benoff

Public Policy | Twitter

Follow me at @jbenoff

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Hufford, Austen (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 9:49 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Are Cabinet Appointees required to resign from company board seats? -- WSJ

Hi,

Are people serving on the President's cabinet generally required to resign from the Boards of companies (public or private)?

Are they required to sell shares?

--

Austen Hufford
The Wall Street Journal
(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Dore, Maggie (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:12 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: CBS News question

Hello can you explain the tweets on your account praising President-Elect Donald Trump for divesting his business interests? Was your account hacked?

Thanks,

Maggie Dore

Producer, CBS Evening News

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Harwell, Drew (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:11 PM
To: OGE Media; Contact OGE
Subject: Certificates of divestiture - Washington Post

Hey all,

Hoping to ask some quick questions about certificates of divestiture. Please call if you can. Thanks.

Drew Harwell

Business writer

The Washington Post

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:38 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Concerns

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.:

I am beyond concerned over the series of tweets issued by this office earlier today regarding president-elect Donald Trump's non-commitment to extract himself from his many businesses. As the major office tasked solely with the responsibility to uncover and prevent conflicts of interest in government agencies and elected officials, we expect that the actions of this office would be impartial and not be motivated by personal gain or political preferences.

What exactly was the intent of these bizarre tweets? What could they possibly accomplish? I fear that you have damaged this office's integrity and have added doubt in the minds of this country's citizens that you will be impartial and effective over the next 4 years. If we cannot trust in, and rely on, the Office of Government Ethics to behave ethically, we are all lost.

I implore you to reread the tenets and purpose of the OGE to recommit yourself and your staff to ensure that your personal feelings and leanings take a backseat to the needs of this country and its' citizens.

Very truly yours,

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:08 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

What is going on in the OGE office. Thought you are suppose to be non partisan!!!!!!
Who tweeted trump with the tweets. CONFLICT OF INTEREST?????

Sent from my iPad

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:54 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Corruption and Misconduct of Eric Holder and the Department of Justice
Attachments: Duxbury - 9-1-15 letter to Judge Walls re Menendez with attachments.pdf; Duxbury - 12-2-13 U.S. Attorney Malkin letter.docx

Office of Government Ethics:

I have an Ethics Complaint against former United States Attorney General Eric Holder and other officials within the United States Department of Justice and it has been swept under the rug by the Office of Inspector General. Please review the attachments which demonstrate corruption and misconduct within the Department of Justice. The DOJ has failed to pursue a \$10 billion Medicare Fraud case against Johnson & Johnson because of misconduct and conflict of interest on the part of former Attorney general Eric Holder, who use to respresent J&J. Please let me know if you would like to receive the documents which support each aspect of what I have said. If this is not something your organization would be interested in pursuing, please let me know if there are other organizations I should contact. Thank you very much.

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Divestiture Tweets

Please advise if indeed a rep of your office made the statements concerning Trump's intended divestiture on Twitter.

Thank you,

☺

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:22 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Donald Trump tweets

You claim to be a non-partisan agency of the U.S. Government, yet you praise Donald Trump's announcement with a series of tweets. Another reason for the citizens to have no trust in government agencies. How much did Trump pay you or what promise was made for future employment in order for you to make these proclamations? Disgusting and probably unethical!

Sent from my iPhone

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:50 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Donald Trump

This country is in serious trouble when our government offices carry on tweet conversations just to stroke Trumps ego. We have lost our moral compass and it will result in the end of our democracy. Disgusting!

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:08 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Donald Trump's conflict's of intetest

I hope you are seriously looking into the conflict of interests Mr. Trump ha with his enormous businesses & holdings. He needs to be held accountable..

Thank you,
(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:19 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Donald Trump's large family conflict of interest.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Why is the Trump family still using the presidency to highlight their business dealings; I understand they have taken down their President elect web page highlighting their businesses around the world. The issue should have been addressed on November 9th or no later than the 10th that Donald Trump's businesses had to be placed into a blind trust, limiting not just himself but his family from the conflict. The General Services Administration of the US government is his landlord of his Washington hotel and his business has file legal papers to reduce the value of this property to reduce his tax burden. My hourly wage rate is in the range of low income I would like to pay nothing in local, state, and federal tax but I can not afford to hire a tax lawyer like President elect Trump. I would quote Mr. Trump's campaign promises but they change

constantly, so maybe he didn't mean he would drain the Washington swamp but use it to expand his wealth and that of his children. Mr. Trump has a labor dispute in Las Vegas so what would stop him from appointing someone to the NLRB that would serve his financial interest as well. President elect Trump's families asset must be placed into a blind trust.

Concerned citizen, (b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:16 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Ethics and transparency in Government -Answering citizens concerns

To Whom it May Concern,

I am very concerned about the upholding Government transparency and preventing Conflict of Interest in the for President Elect Trump and his appointments -

Please let me know this rules will be enforced and how to support this effort as an engaged citizen.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

OGE Finalizes Updates to Rules Applicable to the Executive Branch Ethics Program

November 2, 2016

On November 2, 2016, OGE published a final rule amending its regulations that govern the Executive Branch Ethics Program, which are found at 5 C.F.R. part 2638. The rule is a comprehensive revision that draws upon the collective experience of agency ethics officials across the executive branch and OGE as the supervising ethics office. It is effective January 1, 2017.

The rule reflects extensive input from the executive branch ethics community and the federal inspector general community, as well as OGE's consultation with the Department of Justice and the Office of Personnel Management pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. 402(b)(1). The rule defines and describes the program, delineates the responsibilities of various stakeholders, and enumerates key executive branch ethics procedures.

A copy of OGE's final rule can be found here: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-02/pdf/2016-26418.pdf>.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:42 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Ethics at the Highest Office

Hello:

I am a concerned American citizen who is watching the Trump administration violate ethics, conflict of interest laws and nepotism. What is the office of Ethics doing to protect the public? What watch-list can the public view to ensure, unethical behavior is NOT going on behind closed doors?

I do not trust Donald Trump or anything he does, all we have to do is observe the unethical and bullying behavior allowed in his business dealings to get what he wanted for his own personal gain.

Please advise who, what, is being done to protect the people.

(b)
(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 7:48 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Ethics concerns - Donald Trump

Hello,

I was very surprised and disappointed to see your office post premature praise on Donald Trump before he has actually taken any action to divest himself from his businesses.

The entanglements he has with his overseas investments and his families involvement in both his administration and his businesses are a gross and egregious conflict of interest.

So far, Donald Trump has flip flopped on his positions and doesn't appear to be following through on his commitments so I think in this case praise is certainly premature and not warranted.

I hope the Office of Government Ethics chooses to hold Donald to ethical standards. He shouldn't be praised for approximating something that resembles an ethical decision without the follow through.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/30/us/politics/donald-trump-business-president-elect.html?_r=0

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, December 04, 2016 8:41 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Feedback

US OGE,

I have no idea what your department is, but assume it's paid for with US tax dollars.

Why in the world would you praise Donald J Trump for divesting his businesses - when he has not said or done this?

Have you not been paying attention?

This is BS.

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Concerns
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:37:48 PM

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.:

I am beyond concerned over the series of tweets issued by this office earlier today regarding president-elect Donald Trump's non-commitment to extract himself from his many businesses. As the major office tasked solely with the responsibility to uncover and prevent conflicts of interest in government agencies and elected officials, we expect that the actions of this office would be impartial and not be motivated by personal gain or political preferences.

What exactly was the intent of these bizarre tweets? What could they possibly accomplish? I fear that you have damaged this office's integrity and have added doubt in the minds of this country's citizens that you will be impartial and effective over the next 4 years. If we cannot trust in, and rely on, the Office of Government Ethics to behave ethically, we are all lost.

I implore you to reread the tenets and purpose of the OGE to recommit yourself and your staff to ensure that your personal feelings and leanings take a backseat to the needs of this country and its' citizens.

Very truly yours,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:07:47 AM

What is going on in the OGE office. Thought you are suppose to be non partisan!!!!!!
Who tweeted trump with the tweets. CONFLICT OF INTEREST?????

Sent from my iPad

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Donald Trump tweets
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:21:26 PM

You claim to be a non-partisan agency of the U.S. Government, yet you praise Donald Trump's announcement with a series of tweets. Another reason for the citizens to have no trust in government agencies. How much did Trump pay you or what promise was made for future employment in order for you to make these proclamations? Disgusting and probably unethical!

Sent from my iPhone

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Donald Trump
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:49:29 PM

This country is in serious trouble when our government offices carry on tweet conversations just to stroke Trumps ego. We have lost our moral compass and it will result in the end of our democracy. Disgusting!

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: GREAT Tweetstorm!!
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:27:49 AM

Just a quick note to congratulate you on the wonderful idea of fighting the "Trumpster Fire" with your own fire. Keep up the amazing work!

Regards,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Has Your Office Gone Insane?
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:23:43 AM

What the heck is going on in the Office of Government Ethics????????????

As an American citizen I expected your office to conduct yourselves like a professional department.

Your seven tweets to President elect Trump this morning were appalling. Bravo? Brilliant? First of all, Donald

Trump laid out NO specifics as to how he was going to handle his extreme conflict of interest. He has 111 business enterprises in 18 different countries.

Apparently you think it is OK for the President elect to invite foreign dignitaries from Bahrain to stay at

his hotel in DC. Apparently you think it is OK for the President elect to petition UK officials to interfere

in wind turbines being established in his golf course in Scotland. He will directly benefit from these breeches.

Have you not heard of the Emolument clause of the Constitution? Educate yourselves before you tweet. Try & figure

out why it is not OK for the President elect to be selling suites at his hotels to foreign government officials.

Pull yourselves together. You are an embarrassment to this country. I am stunned at your lack of unprofessional

behavior. Tweeting? You have been compromised & your department has lost a tremendous amount of respect & dignity.

You are supposed to be setting an example. Instead, you spend valuable time tweeting nonsense back & forth.

Are you all on crack? Are you drunk before lunch? Is someone baking marijuana brownies that you are all gobbling

while you stand around the water cooler trying to be witty? You are a disgrace to this country.

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Letter to the Editor, Washington Post: Tweets
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:44:09 PM

Open Letter To the Director;

As a former government attorney who has worked in and around government for more than four decades, I have struggled today to come up with any possible explanation for the totally inappropriate and unprofessional communications which you permitted to be issued by your office regarding the Trump matter.

I always want to give those of us in government the benefit of the doubt that actions taken are in the best interests of the government and so the people.

You failed in meeting that test, and so have tarnished not only your professional standing but as well the reputation of your office and the people in it who everyday work to enhance the people's view of government.

It does not matter in the slightest that the actions announced by the President-elect had the appearance of following earlier urgings of your office. What resulted was the appearance of pandering on the very subject that you are charged with enforcing.

OGE communications today have totally undermined your capacity to carry out the responsibilities of your office.

There is only one honorable action that you can now take to restore the necessary independence, credibility, and reputation of the OGE.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: OGE Pro-Trump Propaganda
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 7:47:23 PM

Dear Mr. Shaub,

The tweets sent by your office today raise serious questions about the OGE's ability to function as anything more than a propaganda organ for the incoming regime. For example, this tweet:

```
<blockquote class="twitter-tweet" data-lang="en"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">.<a href="https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump">realDonaldTrump</a> Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts of interest is to divest . Good call!</p>&mdash; U.S. OGE (@OfficeGovEthics) <a href="https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics/status/804020925171646464">November 30, 2016</a></blockquote>
<script async src="//platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8"></script>
```

".@realDonaldTrump Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts of interest is to divest . Good call!"

Given that Trump announced no such plan to divest, this tweet appears to be a blatant effort to paint Trump's statement in a falsely positive light.

I request that your office immediately delete your twitter account and conduct an internal investigation into the source of today's disturbing tweets. The OGE ought to promote government ethics, not provide cover for unethical public officials.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Trump Diversification
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 8:52:47 AM

Very proud of our swamp dwelling non-partisan ethics department for heaping praise upon the President elect for a totally empty non-committal statement. So tell me, who does protect the American citizens?

What another sad day for our country, no matter who anyone voted for.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Trump tweets
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:36:57 PM

The tweets from your office congratulating the President-Elect are bizarre and disturbing. They're also completely misleading given that he's not really divesting.

It's just...wow. Loss for words. Irresponsible and horrifying. You are giving this craven man public validation when he will get rid of you all the very first chance he gets.

For shame.

--

Mobile, please excuse typos and brevity.

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Tweeting Donald Trump
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 8:38:02 AM

Mr Shaub,

As a citizen I was appalled by your tweeting Donald Trump. How could the office in charge of ethics behave in such an unethical manner?

It was unseemly and unprofessional and served to undermine confidence in your ability to hold the President-elect to account.

What a sad day for our democracy.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)



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From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Tweets and Professionalism
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 9:26:56 AM

Hello,

I am a 69 year old retired woman living in Washington state. I just saw your offices' tweets to Donald Trump. Such tweeting is VERY unprofessional behavior for any government office.

Additionally, the content and tone of your tweets are childish, seemingly meant for a child. I am simply appalled. I cannot believe my taxpayer dollars are spent to support such a substandard and foolish behavior. Furthermore, the topics in the tweets has only been verbalized by Donald Trump, no actual steps taken to achieve or finalize such. Your tweets appear partisan and afraid of disapointing a child.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Tweets
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:12:17 AM

How can your office be so effusive in tweets about Donald Trump's tweets without even knowing any details?! This makes me doubt the integrity of the work you do and should be doing to keep conflicts of interest from influencing our executive branch.

Sent from my iPhone

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: tweets
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:23:33 AM

I can't tell you how embarrassed I am for having a government agency sending out tweet after tweet in such a humiliating manner. What is wrong with your office? Who is working there and approving this nonsense? Trump does not need to get gold stars for his tweets which actually didn't say anything about a divestiture. Are you going to hold his hand the whole time during his presidency? Are you going to give him trophies and participation certificates for doing nothing? Is your office full of millennials who spent their childhoods receiving praise for the smallest of acts? Are you going to reward him if he goes poo poo in the potty?

--

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Walter Shaub, Jr. has no moral principles HE SHOULD RESIGN
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:39:48 PM

Mr Shaub Jr.: You are supposed to be the director of government ethics, and you, this morning, went tweeting telling Trump "Bravo" and how great it was that Trump was "divesting his business" when he is in no way divesting or selling or putting in a blind trust any of his assets.

What the f*** do you think you're doing? Are you trying to be rehired by Trump to be the director of government ethics when you have NO ETHICS?

It is your job to do your best to make sure that person's or groups' behavior is appropriate in our government.

You are to have moral principles, and that is one thing, for sure, that you do NOT have.

Trump hasn't divested or put any businesses into blind trusts, like he keeps saying he will, but he won't. But, you praise him for doing this? He's not going to do anything like what you magnanimously applauded him for.

You are disgusting, amoral Trumpet. You suck and should be removed from office. I hope Trump sees into your repulsive, nauseating, vomitus tweets to kiss HIS ass.

You suck,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)
Subject: What kind of nonsense is this
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:54:28 AM

Your Twitter account? What an embarrassment for our country. Unbelievable. I hope the director is forced to resign.



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 2h

.@realDonaldTrump OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!



93

119



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 2h

.@realDonaldTrump As we discussed with your counsel, divestiture is the way to resolve these conflicts.



236

323



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 2h

.@realDonaldTrump OGE applauds the "total" divestiture decision. Bravo!



85

119



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 2h

.@realDonaldTrump Brilliant! Divestiture is good for you, very good for America!



86

125



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 2h

.@realDonaldTrump We can't repeat enough how good this total divestiture will be



93

127



(b)(6)

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 8:57 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Fwd: VOTE DO-OVER

From: (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 5:23:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: VOTE DO-OVER

From: (b)(6)
To: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 2:53:01 AM

November 30, 2016

Ann M. Ravel, Chair
Federal Elections Commission
999 E. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Ann M. Ravel, Chair

I appreciate you taking this time to listen to my concerns,

As an American, I am deeply disturbed by the election of a man, who does not embody the ideas of our nation. Donald Trump has no experience in politics at any level. He has espoused a divisive and hateful beliefs, that are not in alignment with Constitutional protection of all Americans. Furthermore, he has already appointed cabinet members who hold viewpoints that are racist and misogynist or who have no experience to hold the posts to which they are appointed. Hate crimes, sexual assaults on women have already sharply risen since election day. Trump also exhibits a conflict of interest with his business dealings, as well as the unethical interactions with Russia. Clearly, Donald Trump's election is a threat to America.

Election Results: SERIOUSLY FLAWED and POSSIBLY ILLEGAL

Voter fraud was clearly a major part of the results of this election. Let's not forget poll watchers stationed at polling stations with guns and making threatening statements to reduce possible

democratic voters, at Trumps urging.

We cannot forget to look at outside interference of Russia, who hacked the DNC and the Clinton campaign official emails, which were then leaked through Wikileaks by a man known as Julian Assange. He has since come out saying both Russia and Wikileaks were in collusion with Trump, to destroy the Clinton campaign and is asking for a pardon once Trump takes office.

Russia has been connected to multiple fake post on social media, stating that Clinton was going to jail over a variety of fake allegations. This further hurt the Clinton campaign. Its clear who Putin wanted in office.

Another factor in the election come from our own FBI who is rumored to be a Trump fan. Comey's constant leaking of information right before the primaries and his inappropriate statement on why he found no reason to bring charges, was more appropriate for an official within our FBI agency and clearly hurt her campaign and gave Trump more fuel to use against Clinton.

The final nail in the coffin with Comey was the news of 650,000 emails that were found on Anthony Wiener's laptop (a sex offender) just 11 days before the election while early voting was already in progress. This tactic was done clearly to further suppressed voting. Comey clearly violated the "Hatch ACT" which should render the election total invalid. During this time Trumps polling numbers had plummet, due to the ACCESS HOLLYWOOD tape, that showed him bragging about sexual assault. He thanked Wiener for re-energizing his campaign. Two days before the email findings ex-Mayor Rudy Guiliani a Trump surrogate, announced on CNN an upcoming bombshell would change the trajectory of the race.(Guiliani had inside knowledge of the leaks). Also, Trumps former - campaign manager Cory Lewandowski publicly admitted the Comey letter helped Trump win.

Comey then followed this violation with yet another interference into the presidential race.He decided in a late-night statement with the findings of those 650,000 emails in which he determined that Clinton emails did not change his original findings, which didn't clear her but only further denigrated his trust worthiness and concerns to vote for her. Comey opted to make this announcement on a Sunday during the football games, so many, never heard the statement. Just two days before the election, which opened yet another opportunity for Trump. "Lock her up - Lock her up" chants!

We must also blame the media for their coverage of Trump. He was treated not as a candidate for president, but as entertainment which minimized all the horrible things he said as comedy as opposed to inappropriate statements that would disqualify anyone else seeking the office of the Presidency. News Reports of Clinton emails was a false equivalence to Trumps daily disregard for the rules of law. And now thinks he's above the law.

Trump cannot and should not be President because of his history of illegal activities, he has engaged in, over his business career. Scamming small businesses, selling phony stock,taking money for condos that he never built. Just settled a fraud case for taking money for a fake University. Engaging in sexual activity with a minor, his numerous threats to suit, his cruel and unstable behavior. Those are only a few reasons, he should never take office.

Hillary Clinton she is what the country needs during this violate time in America. She clearly won the popular vote and should have won the election, if she had not been knocked down time and time again by foreign actors, media misrepresentation, illegal contribution acts and our own governmental agency.

Hillary Clinton who's highly qualified, a wealth of experience and knowledge and who played by the

rules.

versus:

Donald Trump who's unqualified, has no experience in government nor does he know how the government actually works. He has LIED, CHEATED, and BULLIED his way to the Presidency. This man has managed to break all the rules and norms in this campaign. If this man was any other candidate, he would have been disqualified on day one.
IS THIS MAN ABOVE THE LAW?

This is by far, enough evidence of an unfair and unjust election, that the "Federal Elections Committee" should call for an unprecedented VOTE "DO-OVER". Declare the results of the Nov. 8th election void and schedule a new one. Otherwise, this sets a dangerous precedent that could upend our DEMOCRACY!

So, my question is, how do we as voters, accept election results that's RIGGED?

How can we TRUST and have FAITH in a system that tolerates CORRUPTION and INJUSTICE.

Is the system RIGGED against the little guy?

Please Respond

Thank you for your time and consideration, I appreciate and respect your role as Chair.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:47 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Good for You!

As a concerned US citizen I want to say BRAVO for your tweets re: Trump's divestiture!

To quote Trevor Noah, he has "the mind of a toddler". So he will need **close watching** by OGE and all citizens!

THANKS!!!!

Lots and lots of !!! (smile)

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:06 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Good Work! Keep on Trump!

Thank you for tweeting that Drumpf should divest! Keep after this non-transparent, conflict of interest, unethical American!

Thank you! This is not a normal transition and we should not buy into this facade by Trump and his family!!

Sent from my iPhone

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 11:33 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: [GRAYMAIL] Retraction?

Hello:

In the New York Times article, "Ethics Office Praises Donald Trump for a Move He Hasn't Committed To," by Michael D. Shear and Eric Liptonov, published Nov. 30, 2016, (<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/30/us/politics/donald-trump-business-president-elect.html? r=0>) the authors make clear that The Ethics Office acted with partiality in regard to the divestiture of business assets by Mr. Trump.

Clearly that is an ethical infringement on the part of the Ethics Office.

My first questions are straightforward and simple:

When will the retraction occur?

Where and how will the retraction occur?

What will be the disciplinary action for this ethical infringement be by the Ethics Office?

But the second question is more complicated:

What is the reasoning and justification for the impartial support you have shown to Mr. Trump?

(b)(6)

Values Perspectives

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:28 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: GREAT Tweetstorm!!

Just a quick note to congratulate you on the wonderful idea of fighting the "Trumpster Fire" with your own fire. Keep up the amazing work!

Regards,

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:24 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Has Your Office Gone Insane?

What the heck is going on in the Office of Government Ethics?????????????

As an American citizen I expected your office to conduct yourselves like a professional department. Your seven tweets to President elect Trump this morning were appalling. Bravo? Brilliant? First of all, Donald Trump laid out NO specifics as to how he was going to handle his extreme conflict of interest. He has 111 business enterprises in 18 different countries.

Apparently you think it is OK for the President elect to invite foreign dignitaries from Bahrain to stay at his hotel in DC. Apparently you think it is OK for the President elect to petition UK officials to interfere in wind turbines being established in his golf course in Scotland. He will directly benefit from these breeches. Have you not heard of the Emolument clause of the Constitution? Educate yourselves before you tweet. Try & figure out why it is not OK for the President elect to be selling suites at his hotels to foreign government officials.

Pull yourselves together. You are an embarrassment to this country. I am stunned at your lack of unprofessional behavior. Tweeting? You have been compromised & your department has lost a tremendous amount of respect & dignity.

You are supposed to be setting an example. Instead, you spend valuable time tweeting nonsense back & forth.

Are you all on crack? Are you drunk before lunch? Is someone baking marijuana brownies that you are all gobbling while you stand around the water cooler trying to be witty? You are a disgrace to this country.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:44 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Letter to the Editor, Washington Post:Tweets

Open Letter To the Director;

As a former government attorney who has worked in and around government for more than four decades, I have struggled today to come up with any possible explanation for the totally inappropriate and unprofessional communications which you permitted to be issued by your office regarding the Trump matter.

I always want to give those of us in government the benefit of the doubt that actions taken are in the best interests of the government and so the people.

You failed in meeting that test, and so have tarnished not only your professional standing but as well the reputation of your office and the people in it who everyday work to enhance the people's view of government.

It does not matter in the slightest that the actions announced by the President-elect had the appearance of following earlier urgings of your office. What resulted was the appearance of pandering on the very subject that you are charged with enforcing.

OGE communications today have totally undermined your capacity to carry out the responsibilities of your office.

There is only one honorable action that you can now take to restore the necessary independence, credibility, and reputation of the OGE.

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:47 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Media Inquiry: Twitter & Trump

Good afternoon,

I imagine you're getting this question a lot, but just wanted to double check to make sure your Twitter account hasn't been hacked: <https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics/status/804021427565395969>

Assuming it hasn't been, I wanted to give you guys a chance to elaborate (at the risk of taking all the fun out of this!). Given Mr. Trump has yet to fill in the many blanks in his divestiture plan, are you all just taking him at his word that it will succeed at removing conflicts of interest between the Trump Organization and the Trump administration?

Cheers,

JV

--

Josh Voorhees

Senior Writer | **Slate.com**

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Masood Farivar (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:12 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Media Query - Voice of America

Hello,

I'm a reporter with Voice of America in Washington. For a story n President-elect Trump's business interests, I have a question about his most recent form 278e: What period does it cover? Is the income listed in the form for the calendar or fiscal year 2015 or another period?

Would greatly appreciate it if you could provide an answer in writing by 4pm today.

Thanks,

Masood Farivar

Voice of America

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:27 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Narsaccistic Trump

OGE is the last legal vestige we have as American Citizens to obtain Trump's legal signature on proper legal documents to sign his financial business to a Blind Trust before he takes Executive Office of Presidency of US. If OGE does not stand up for us as US citizens, Trump may sell our country to foreign countries as his private business real estate as we sleep or look the other way. How can this be happening?? Please protect our freedom of democracy. Reply if possible.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Fatma Tanis (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: NPR All Things Considered --- Interview Request

Hello,

I am a producer with NPR's All Things Considered. We are interested in speaking Director Shaub. The interview would be pre-recorded and no longer than 20 mins. Would the Director be available to speak with us next week?

Best,

Fatma

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Matt Higginson (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:21 PM
To: Contact OGE; Seth Jaffe
Subject: OGE // Medium

Hello Seth, et al,

I lead the government affairs team at [Medium](#) and was hoping to connect with you or someone from the communications or digital team. I imagine you may have been getting a flurry of messages since the agency's tweets yesterday.

Medium is a social publishing platform used by a number of government leaders and agencies including [POTUS](#), [VPOTUS](#), [The White House](#), [State](#), and many other departments, leaders, and Members of Congress.

[The Trump transition team is also using Medium](#) before they assume control over the White House Medium assets.

I wanted to see if you, Director Shaub, and/or another voice from OGE might be interested in using Medium to share more about how the agency recommends President-elect Trump proceed to avoid and ethical conflicts between his businesses and the presidency--or see if there is something else the office would like to communicate to the public.

I would be happy to help you and the agency understand on-platform best practices and we would be able to help promote anything you wanted to publish to help reach the widest audience possible. If any of this is interesting to you or the agency, I'm very willing to chat further at your convenience.

Cheers,
Matt

--



(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 7:48 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: OGE Pro-Trump Propaganda

Dear Mr. Shaub,

The tweets sent by your office today raise serious questions about the OGE's ability to function as anything more than a propaganda organ for the incoming regime. For example, this tweet:

[.https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump)">@realDonaldTrump Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts of interest is to divest . Good call!

— U.S. OGE (@OfficeGovEthics)

<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics/status/804020925171646464>">November 30, 2016

".@realDonaldTrump Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts of interest is to divest . Good call!"

Given that Trump announced no such plan to divest, this tweet appears to be a blatant effort to paint Trump's statement in a falsely positive light.

I request that your office immediately delete your twitter account and conduct an internal investigation into the source of today's disturbing tweets. The OGE ought to promote government ethics, not provide cover for unethical public officials.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Peter Schroeder (b)(6) >
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:29 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: OGE tweets re: Trump?

Hi there,

Could I get a confirmation on whether the tweets sent out today regarding Donald Trump's business and potential divestment were sent by OGE, and any statement you might have on the matter?

Thanks,
Peter

--

Peter Schroeder
The Hill
(b)(6)

Visit *The Hill's* Finance page at:
<http://thehill.com/policy/finance>

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Joe diGenova (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:06 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: OGE TWITTER COMMENTS RE TRUMP ALLEGED CONFLICTS

I am doing preparation for a legal commentary on this subject for Monday, December 5th, on WMAL RADIO and would like to discuss the process that was utilized to send out the OGE tweets on the above subject. I am looking for the process, who decided to do this, what is the historical precedent for such tweets, what other presidents-elect have received such tweets, etc. I am at (b)(6). Thank you for your assistance. Joseph E. diGenova

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:26 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Praising Trump for Divesting

Why did you praise Trump for divesting when he never said he would. What will you do if he doesn't follow through?

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:08 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Pres. Elect and Conflicts of Interest

Dear OGE

Thank you so much for “tweeting” your encouragement of President-elect Trump taking action to divest himself of his many and opaque business dealings in order to avoid a true conflict of interest during his presidency. This has weighed heavy on my mind since his election and I would hate to think anyone would use the highest office in the land to increase their already legendary wealth, or that of their family and friends.

So thank you for “being on the job.” I appreciate you!

Sincerely

(b)(6)

California

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:53 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: President elect Trump and his business interests

I don't know if it helps to write you. I assume you will do what is ethically correct in any matter. I wanted to let you know that I would very much like you not to take the pressure off the president elect to divest himself of his business interests in a real way - not a pretend way. I also hope that the pressure to provide his taxes for public review will continue full force. How do we know what and where his business interests are if he continues to hide them by not providing his tax returns. I don't know that you will be able to get anywhere with the president elect, but i would feel so much better if I knew that you would not give up.

If there is anything that I as a citizen can do in this matter that would help, please tell me.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Saturday, December 03, 2016 1:46 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: President elect Trump conflicts of interest

Hello I think that Mr. Trump calling Taiwan was for business purposes. Trump wants to build a chain of luxury hotels there. This is a conflict of interest in the fact. Whether or not he gives his children the business. This is seen as a pay to play scheme. Trump will get his business back in 4 years maybe 8. With his business new dealings that he used his presidential powers to procure. Another conflict of interest is the pyramid scheme he is creating in the departments of Treasury and Commerce. Which could help his business empire. Also his tax plan was manufactured to help him and his companies.

I think that Mr. Trump is unqualified to be President. Mr. Trump ran a campaign of hate and bigotry. With Trump's picks as cabinet members I think they will make policies.

That will be unconstitutional. I think that he has already violated the constitution by his bigotry towards Muslims, and their rights to freedom of religion. Trump's running mate Mike Pence has made laws in the past discrimination of LGBTQ community. Which violates Americans civil rights and the Discrimination Act. Bannon runs the alt - right propaganda site known as Breitbart. Which caters to racist. Other people in his cabinet are islamophobic, homophobic, and white supremacist. According to the constitution a president has to meet certain criteria to be able to be fit and qualifications to be President. I think Donald Trump has already proven that he is unfit to serve as president of the United States of America.

thank you for your time and services to keep the government accountable for their actions.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Resnick, Gideon (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:09 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: PRESS REQUEST: The Daily Beast

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a reporter with The Daily Beast and I was interested in speaking with someone about the lease agreement between the GSA and the Trump Organization for the Old Post Office Building. Let me know when you get a chance. Thanks so much!

Best,

Gideon Resnick

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Ty Cooper
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:47 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Public Inquiry

Importance: High

Holding the front desk phone, I received a call from (b)(6) of Seattle (b)(6)

Question: What is OGE planning to do to protect the American people from fraud, waste, and abuse by the Trump administration?

Best regards,

Ty Cooper, CISSP, CSCP
Chief Information Officer
US Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 500
Washington DC 20005
(202) 482-9226 (desk)
(202) 905-3402 (cell)
ty.cooper@oge.gov

Keep calm and carry on.

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



From: [Penn, Ben](#)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Puzder/DOL
Date: Friday, December 02, 2016 12:39:02 PM

Hi Vincent,

I'm a reporter covering the Labor Department a newbie to government ethics law. Any way you or somebody else at OGE could help me this afternoon for an article on potential Trump labor secretary Andrew Puzder and whether DOL investigations of his restaurants pose a conflict of interests if he's appointed?

Thanks.

Ben Penn

Reporter, Daily Labor Report

Bloomberg BNA

(b)(6)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Levinthal, Dave (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:32 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Question about OGE Twitter feed

Hello —

I've been reading OGE's tweets today about Donald Trump's investments, and I'd like to confirm that the tweets are indeed coming from OGE — i.e., your account hasn't been hacked.

If these tweets are genuine, I'd like to know if OGE has either been in contact or plans to be in contact with the Trump transition team regarding President-elect Trump's business investments and potential conflicts of interest. If so, what has your message to the transition team been?

Thanks very much. Please respond as soon as possible — phone and email both fine.

Best,

Dave Levinthal

Senior political reporter

(b)(6)



Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Harris, Shane (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:07 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Question for media liaison

Hi. I'm a senior writer at The Wall Street Journal. Can you tell me when you expect financial disclosure forms and other ethics documents to be available for President-Elect Trump's nominees? I'm specifically interested in the following individuals and how to obtain the documents they're required to file:

Mike Flynn (national security adviser)
KT McFarland (deputy national security adviser)
Mike Pompeo (CIA director)
Jeff Sessions (Attorney General)

I'd also be interested in getting the same forms for other positions as they become available.

Thanks!

Shane

--

Shane Harris

(b)(6)



Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Avi Asher-Schapiro (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 12:25 AM
To: Contact OGE
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Question from Newsweek/IB Times about General Mattis stock portfolio

Hi Vincent,

I hope this finds you well. President-elect Trump announced his plans to appoint General Mattis to be Secretary of Defense. Public records indicate he [owns](#) over \$700,000 in General Dynamics stocks—one of the Pentagon's largest contractors.

I am wondering if he will be required to divest from those holdings, given the conflicts definition outlined in 18 U.S.C. § 208(a).

Thank you,

Avi

--

Avi Asher-Schapiro | **Politics Reporter**

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:31 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Re: Presidentelect Trump's conflicts of interests

Re my email dated 11/29/2016

After seeing the recent email from OGE to Mr Trump, I offer my most humble apologies to every member of your organization. I realize that everyone is doing their best but we are all trying to deal with unusual circumstances and people that we hope not to ever meet again in this lifetime.

Thank you

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 29, 2016, at 5:35 PM, "Contact OGE" <contactoge@oge.gov> wrote:

Thank you,

Contact OGE

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

From: Catherine (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 2:51 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Presidentelect Trump's conflicts of interests

I do not know if I am contacting the government agency that is or should be dealing with this but as a citizen I am very concerned that these conflicts be resolved before the inaugural of President Trump. I think that as a responsible citizen I am obligated to speak out against the lack of action but I am hoping that everything is being done. If nothing is done, it will be a sad day for America.

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPad

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Timothy Mallon
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:09 PM
To: 'Dreyfuss, Emily'
Cc: Seth Jaffe; Leigh J. Francis
Subject: RE: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Emily – another contact is Leigh Francis (also cc'd). Apparently the Twitter account is not compromised. - Tim

From: Dreyfuss, Emily [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:06 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Re: Quick question from WIRED

Thank you Tim! Seth, I just left you a voicemail. Please give me a call as soon as you can at (b)(6)

I appreciate it.

Emily

From: Timothy Mallon <tmallon@oge.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Dreyfuss, Emily
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: RE: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Emily – please contact Seth Jaffe (cc'd) - Tim

From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Subject: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Timothy,

Thanks for taking my call. Any information you can shed on what's going on with the OGE Twitter account would be greatly appreciated. Again, I want to make sure we--and the rest of the press--don't wrongly report on official tweets that are not sanctioned by the Office of Government Ethics. If you can point me to the person in charge of the Twitter account, I would be happy to follow up with them directly.

Thanks,

Emily

Emily Dreyfuss

National Affairs Writer

WIRED

(b)(6)

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Katie Watson (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:07 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Re: Re OGE tweets

Also, was this one staffer's lone wolf effort or the opinion of the office as a whole? Thanks!

On Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 1:23 PM, Katie Watson (b)(6) wrote:
Hi Vincent or whoever gets this,

I just wanted to verify that the recent string of tweets was indeed sent by your office, and also check to see whether Trump has officially communicated with your office that he will be divesting.

<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics?lang=en>

Trying to write this as quickly as possible.

Thank you!

--

Kathryn (Katie) Watson
Investigative Reporter
Daily Caller News Foundation
(b)(6)

[REDACTED]

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 5:43 AM
To: Contact OGE
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Regarding President elect and Financial Conflict of Interest and Use of Government Position.

Ethics Committee,

There are many unanswered questions on Donald Trump. President elect, and there should be an Ethics Committee to get answers if our Constitution says there are checks and balances. At this point until all questions are answered then there needs to be a new election. This is too important of a position to wave it off. During Mr. Trumps campaign he said many things and then after the election he has reneged on them. One he specifically said and many senior citizens voted for him because of it, was to not touch Medicare and Social Security. The first day after the election he and Paul Ryan went for Medicare and Social Security and decided they were going to privatize and change it. Paul Ryan lied throughout the election regarding Medicare and ACA and many financial reports have said that he lied; that it is healthy financially for the next 20 years and there is no reason to change it. There are too many other needs in the US to deal with than to make Senior Citizens worry.

The next item that is a true conflict of interest is that Donald Trump has 144 businesses in 25 countries. He has businesses in China and owes them \$650 million dollars. This could be a real problem as the US Government owes China \$1.157 trillion as of September 2016. That is 30 percent of the \$3.901 trillion in Treasury bills, notes and bonds held by foreign countries. Trump will not be able to take his companies out of China as they could call in his debt and they could request the US to pay back what we, the US Government, owe them. We could easily be blackmailed by China and the other foreign countries that he is doing business in and owes money to.

If China were to call in Mr. Trump's debt, and he is our president, will the US Government have to bail out his \$650 million? He needs to pay back his debt to China and other countries before becoming a president. All other presidents had their finances scrutinized. We do not understand why he has special privilege.

Another item of concern is Mr. Trump's relationship with Russia. He has contacted Mr. Putin and he is not president yet. He has also contacted other foreign countries and does not have the authority to make any agreements. If he were to make any agreements with a foreign country, doesn't he have to have it approved by the Senate? He has also called Pakistan and South Korea. The State Department and embassies should have been aware. Does he not have to follow government protocol?

He said many times the election was rigged and that Russians were rigging it. The relationship with Mr. Putin was before with the Miss Universe contest in Russia and his many businesses there. They would not have a mural in Russia of Putin and Mr. Trump kissing unless there was a relationship. All states should be checked for rigging and if not have a re-election. Our country is worth it.

He has lied throughout his campaign on Hillary Clinton and Mr. Trump's campaign manager said how they would keep blasting lies about her to the blacks and suburban housewives. He had James Comey produce the

letter on emails 11 days before the election. Mr. Comey and Mr. Trump knew it was a lie but that is the way Mr. Trump campaigned. At that point the election should have been stopped, until Mr. Trump's court hearing for Trump University of which he was guilty and fined \$25 million for fraud. His Trump Foundation had to be shut down because of fraud and yet he continued to campaign. His trial for rape of a 13 year old and reports of other sexual misconducts and sexual assaults should have been cleared before the election. They need to be cleared before he can be given a government job with a background check. With sexual misconduct on his record, he cannot be near children in schools or the White House as there are federal child protection laws.

He has proposed and endorsed hate against blacks, Hispanics especially Mexicans, women, Muslims, and LGBT, and made crude, sexist and misogynistic, anti-gay, homophobic-xenophobic, and anti Semitic remarks. This has caused many hate crimes on streets and in schools.

These are just a few items that should have been cleared way before the election and before his name was on the ballot. I do not see any checks and balances or protection. These need to be cleared before anyone becomes president. If not then have another election.

Since the Republicans have President, House, and Senate, there should be more checks and balances and scrutiny. The Constitution is to protect the people and our fine country and that includes our president and vice president.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 6:27 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Sen. Warren's call for an audit

Hello,

I'm writing to support Senator Elizabeth Warren's call for an audit of President-Elect Trump's financial and business dealings to prevent conflicts of interest that could interfere with his ability to perform the duties of the presidency. In light of his recent announcement of an upcoming announcement of his plans for dealing with these issues, the American people have a right to know the full and complete extent of such dealings, so we can assess if his yet-to-be divulged plan is sufficient -- as anything shy of full divestment would be unacceptable.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Yours,

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:19 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Singing Trump's praise tweets

Dear Office of Government Ethics,

From the bottom of my heart I hope your recent tweets in response to Trump's so called plan to fix his conflicts of interests was a series of sarcastic tweets. That is the only way I can read them and still take your organization seriously.

If Trump takes your tweets as sincere praise it will only be because of his immense ego and narcissism.

I hope I am correct in that you were only being sarcastic to make a huge point as Trump has not done one thing yet to "divest" nor do I believe he ever will and, hopefully, you also are preparing for when he will not. I hope you will do your job and be courageous in standing up to his power. We are in new territory here and **SOMEBODY** needs to stand up to what is about to take place in our dear country.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 11:32 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Still waiting to hear

Who is being paid to troll Donald Trump on your Twitter account and further would like to know who authorized said series of tweets. Please respond: you clearly have plenty of nonessential time that could be reassigned to answer queries from the citizens who pay your salary.

(b)(6)

And I think to myself, "What a wonderful world."

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:41 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Thank you for speaking out on Trump conflicts

As a citizen, I want to thank the OGE for encouraging Trump to divest completely in his business. Thank you for making a stand for the nation and for encouraging meaningful business ethics. You are appreciated!

Best,

(b)(6)
Knoxville, TN

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:54 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Thank you!

Good Morning –

I just wanted to take a moment to Thank you for protecting the Country and Constitution in your “response” to Mr. Trump regarding “divesting” of all of his business assets and foreign affairs.

From what I understand, the electoral college takes the same Oath of Office that we as Federal Employees do?

Thank you again,

(b)(6)

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 11:30 PM
To: Contact OGE; (b)(6) - various state legislator's email addresses
Subject: Trump
Attachments: trump.pdf

RIGGED

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:17 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Trump

Where are Donald's taxes? Should be the conversation?

And more fundamentally, why did the OGE decide to break character and publicly vocalize its opinion?

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 8:53 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Trump Diversification

Very proud of our swamp dwelling non-partisan ethics department for heaping praise upon the President elect for a totally empty non-committal statement. So tell me, who does protect the American citizens?

What another sad day for our country, no matter who anyone voted for.

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 11:32 PM
To: (b)(6) - various state legislator's email addresses

Subject: Trump
Attachments: trump.pdf

RIGGED

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:40 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Trump's Outrageous & Illegal Conflict of Interest

The United States Government **MUST REQUIRE** President-Elect Trump to **DIVEST** his and his family's ownership of the Trump Organization.

His and/or his family's finances will most certainly benefit from him being the President of the United States which is **UNCONSTITUTIONAL** and the American people will **NOT** put up with it.

(b)(6)
Redmond, WA

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Dan Kenny (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 3:54 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: TV Interview Request

United States Office of Government and Ethics,

This is Dan Kenny, I am one of the producers at WHDT World News. Our nightly news broadcasts in the Miami, Naples and Boston markets. We would like to invite a member from your office to join us as a Skype/webcam guest on our evening news program. The interview would be regarding Trump's decision to divest his businesses.

We have openings for an on-air interview throughout this week and the next, and we have some flexibility to work around your schedule. Interviews typically last 10-15 minutes, factoring in audio/video checks.

Please respond back to this email and we can sort out a precise date/time for the interview. You can contact me on my cell (b)(6)

WHDT (channel 9) is the oldest high definition television station in the United States. Broadcasting from Wellington, Florida, WHDT serves the Miami-Fort Lauderdale (Market #16), West Palm Beach-Fort Pierce (Market #38) and Naples-Fort Myers (Market #61) Florida television markets.

We are also broadcasting from Boston, the 9th largest market in the country, in addition to a 24/7 livestream on our Razercut app available on iTunes around the world. Covering eight counties in South Florida, WHDT has a larger reach than any television station in the state. It is one of the largest independently-owned TV stations in the world.

Best,
Dan Kenny

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:23 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: tweets

I can't tell you how embarrassed I am for having a government agency sending out tweet after tweet in such a humiliating manner. What is wrong with your office? Who is working there and approving this nonsense? Trump does not need to get gold stars for his tweets which actually didn't say anything about a divestiture. Are you going to hold his hand the whole time during his presidency? Are you going to give him trophies and participation certificates for doing nothing? Is your office full of millennials who spent their childhoods receiving praise for the smallest of acts? Are you going to reward him if he goes poo poo in the potty?

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:13 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Tweets

How can your office be so effusive in tweets about Donald Trump's tweets without even knowing any details?! This makes me doubt the integrity of the work you do and should be doing to keep conflicts of interest from influencing our executive branch.

Sent from my iPhone

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Yasmeen Alamiri (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:51 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Tweets regarding President-elect Trump

Hello,

Your social media accounts show a series of tweets addressing President-elect Donald Trump, concerning his recent divestment from his companies. The tweets seem to address him directly.

Is it normal practice to tweet at an incoming official/PEOTUS? Do you know if he will be totally divested by the time he is sworn into office on January 20, 2017?

Thank you,
Yasmeen Alamiri
CCTV America

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 3:06 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Tweets sent to Trump. 12/01/16

To Whom It May Concern,

What are you folks doing tweeting such outrageous tweets to Trump? You are supposed to be a non-partisan faction in our government in this country. Is everybody losing their mind and normalizing Trumpism? You are all stroking his ego! He has turned the picking of his cabinet into reality TV! He feels he is above all when it comes to conflicts of interests! Since when do you communicate such important matters by tweets? Since when do you use language which praises and validates, what exactly? Since when do you call things brilliant? You don't even know what the plan is! This country is losing all sense of what is right, decent and the following of American Values of democracy! When is this going to stop! I am a 65 year old woman who has lived through many elections. I have been in despair since the election of Donald Trump. He is an evil, self-centered man who is totally undermining the values of American Democracy. You are supposed to be the non-partisan ethical faction in our government! Where are the ethical values embedded in what you did? This great country is being devalued by Donald Trump and all those who validate his evil values! We have really hit rock bottom when the supposedly ethical faction in our government tweeted in response to Trump today. You don't even know what his plan is and you are using words like bravo and brilliant! Have you all lost your minds! The day Donald Trump was elected the President of this country will go down as the darkest day in American History!

With despair and disgust,

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPad

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:41 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Tweets

Do you need some Chapstick before you meet with Herr Trump.....sure sounds like it.

[Not A Hack: U.S. Office Of Government Ethics Tweets At Trump](#)

Not A Hack: U.S. Office Of Government Ethics Tweets At



In an odd sequence of events, the federal ethics watchdog praised Trump in a series of snarky tweets for alleged...

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Lorenzo Franceschi-Bicchierai (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:35 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Twitter account

Good afternoon,

I noticed that the official Twitter account of the OGE is tweeting at Donald Trump.

<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics/status/804020924089438208>

Are these real tweets? As in, did an authorized OGE employee send them? They seem unusual.

Thanks for clarifying,

lfb

--

----- BEGIN SIGNATURE -----

LORENZO FRANCESCHI-BICCHIERAI
Staff Writer, Motherboard

(b)(6)

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Thank you.

----- END SIGNATURE -----

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:13 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Twitter activity

I'm deeply disappointed in the Office of Government Ethics department spreading misinformation about president-elect trump's conflicts of interest via your Twitter account. Your role should be representing the public in trying to resolve these issues, not misleading us into believing that the president-elect has taken actions that he has not and likely will not take to resolve them.

This is terrible. I'm contacting my congressman about investigating the Office of Government Ethics.

Please forward this message to Seth Jaffee.

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:25 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Twitter feed

What in the world did this department do today?! Went crazy on Twitter congratulating Trump on planned divestiture that hasn't even happened. This department is supposed to be bipartisan, yet you go on a Twitter storm that feeds into Trumps egotistical behavior. These tweets don't appear to be an ethical way of communicating. Whatever happened to sending a letter after the deed is done?

Sent from my iPad

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:35 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Twitter to trump

Since when does the federal government congratulate anyone for not breaking the law? You have embarrassed your office and millions of federal employees including myself. Stop trying to suck up to an ego maniac. Just hold your head up high and uphold policy and law. That's what we do because nobody is above it.

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 6:43 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: U.S. ethics office tweets sarcasm at Trump on business conflicts
Importance: High

I hope those tweets were on your own personal time and personal equipment. You work for the Taxpayers not for yourselves.

I guess your branch of office does not know what the definition of ETHICS is .

ETHICS:

eth·ics

'eTHiks/
noun



1. 1.

moral principles that govern a person's or group's behavior.

"Judeo-Christian ethics"

moral code, morals, [morality](#), values, rights and wrongs, principles, ideals, standards (of synonyms: behavior), value system, virtues, dictates of conscience
"your so-called newspaper is clearly not burdened by a sense of ethics"

2. 2. ○

the branch of knowledge that deals with moral principles.

Chance Is My Beloved.....And I His

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:59 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: UGH

I'm gagging over the tweets your office sent to Trump about his NON-divestiture plans.

Are you stooping to his level now?

You work for the American people; not Trump.

Act like it.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:30 PM
To: Contact OGE

The mission of the OGE is one of “prevention”, according to the website. I am truly baffled by the “Tweets” that OGE posted supposedly commending Donald Trump for announcing that he is doing something about his business conflicts , but that he will make some sort of announcement on December 15 to tell us, or not tell us, what he intends to do.

You are a governmental agency. You represent the people. Highly partisan people, like me, might interpret your tweets as giving cover to Mr. Trump for any kind of movement on the conflict issue, never mind that we don’t know anything about what he might be planning.

I understand Mr. Trump has more potential conflicts than any president-elect in history. Do your jobs. Advise Mr. Trump, to the best of your ability how to resolve the obvious conflicts.

Save the Tweets for after work.

Sent from Windows Mail

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 11:07 AM
To: Contact OGE

Praising Donald Trump... he actually has not done what he said he would do yet and you know how he changes his mind, and why would we trust a man who is a cheater and rips people off all the time.... just say'n
Regards, (b)(6)

Sent from Surface

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 11:45 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: US Government Doing Business With US President Elect or US President

Dear Office of Government Ethics -

Please provide a citation or copy of any opinion or directive the Office of Government Ethics has issued concerning the U.S. Government doing business with President Elect Donald J. Trump by paying to lease space in Trump owned properties for the U.S. Secret Service, or any other U.S. government agency doing business with Trump owned businesses while Donald J. Trump is the President Elect or President of the United States.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:27 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Was your Twitter Account hacked?

Dear Office of Government Ethics:

The President and Vice President must be fully subject to these regulations.

As may be noted, we need to know the tax returns of the President. This has the agreement of at least 34 members of the House and 11 members of the Senate¹.

We need to know the President is not receiving compensation besides his four hundred thousand dollar (\$400,000) annual salary.²

We need to know the President is not receiving any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince or foreign State.³

We need to know his business cannot take government contracts, which members of Congress, Judges and Justices, and high level executive branch officials except the President and Vice President cannot do.

Because the appropriate remedy for a violation is impeachment, conviction by the Senate, and disqualification from holding any office of profit or trust under the United States, we need to know.⁴

¹ See H R 5386, S2979, and S3348

² See Article II Section 1 Clause 7 of the Constitution

³ See Article I Section 9 Clause 8 of the Constitution

⁴ Zephyr Teachout, a law professor at Harvard Law, Democrat runner up for New York' nineteenth Congressional District, and author of Corruption in America in 2014, wrote on Facebook on November 16, 2016 (see facebook.com/zephyr.ny)

At the Constitutional Convention, Alexander Hamilton warned, "Foreign powers ... will interpose, the confusion will increase, and a dissolution of the union ensue." The delegate Elbridge Gerry said, "Foreign powers will intermeddle in our affairs, and spare no expense to influence them Every one knows the vast sum laid out in Europe for secret service "

Several provisions of the Constitution were designed assuming that foreign powers would actively try to gain influence. President elect Trump may be on the verge of violating one of them, known as the "emoluments clause."

The emolument clause is essentially an antibribery rule, which forbids public servant from accepting anything of value from foreign powers without explicit congressional approval. It states, "no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present ... of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state."

Most presidents avoid violating the emoluments clause by setting up a blind trust, which prevents them from knowing when "something of value" comes their way. But Mr. Trump has said he will give his children the responsibility of running the Trump Organization. This puts a constitutional burden not only on him, but on Congress, to create a procedure to review and consent to foreign-state related transactions that benefit him.

Congress has exercised this obligation in the past. In 1840, when President Martin Van Buren was offered horses, pearls, a Persian rug, shawls and a sword by Ahmet Ben Haman, the Imam of Muscat, Van Buren got a joint resolution of Congress authorizing him to split the bounty between the

This is not a partisan issue, but has been supported by counsel for both President Bush and President Obama.⁵ The entire article has been included because of the dire need to impose transparency on the President.⁶

I do note that President-Elect Trump is exempt from federal conflict of interest laws. This does not mean that he is exempt from the Constitution.

One person has argued that the President, as an elected official, would be exempt. Harvard Law Professor Laurence Tribe and Zephyr disagree, and even if that was not enough, why is the President required to be natural born?

However, the only remedy is impeachment for a violation, and we do not know whether he would violate the Constitution.

Keith Ellison, Representing Minnesota's fifth district, has taken note.

In fact, President-Elect Trump, who wants to drain the swamp, tweeted "Prior to the election it was well known that I have interests in properties all over the world. Only the crooked media makes this a big deal!" This is a major lie. I am not apart of the media, and I think this is important.

In addition, the disclosure requirements (which cannot be confidential at all if not a blind trust, down to the nearest dollar) is also needed to apply to corporations that are controlled by any covered person, whether directly or through children or spouses of the covered person. To use a loophole is wrong.

Department of State and the Treasury. When President John Tyler was given two horses from a foreign power, Congress had him auction them off and give the proceeds to the Treasury.

The sheer volume of Trump's enterprises, and his role as a promoter in them, makes this a near-impossible task, as does the difficulty of defining which of the transactions falls within the prohibition, and which do not. But the Constitution is clear that Congress has an obligation to stand as a check on inappropriate foreign influence. Congressional leaders should be among the loudest voices demanding he liquidate his assets and create a true blind trust, because of the burden that the alternative poses.

The emoluments clause is not an arcane rule. It is a fundamental principle of our country.

⁵ <https://thinkprogress.org/electoral-college-trump-top-lawyers-8a8b6e0ca916#.sytfw1oah>

This full article should be deemed part of the record.

⁶ The following paragraph should be noted. It came from Governor Ranolph during the ratification convention for the Commonwealth of Virginia. "There is another provision against the danger mentioned by the honorable member, of the president receiving emoluments from foreign powers. If discovered he may be impeached. If he be not impeached he may be displaced at the end of the four years. By the ninth section, of the first article, "No person holding an office of profit or trust, shall accept of any present or emolument whatever, from any foreign power, without the consent of the representatives of the people" ... I consider, therefore, that he is restrained from receiving any present or emoluments whatever. It is impossible to guard better against corruption."

And any amount received in violation of the Constitution must be returned to the Treasury as a gift under 31 U.S.C. §3113.

The President cannot be exempt from this regulation, or any ethics regulation.

If the President does not divest before being sworn into office, I will demand my Representative impeach the President.

The impact of this comment should be to withdraw all exemptions from disclosure, expand this requirement to cover the President and Vice President, and include the previous ten years of tax returns.⁷

⁷ Both Vice President candidates released ten years of tax returns. The President should also release ten years of tax returns.

115th CONGRESS

1st

Session

H. RES. ____

Impeaching Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 23, 2017⁸

Mr. Sean Maloney of New York⁹ (for himself and _____¹⁰) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Impeaching Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Resolved, That Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the Senate:

Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of the people of the United States of America, against Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.¹¹

ARTICLE I: PRESIDENTIAL COMPENSATION

Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, has agreed with the Secret Service to rent a floor of Trump Tower to the Secret Service, at a cost exceeding one million dollars per annum.¹²

Whereas Article II, Section 1, Clause 7 of the Constitution provides “The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be encreased nor

⁸ This is the latest date that the resolution may be introduced to satisfy myself.

⁹ I expect that Representative Sean Maloney from New York would introduce or cosponser this measure.

¹⁰ Every Representative should cosponser this measure.

¹¹ There may be more articles of impeachment or grounds in an article for impeachment that may need to be added due to new high crimes and misdemeaners committed or discovered.

¹² <http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/25/politics/secret-service-trump-tower/index.html>

diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.”.

Whereas such payments by the Secret Service to the Trump Organization constitutes an Emolument which cannot properly be made.¹³

Whereas such compensation violates Article II, Section 1, Clause 7 of the Constitution.

Whereas in doing this, Donald J. Trump has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and should be removed from office and disqualified to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

ARTICLE II: EMOLUMENTS CLAUSE

Article I, Section 9, Clause 8 of the Constitution provides “No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince or foreign State.”.

Whereas Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, has violated this clause by hiring a director of diplomatic sales at the Old Post Hotel¹⁴ to recruit diplomats, a hotel leased to the Trump Organization, which is controlled by Donald Trump.

Whereas Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, has violated this clause by hosting an event for diplomats on November 14, 2016 at the Old Post Hotel, a hotel leased to the Trump Organization, which is controlled by President Trump.

Whereas Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, has violated this clause by having a Trump Hotel advanced in Argentina after discussions with the President of Argentina, a deal which directly benefits President Trump.¹⁵

¹³ This opinion has the support of law professors Zephyr Teachout and Laurence Tribe.

¹⁴

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/capitalbusiness/2016/11/18/9da9c572-ad18-11e6-977a-1030f822fc35_story.html

¹⁵ <http://emolumentwatch.silk.co>

Whereas Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, has violated this clause by discussing with the Leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party the avoidance of windmills off Trump Turnberry in Scotland, a golf course controlled by Trump.

Whereas Jose E.B. Antonia, the controlling owner of Trump Tower in Century City, Manila, in the Republic of the Philippines, has been appointed as a special government envoy to the United States.

Whereas the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, wholly controlled by the People's Republic of China, rents in Trump Tower on the twentieth floor, providing an emolument to the President.¹⁶

Whereas Donald Trump Jr meet with the chief minister in India to get regulatory permits through, and has received special favors, through a fraudulent permit.

Whereas Trump Towers Mall in Istanbul, in the Republic of Turkey, has considered removing his name because of comments that all Muslims pose a terrorist risk.

Whereas in doing this, Donald J. Trump has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and should be removed from office and disqualified to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

ARTICLE III: LOGAN ACT

18 U.S.C. §953 prohibits any citizen of the United States to without Federal Authority, "directly or indirectly commences or carries on any correspondence or intercourse with any foreign government or any officer or agent thereof, with intent to influence the measures or conduct of any foreign government or of any officer or agent thereof, in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States, or to defeat the measures of the United States".

Whereas Ivanka Trump meet with Trump during said meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan.

Whereas Ivanka Trump participated with said phone call with the President of Argentina.

Whereas Donald Trump Jr participated in October, 2016 with Russia on a transition plan.

¹⁶ http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/26/us/politics/donald-trump-international-business.html?_r=0

Whereas the children of Donald Jack Trump will manage the Trump Organization and cannot hold a position in government.¹⁷

Whereas Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of the President has been reported to be the eyes and ears of the President.

Whereas 5 U.S.C §3110 prohibits a relative from being appointed, employed, or advanced by a public official which exercises jurisdiction over said employee.

Whereas the President controls the entire executive branch.

Whereas none of said people can represent the United States.

Whereas in doing this, Donald J. Trump has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and should be removed from office and disqualified to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

ARTICLE IV. OLD POST HOTEL

Prior to being elected President, Donald Jack Trump Sr., President of the United States through his owned Trump Organization leased the Old Post Office in Washington D.C.

Whereas subsequently, such property became a hotel.

Whereas Article I, Section 9, Clause 8 of the Constitution provides “No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince or foreign State.”.

Whereas Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, has violated this clause by hiring a director of diplomatic service at the Old Post Hotel to recruit diplomats, a hotel leased to the Trump Organization, which is controlled by Donald Trump.

¹⁷

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-11-11/trump-organization-says-billionaire-s-children-to-run-business>

Whereas Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, has violated this clause by hosting an event for diplomats on November 14, 2016 at the Old Post Hotel, a hotel leased to the Trump Organization, which is controlled by President Trump.

Whereas section 37.19 of the lease of the Old Post Hotel prohibits any elected official of the United States from holding any share in the hotel.¹⁸

Whereas Donald J. Trump and the General Services Administration has refused to terminate said lease.

Whereas said hotel has charged five hundred percent of normal fees for his inauguration as President.¹⁹

Whereas diplomats are now looking to stay at the Trump Hotel to gain favors with the President.

Whereas in doing this, Donald J. Trump has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and should be removed from office and disqualified to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

ARTICLE V. CORRUPTION

On January 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump Sr. has been sworn President of the United States.

Whereas Donald J. Trump has been the first Presidential nominee of a major political party since 1976 to refuse to release his tax returns.

Whereas Donald J. Trump has denied he could have a conflict of interest.²⁰

Whereas Donald J. Trump refuses to divest as previous presidents have done.

Whereas all other high level Federal Employees cannot use their name for personal profit, the President profits off using his name.

¹⁸

[http://www.gsa.gov/portal/mediaId/233123/fileName/Part_Two_of_Segment_001_of_OPO_Ground_Lease_\(2013\)_RA.action](http://www.gsa.gov/portal/mediaId/233123/fileName/Part_Two_of_Segment_001_of_OPO_Ground_Lease_(2013)_RA.action)

See page 103 (Page 10 of 49 in PDF attachment)

¹⁹ <https://politicalwire.com/2016/11/19/trump-hotel-place-foreign-delegations/>

²⁰ <https://mobile.twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/800885097775955974>

Whereas he has promised to turn over the business to his children, without paying gift tax of about four billion dollars, assuming his estimate of being worth ten billion dollars is valid.

Whereas his children continue to advise him as President.

Whereas the President has promised to drain the swamp in Washington, but continues to be a swamp.

Whereas the President has refused to follow laws applicable to all other government officials.

Whereas in doing this, Donald J. Trump has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, Donald Jack Trump, Sr., President of the United States, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and should be removed from office and disqualified to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 5:08 PM
To: Diana Veilleux
Subject: FW: Statement of the USOGE

From: Seth Jaffe
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

The tweets that OGE posted today were responding only to the public statement that the President-elect made on his Twitter feed about his plans regarding conflicts of interest. OGE's tweets were not based on any information about the President-elect's plans beyond what was shared on his Twitter feed. OGE is non-partisan and does not endorse any individual.

<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>

Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson



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Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 5:26 PM
To: 'Boyd, Krista'
Subject: FW: Statement of the USOGE

Hi Krista –

Please find the statements below that OGE provided to press inquiries today.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or we can be of any additional assistance.

Thanks,
Shelley

From: Seth Jaffe
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson



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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:57 PM
To: (b)(6) - Dale Cabaniss email
Subject: FW: Statement of the USOGE

Hi Dale –

Please find below the statements OGE provided in response to press inquiries today. Please let me know if you have additional questions or we can be of additional assistance.

Thanks,
Shelley

From: Seth Jaffe
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson



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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Davis, Julie (b)(6) >
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:15 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Fwd: Statement of the USOGE

Backstopping this went to you as well.

Julie Hirschfeld Davis
White House Correspondent
The New York Times

(b)(6)
(b)(6)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Davis, Julie (b)(6)
Date: Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 4:14 PM
Subject: Re: Statement of the USOGE
To: OGE Media <oge_media@oge.gov>

Thanks for the statement. I'm still confused, though. A few follow-up questions, or if you can call, we can talk these over:

- Why were the initial tweets this morning taken down?
- Who wrote the tweets and has any disciplinary action been taken against that person?
- Isn't it in violation of your policy to share publicly advice you have given privately to a public official, as the tweets did when they repeatedly referenced advice given to and conversations had with the president-elect's lawyer?
- How did OGE come to the conclusion that what Mr. Trump described in his tweets constituted "divestiture" rather than simply handing over control?
- Is it an appropriate use of OGE's official Twitter account to effusively praise a public official for taking the agency's private advice, whether or not he or she actually did so? Are your social media policies being reviewed in light of today's events?

We are right on deadline, so would appreciate a quick response if possible.

Many thanks,
Julie

Julie Hirschfeld Davis
White House Correspondent
The New York Times

(b)(6)

On Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 3:57 PM, OGE Media <oge_media@oge.gov> wrote:

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>

Seth Jaffe

OGE Spokesperson

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: Davis, Julie [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:00 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Tweets re: Trump and divestiture

Hi Seth,

You may have heard already from my colleague Michael Shear. Can you help explain what all those tweets were about today on Trump's announcement about eliminating conflicts of interest? Were you the one who posted them? And is it your opinion that the steps he outlined in his tweets today meet the threshold that applies to a president as laid out in the 1983 opinion referenced in the tweet?

If you are able to talk this afternoon, I'd be grateful.

Thanks,

Julie

Julie Hirschfeld Davis

White House Correspondent

The New York Times

(b)(6) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Seth Jaffe
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 12:24 PM
To: Diana Veilleux
Subject: RE:

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson

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

From: Diana Veilleux
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2016 12:04 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject:

Hi Seth

Can you send me a copy of the press statement we sent out last week?

Thanks!

Diana J. Veilleux
Diana J. Veilleux
Chief

Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
Program Counsel Division
Office of Government Ethics
(202) 482-9203
Diana.veilleux@oge.gov

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

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:56 PM
To: 'Gardella, Rich (NBCUniversal)'
Subject: RE: 2nd Statement of the USOGE?

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson

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

From: Gardella, Rich (NBCUniversal) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 11:16 AM
To: OGE Media
Cc: Leigh J. Francis
Subject: RE: 2nd Statement of the USOGE?

To Whom It May Concern:

Perhaps you would be kind enough to email me the second statement you told me you would send me by email yesterday afternoon but did not, despite my phone calls and emails. I read it elsewhere:

"The tweets that OGE posted today were responding only to the public statement that the President-elect made on his Twitter feed about his plans regarding conflicts of interest. OGE's tweets were not based on any information about the President-elect's plans beyond what was shared on his Twitter feed. OGE is non-partisan and does not endorse any individual."

Rich Gardella

Off-Air Investigative Reporter/Producer

NBC News Investigative Unit

NBC News Washington Bureau

(b)(6)



From: OGE Media [mailto:oge_media@oge.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:04 PM

To: Gardella, Rich (NBCUniversal)

Subject: Statement of the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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Seth Jaffe

OGE Spokesperson

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Cabaniss, Dale (Appropriations) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 5:07 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: RE: Statement of the USOGE

Thanks

From: Shelley K. Finlayson [<mailto:skfinlay@oge.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:57 PM
To: Cabaniss, Dale (Appropriations)
Subject: FW: Statement of the USOGE

Hi Dale –

Please find below the statements OGE provided in response to press inquiries today. Please let me know if you have additional questions or we can be of additional assistance.

Thanks,
Shelley

From: Seth Jaffe
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson



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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Cabaniss, Dale (Appropriations) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 5:07 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: RE: Statement of the USOGE

Thanks

From: Shelley K. Finlayson [<mailto:skfinlay@oge.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:57 PM
To: Cabaniss, Dale (Appropriations)
Subject: FW: Statement of the USOGE

Hi Dale –

Please find below the statements OGE provided in response to press inquiries today. Please let me know if you have additional questions or we can be of additional assistance.

Thanks,
Shelley

From: Seth Jaffe
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:53 PM
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Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson



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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:37 PM
To: 'Pekary, Ariana (NBCUniversal)'
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>

Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson

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

From: Pekary, Ariana (NBCUniversal) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:13 PM
To: OGE Media
Subject: Request from The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell at MSNBC

Hello:

I'm a producer for Lawrence O'Donnell and we have some questions regarding the tweets from this morning. Is someone available to talk by phone?

Kind regards,

Ariana

Ariana Pekary

“The Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell”

(b)(6) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:14 PM
To: (b)(6) - Paul Blumenthal's email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson

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

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:13 PM
To: (b)(6) - Frank Thorp's
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson

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Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:12 PM
To: (b)(6) -Chris Geidner's email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>

Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson

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

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:12 PM
To: (b)(6) -K Collier's
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:11 PM
To: (b)(6) -Kaitlyn Tiffany's email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:09 PM
To: (b)(6) -E Katz's email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:06 PM
To: (b)(6) -R Koronowski's email address
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:05 PM
To: (b)(6) -A Smith's email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:05 PM
To: (b)(6) -David Shepardson's email address
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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OGE Spokesperson

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:03 PM
To: (b)(6) -K Feldscher's email address
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:02 PM
To: (b)(6) -A Coutts' email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:02 PM
To: (b)(6) -Mattathias Schwartz's email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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Seth H. Jaffe
Chief, Ethics Law & Policy Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
(202) 482-9303

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:01 PM
To: (b)(6) -Emily Dreyfuss's
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:00 PM
To: (b)(6) -Katie's email address
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:58 PM
To: (b)(6) -Josh Voorhees's
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:57 PM
To: 'Davis, Julie'
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson

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From: Davis, Julie (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:00 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Tweets re: Trump and divestiture

Hi Seth,

You may have heard already from my colleague Michael Shear. Can you help explain what all those tweets were about today on Trump's announcement about eliminating conflicts of interest? Were you the one who posted them? And is it your opinion that the steps he outlined in his tweets today meet the threshold that applies to a president as laid out in the 1983 opinion referenced in the tweet?

If you are able to talk this afternoon, I'd be grateful.

Thanks,
Julie

Julie Hirschfeld Davis
White House Correspondent
The New York Times

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:56 PM
To: (b)(6) -Yasmeen Alamiri's email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:19 PM
To: (b)(6) -M Dore's email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:16 PM
To: (b)(6) -Natalie Andrew's
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:15 PM
To: (b)(6) ES Collins' email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:14 PM
To: (b)(6) Jill Disis' email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:11 PM
To: (b)(6) Lipton's email
Subject: ^{dd}Statement of the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:08 PM
To: (b)(6) S Braun's
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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OGE Spokesperson

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Seth Jaffe
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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OGE Spokesperson



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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:59 PM
To: 'Lorenzo Franceschi-Bicchierai'
Subject: Statement of the USOGE

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OGE Spokesperson

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Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: Lorenzo Franceschi-Bicchierai (b)(6) Lorenzo's email address
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:35 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Twitter account

Good afternoon,

I noticed that the official Twitter account of the OGE is tweeting at Donald Trump.

<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics/status/804020924089438208>

Are these real tweets? As in, did an authorized OGE employee send them? They seem unusual.

Thanks for clarifying,

lfb

--

----- BEGIN SIGNATURE -----

LORENZO FRANCESCHI-BICCHIERAI

Staff Writer, Motherboard

(b)(6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the majority of the content in this section, starting below the signature and ending above the disclaimer. The text "(b)(6)" is visible in red at the top left of this redacted area.

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Thank you.

----- END SIGNATURE -----

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:27 PM
To: (b)(6) Tom Hamburger's email (b)(6) Drew Harwell's email
Subject: Updated Statement from the USOGE

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From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:37 PM
To: (b)(6) B Tenerella's email
Subject: Statement from the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:26 PM
To: (b)(6) A Selyukh's (b)(6) J Zarolli's
Subject: Updated Statement from the USOGE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:25 PM
To: (b)(6) B Tenerella's email (b)(6) B Allison's email
Subject: Updated Statement from the USOE

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To: (b)(6) B Tenerella's email
Subject: Statement from the USOE

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:28 PM
To: (b)(6) L Nelson's email (b)(6) E Geller's email (b)(6) J Gerstein's email
Subject: Updated Statement from the USOGE

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To: (b)(6) B Tenerella's email
Subject: Statement from the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>

Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson

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

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:27 PM
To: (b)(6) - D Levinthal's email
Subject: Updated Statement of the USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

The tweets that OGE posted today were responding only to the public statement that the President-elect made on his Twitter feed about his plans regarding conflicts of interest. OGE's tweets were not based on any information about the President-elect's plans beyond what was shared on his Twitter feed. OGE is non-partisan and does not endorse any individual.

<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>

Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson

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

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: OGE Media
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:35 PM
To: 'Mallin, Alexander W.'
Subject: Updated statement of USOGE

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>

Seth Jaffe
OGE Spokesperson

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

From: Mallin, Alexander W. (b)(6) -Alexander Mallin's email
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:33 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Re: ABC News Inquiry

Hi Seth,

Seeing an updated statement being sent around. Can you please pass it along?

Thanks,

Alex

From: Mallin, Alexander W.
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:00:32 PM
To: sjaffe@oge.gov
Subject: ABC News Inquiry

Hi there Seth,

Reaching out about your office's Twitter feed and claims that the President-elect is planning to divest his holdings in his company. I see you provided comment on this -- hoping you can send that along. Also, what gives OGE the impression that Mr. Trump is ready to divest himself entirely if he hands off his business to his children as he has previously announced he would do? Would that be a sufficient divestiture?

<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>

Thanks,

Alex

--- --- ---
Alexander Mallin // ABC News Washington // (b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Monica M. G. Ashar
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2016 3:42 PM
To: Brandon L. Bunderson; Kaneisha T. Cunningham; Communications; Brandon A. Steele
Cc: Seth Jaffe; David J. Apol; Nicole Stein
Subject: Communications: 5 CFR part 2638
Attachments: LISTSERV & AAB Preview.docx

Importance: High

Tomorrow, OGE will issue a final rule amending 5 C.F.R. part 2638, "Executive Branch Ethics Program." Attached to this email is the preview announcement. I will provide additional announcements tomorrow, once the link to the Federal Register notice is available. I appreciate you assisting with the following:

- MAX/AAB Preview Announcement: **Brandon B.**, please post the preview announcement today (November 1)
- Listserv Preview Announcement: **Kaneisha**, please send the preview announcement today (November 1)
- Legal Advisory Posting: I will post the Federal Register notice to OGE's website tomorrow (November 2).
- MAX AAB Announcement: **Brandon B.**, I will ask you to post the MAX/AAB Announcement tomorrow once I post the Federal Register notice. I will send you an email with the announcement content tomorrow.
- Listserv Announcement: **Kaneisha**, I will ask you to send the Listserv Announcement tomorrow once I post the Federal Register notice. I will send you an email with the announcement content tomorrow.
- Tweet: **Brandon S.**, I will ask you to post/schedule the Tweets tomorrow once I post the Federal Register notice. I will send you an email with the Tweet content tomorrow.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks,
Monica

LISTSERV & AAB PREVIEW ANNOUNCEMENT

OGE to Issue a Final Rule Amending 5 C.F.R. Part 2638, “Executive Branch Ethics Program”

On November 2, 2016, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) will publish a final rule amending its regulations that govern the executive branch ethics program, which are found at 5 C.F.R. part 2638.

The final rule is a comprehensive revision that draws upon the collective experience of agency ethics officials across the executive branch and OGE as the supervising ethics office. It is effective January 1, 2017. The rule reflects extensive input from the executive branch ethics community and the federal inspector general community, as well as OGE’s consultation with the Department of Justice and the Office of Personnel Management pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. 402(b)(1). It defines and describes the program, delineates the responsibilities of various stakeholders, and enumerates key executive branch ethics procedures.

Once the final rule is published in the *Federal Register*, OGE will provide the link to the document.

From: [Monica M. G. Ashar](#)
To: [Brandon L. Bunderson](#); [Brandon A. Steele](#); [Kaneisha T. Cunningham](#); [Communications](#)
Cc: [Nicole Stein](#); [Seth Jaffe](#); [David J. Apol](#)
Subject: 5 C.F.R. part 2638 - Nov. 2 Communications
Date: Wednesday, November 02, 2016 9:48:11 AM
Attachments: [LISTSERV, AAB, Tweets.docx](#)

Good morning,

I'm writing to follow up on yesterday's email regarding the publication of the final rule amending 5 C.F.R. part 2638. The *Federal Register* issuance and the OGE news item have already been posted to OGE's website. As I mentioned yesterday, I would appreciate you assisting with the following:

- MAX AAB Announcement: **Brandon B.**, please post the MAX/AAB Announcement today (November 2).
- Listserv Announcement: **Kaneisha**, please post the Listserv Announcement today (November 2).
- Tweet: **Brandon S.**, please post/schedule the Tweets today (November 2).

The content to be posted is found on the attached communications form. Please let me know if you have any questions. And thanks again for all your help!

Best,

Monica

From: [Monica M. G. Ashar](#)
To: [Patrick Shepherd](#); [Wendy G. Pond](#); [Brandon A. Steele](#)
Cc: [Seth Jaffe](#); [Communications](#)
Subject: Communications for LA-16-09
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2016 4:03:39 PM
Attachments: [Communications Form 2638 Subpart C chart.docx](#)

I am writing to follow up on my conversation with you regarding the posting of LA-16-09, which is now live on OGE's website. As I mentioned, I would appreciate you assisting with the following:

- MAX AAB Announcement: Wendy, please post the MAX/AAB Announcement today (see the attached communications content form)
- Listserv Announcement: Patrick, please post the Listserv Announcement today (see the attached communications content form)
- Tweet: Brandon S., please post/schedule the Tweets today (see the attached communications content form)

If you have questions, please let me know. And thank you again for your help!

Thanks,
Monica

Communications Form – New Job Aid: Overview of Education Requirements

LISTSERV & AAB ANNOUNCEMENT

OGE Releases New Job Aid on the Revised Ethics Education Requirements

The U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) has issued a Legal Advisory announcing a new job aid to help ethics officials familiarize themselves with the new government ethics education requirements under the revised 5 C.F.R. part 2638. As part of its changes to this regulation, OGE augmented the requirements for agency ethics education programs, in order to strengthen the effectiveness of ethics training. This job aid compares various features of the primary ethics education requirements under the revised part 2638, which takes effect January 1, 2017.

The Legal Advisory is available on OGE's website at:

[https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/All+Advisories/6356FBD6F927B1EE85258067007155C8/\\$FILE/LA-16-09.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/All+Advisories/6356FBD6F927B1EE85258067007155C8/$FILE/LA-16-09.pdf?open)

TWEETS

NEW: OGE job aid for the revised ethics education requirements

[https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/All+Advisories/6356FBD6F927B1EE85258067007155C8/\\$FILE/LA-16-09.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/All+Advisories/6356FBD6F927B1EE85258067007155C8/$FILE/LA-16-09.pdf?open)

OGE issues an overview chart of the new requirements for ethics training

[https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/All+Advisories/6356FBD6F927B1EE85258067007155C8/\\$FILE/LA-16-09.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/All+Advisories/6356FBD6F927B1EE85258067007155C8/$FILE/LA-16-09.pdf?open)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Leigh J. Francis
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 11:57 AM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Final Comms Plan for Subpart B
Attachments: Final Tweets, OMB and Listserv Announcements for Subpart B.docx

Seth,

Based on the document Dave provided, (i.e., the most recent edited version of the Subpart B Comms plan I can locate), I have updated the Comms plan, which is attached. There are three things I want to flag.

First, after speaking with Rachel, I added an OMB-MAX Preview Announcement, which will be sent out today. Rachel included one for Subpart F, and so I have included one for Subpart B. The initial Comms plan did not have a “preview” announcement, but it essentially tracks the OMB-MAX Announcement that will be published tomorrow and was reviewed by the GC. To the extent you would like to review, please do so, and please advise whether—because of the addition—I should push the final Comms Plan to the GC and PCD (if you think warranted).

Second, last month, Patrick drafted a Director’s Note, (B)(5)

[REDACTED]

Third, if you decide under my first flag to push this back up to the GC and to PCD, please ignore this flag. If not, I only flag that (B)(5)

[REDACTED]

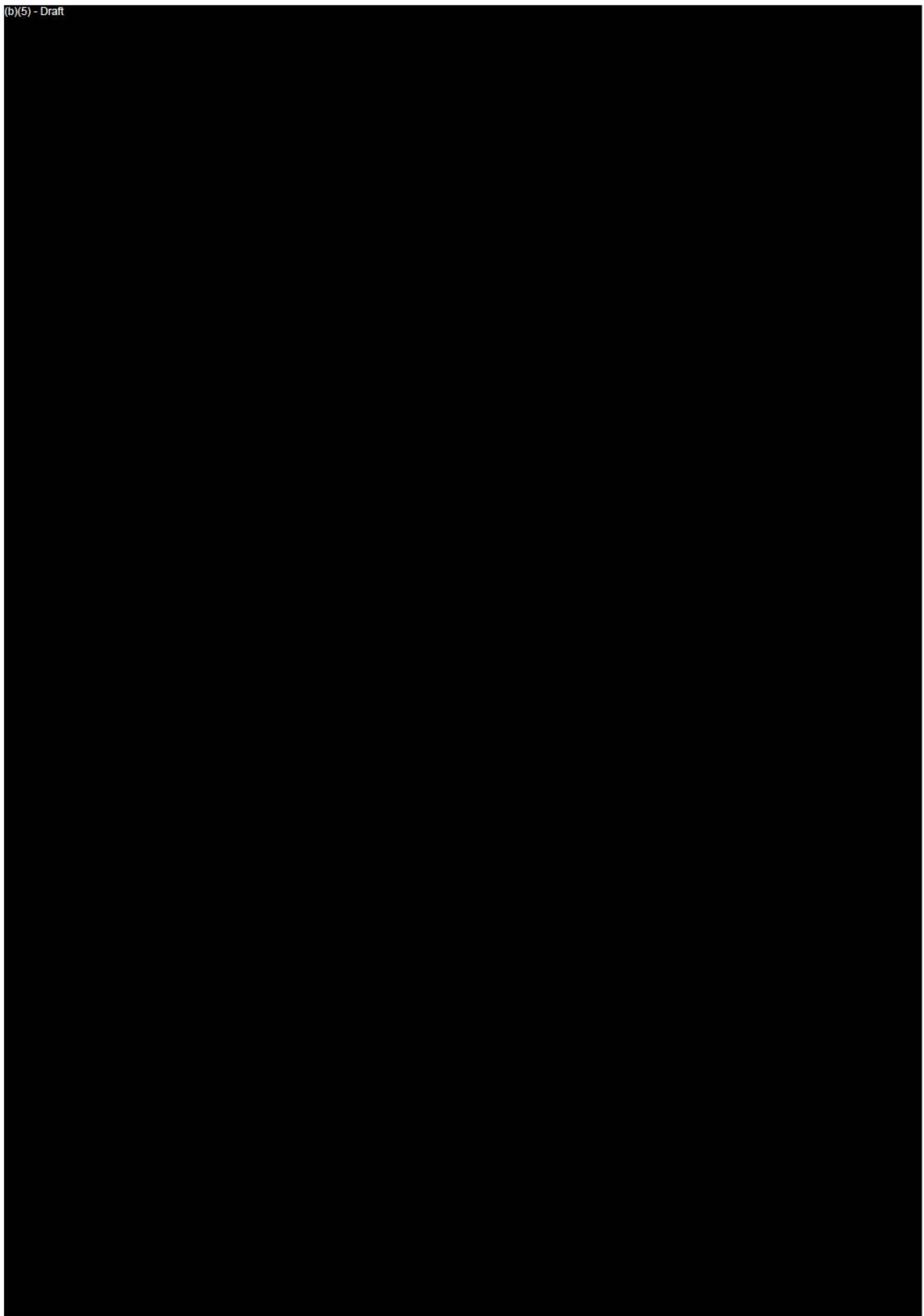
I will finally note two things: 1. I still need to include the FR citation for the announcements that will go out tomorrow; and 2. I had Rachel take a quick look at the edited/update Comms Plan for quality assurance. Thank you in advance.

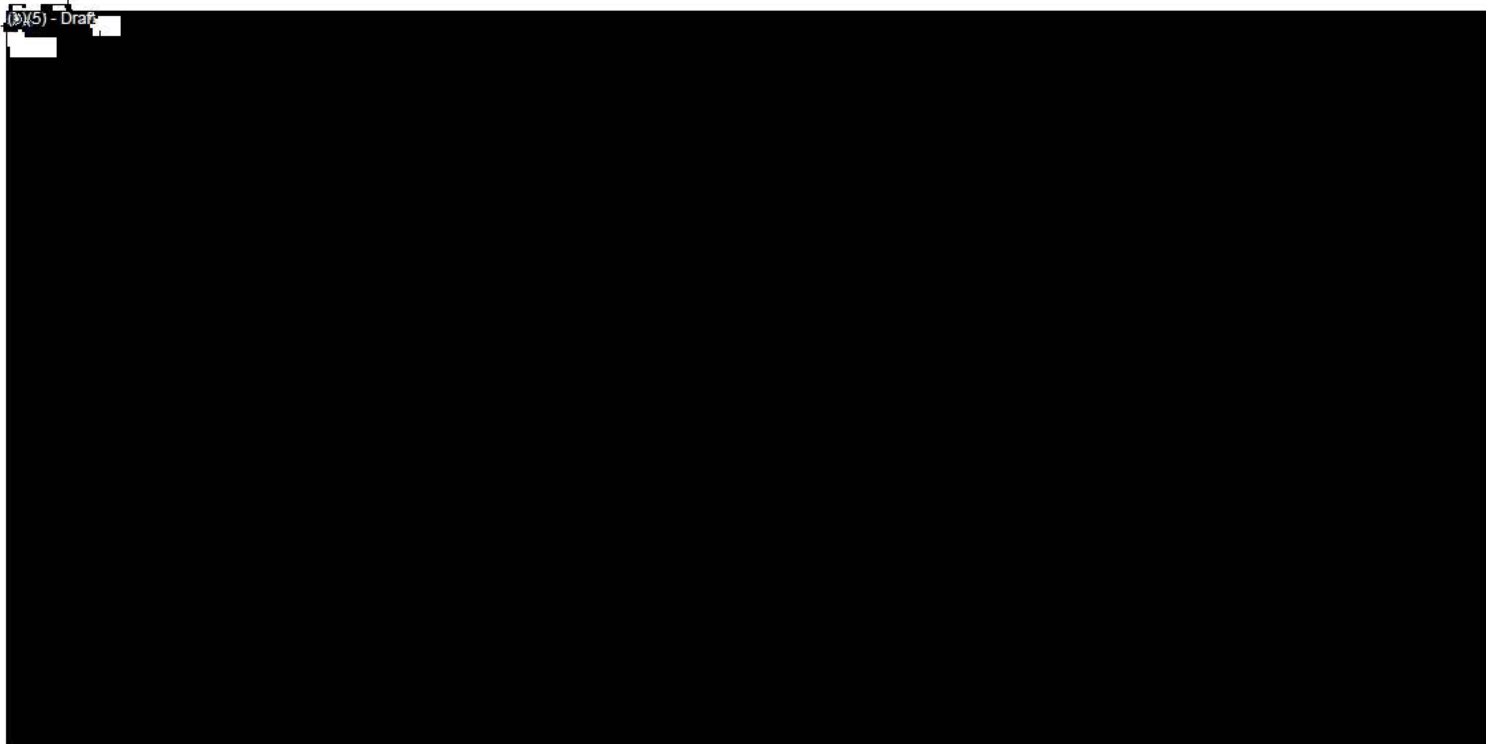
Best,

Leigh

Leigh Jason Francis
Assistant Counsel
General Counsel and Legal Policy Division
U.S. Office of Government Ethics (www.oge.gov)
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
Leigh.Francis@oge.gov
(202) 482-9313

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Leigh J. Francis
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 12:36 PM
To: Brandon L. Bunderson; Kaneisha T. Cunningham; Communications; Brandon A. Steele
Cc: Seth Jaffe; Rachel K. Dowell; Patrick Shepherd
Subject: Communication Roll Out for Subpart B of the Standards of Ethical Conduct (11.18.16)
Attachments: Final Tweets OMB and Listserv Announcements for Subpart B (11.18.16 Postings).docx

Importance: High

All:

Attached to this email please find the updated Communications Plan for the publication of 5 C.F.R. 2635, Subpart B (Gifts from Outside Sources), which has received final authorization and signature. Per OGE Procedures, I appreciate you assisting with the following:

TODAY _____ (11/18/16)

- MAX AAB Announcement: Brandon B., Please post the MAX/AAB Announcement today. I have updated the announcement content and included the direct link to the regulation and citation in the Federal Register for the regulation. The language is on page 2 of the attached document.
- Listserv Announcement: Kaneisha, Please post the Listserv Announcement today. I have updated the announcement content and included the direct link to the regulation and citation in the Federal Register for the regulation.
- Tweet: Brandon S., Please post/schedule the Tweets today. I have updated Tweet content and included the direct link to the regulation.

If you have questions, please let me know. Thanks for your help!

Thanks,

Leigh

Leigh Jason Francis
Assistant Counsel
General Counsel and Legal Policy Division
U.S. Office of Government Ethics (www.oge.gov)
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
Leigh.Francis@oge.gov
(202) 482-9313

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Communications for Publication of the Subpart B Final Rule

Tweets:

New! OGE publishes final rule updating guidance on gifts from outside sources.

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-18/pdf/2016-27036.pdf>

Want to know what rules apply to federal employees accepting gifts? Read OGE's updated Gifts rule here <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-18/pdf/2016-27036.pdf>

Do you know what rules apply to feds accepting gifts from private parties? OGE just updated its rule: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-18/pdf/2016-27036.pdf>

OGE's updated Gifts rules emphasize ethical decisionmaking. Read more here

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-18/pdf/2016-27036.pdf>

Listserv Announcement (Day of Publication):

OGE Issues a Final Rule Revising Subpart B of the Standards of Ethical Conduct, "Gifts from Outside Sources"

On November 18, 2016, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) published a final rule improving and updating the provisions of the Standards of Ethical Conduct that govern gifts from outside sources, found at 5 C.F.R. 2635, Subpart B. This rule was published in the *Federal Register* at 81 Fed. Reg. 81641-81657.

The final rule advances public confidence in the integrity of federal officials by encouraging ethical decisionmaking and refining available gift exceptions. Additionally, the revisions update examples, incorporate past interpretative guidance, improve clarity, and make technical corrections.

You may access the *Federal Register* issuance by clicking here:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-18/pdf/2016-27036.pdf>

OMB-MAX Announcement (Day of Publication):

November 18: OGE Issues a Final Rule Revising Subpart B of the Standards of Ethical Conduct, “Gifts from Outside Sources”

On November 18, 2016, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) published a final rule revising the provisions of the Standards of Ethical Conduct that govern solicitation and acceptance of gifts from outside sources, found at 5 C.F.R. 2635, Subpart B. This rule was published in the Federal Register at 81 Fed. Reg. 81641-81657.

The final rule advances public confidence in the integrity of federal officials by encouraging ethical decisionmaking and refining available gift exceptions. Additionally, the revisions update examples, incorporate past interpretative guidance, improve clarity, and make technical corrections.

You may access the *Federal Register* issuance by clicking here:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-18/pdf/2016-27036.pdf>

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Elaine Newton
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 4:27 PM
To: Kimberly L. Sikora Panza
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: (B)(5) LA Communications Plan (Revised)
Attachments: Communications Plan (11-21-16).docx

Attached is the revised communications plan for the (B)(5) LA.

Thanks, Elaine

(B)(5) - draft communications plan [Redacted]

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(B)(5) - draft communications plan

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Shelley K. Finlayson](#)
To: [Berrios, Roberto \(HSGAC\)](#)
Subject: FW: Letter to Director Shaub from Ranking Member Carper re Conflicts of Interest
Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 7:53:01 AM
Attachments: [2016-11-20 Carper Letter to OGE re Conflicts of Interest.pdf](#)

Good morning, Roberto –

I see that you are the staff point of contact for the attached request. Are you available for a quick call today?

Thanks,

Shelley

Shelley K. Finlayson

Chief of Staff and Program Counsel

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20005

(202) 482-9314

skfinlay@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: Secreto, Jim (HSGAC) (b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 8:27 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Berrios, Roberto (HSGAC); Sybenga, Kata (HSGAC); 'dapol@oge.gov'
Subject: Letter to Director Shaub from Ranking Member Carper re Conflicts of Interest
Hi Shelley,

Attached is a letter from Ranking Member Carper to Director Shaub regarding OGE's efforts related to potential conflicts of interests in the upcoming Administration of President-elect Donald Trump. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Jim Secreto

Chief Counsel for Oversight and Investigations (Minority)

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Phone: (b)(6)

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

November 20, 2016

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

Dear Director Shaub:

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee with jurisdiction over the Office of Government Ethics, I write today to request your assistance with understanding how your office plans to address the potential for conflicts of interest in the upcoming Administration of President-elect Donald Trump.

As you know, President-elect Trump is a businessman with considerable financial interests in the United States and around the world. The full extent of his financial interests remains unclear, in part because he was the first presidential candidate in modern history to decline to release his tax returns to the American public. These unique circumstances raise important questions about how the Administration of President-elect Trump will avoid conflicts of interest and ensure integrity of executive branch programs and operations.

As you know, the Office of Government Ethics oversees the executive branch ethics program and works with ethics practitioners in more than 130 agencies to implement this effort. The Office of Government Ethics also plays a critical role in the 2016 Presidential Transition by making sure that prospective nominees are free of conflicts of interest. This role includes providing guidance regarding the federal laws that prohibit certain officials from participating personally and substantially in an official capacity in any matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on their financial interests. Unless an official receives a waiver or an exemption applies, the official with a conflict of interest must disqualify him or herself from participating in the matter. Criminal penalties may apply to officials who violate this statute.

As the independent ethics watchdog of the federal government, the Office of Government Ethics must provide assurances to the American people that your agency will advance a strong ethics program that holds the Administration of President-elect Trump accountable for any conflicts of interest. To better understand how your office plans to address the potential for conflicts of interest in the upcoming Administration of

President-elect Donald Trump, I ask that you please provide the following information by December 5, 2016:

1. **Handling of Trump Organization** – For constitutional reasons, the President is exempt from certain conflict of interest rules, such as the prohibition on acting in matters affecting his personal financial interest or representing his own claims and business interests to the government. However, the President remains subject to many related statutes, such as prohibitions on bribery and embezzlement. President-elect Trump and the Trump Organization reportedly have business with the federal government, lease federal property, and have regulatory and enforcement matters presently being adjudicated by federal government agencies.
 - a. What guidance has Office of Government Ethics (OGE) provided to agency ethics officials regarding the protocols for handling matters directly affecting President-elect Trump and the Trump Organization?
 - b. Will OGE recommend safeguards to protect federal officials from fear of reprisal in dealings with the Trump Organization?
 - c. Will OGE take steps to ensure Trump Organization employees do not have privileged access to decision-makers or access to nonpublic government information?
 - d. President-elect Trump reportedly intends to transfer control of the Trump Organization to his three oldest children.¹ Does this transfer meet the standards of a qualified blind trust, as defined under the Ethics in Government Act?
2. **President-elect Trump's Financial Conflicts** – President-elect Trump's previous financial disclosure reports reveal potential financial conflicts of interest in several areas of the economy and foreign relations. While Presidents are exempt from conflict of interest rules for constitutional reasons, Presidents of both parties, dating back to Lyndon Johnson, have taken significant steps to avoid the appearance of a conflict.²
 - a. Please identify the information that must be included in the President's annual financial disclosure, when a President must file his first disclosure, and whether the public will receive access to these disclosures.
 - b. What steps does OGE require a President to take if any conflicts of interest are apparent on the face of a financial disclosure?
 - c. What steps will OGE require to *prevent* acquisition of new conflicts by President-elect Trump and his Trump Organization?
3. **Transition Team** – President-elect Trump's three oldest children are members of the Presidential Transition team while continuing to serve as executives and

¹ *Three Trump Children Seen Managing President-Elect's Company*, REUTERS (Nov. 11, 2016).

² CYNTHIA BROWN AND L. PAIGE WHITAKER, CONG. RESEARCH SERV., LEGAL SIDEBAR, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND THE PRESIDENCY (2016).

officers in the Trump Organization.³ As leaders on the Transition team, his children will be party to sensitive government information and empowered to discuss matters of government policy and operations with the leadership of several federal agencies.

- a. What guidance has OGE provided to agency ethics officials regarding the handling of non-transition business communications from Mr. Trump's children and the Trump Organization during the transition?

4. President-elect Trump's Oldest Children and Jared Kushner – President-elect Trump has reportedly expressed interest in obtaining security clearances for his three oldest children and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner.⁴

- a. What guidance has OGE provided to President-elect Trump's oldest children and Mr. Kushner concerning the management of their conflicts of interest while participating in executive branch deliberations?
- b. Does President-elect Trump have legal authority to appoint these individuals to government positions?
- c. Are President-elect Trump's children and Mr. Kushner exempt from conflict of interest laws?
- d. Has OGE provided guidance to these individuals to ensure they disqualify themselves from matters in which they have financial interests and to prevent inadvertent disclosure of confidential government information?

5. Ongoing Financial Disclosure Obligations – President-elect Trump has disclosed a large portfolio of financial interests that include securities interests in several investment companies.⁵ President-elect Trump will be under an ongoing obligation to file public reports of any securities transactions so that the public may understand his financial interests.

- a. What guidance has OGE provided to President-elect Trump to ensure he continues to file any required financial disclosures of securities transactions?
- b. How often will President-elect Trump be required to file such disclosures?
- c. Will OGE or the White House Counsel be responsible for assessing fines for any late filings?

³ Brian Naylor & Barbara Sprunt, *From Lobbyists to Loyalists, See Who's on Donald Trump's Transition Team*, NPR (Nov. 16, 2016).

⁴ Jim Acosta et al., *Trump Transition Team Asked about Security Clearance for His Children*, CNN (Nov. 15, 2016).

⁵ Gregor Aisch et al., *What's in Donald Trump's 104-Page Financial Disclosure?*, N.Y. TIMES (May 18, 2016).

6. **Outside Fiduciary Positions** – President-elect Trump has disclosed that he serves as chairman or board member of hundreds of companies.⁶ As a board member or officer, he owes those entities and their investors' legal fiduciary duties that have the potential to interfere with his duties as president.
- a. What guidance has OGE provided to President-elect Trump regarding his outside positions and the steps he should take to address potential conflicts of interest?
 - b. What safeguards will OGE establish to prevent conflicts of interest between his legal fiduciary obligations to these companies and his legal obligations and duties as President?
7. **Misuse of Image** – Longstanding White House policy across Administrations prohibits the use of the President's name or image in advertising or for the endorsement of any commercial product or service.
- a. What guidance has OGE provided to President-elect Trump regarding the use of his name and image for the endorsement of the Trump Organization or his children's businesses?

If you or members of your staff have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact Roberto Berrios of my staff at (202) 224-2627. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Tom Carper
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman

⁶ David Goldman, *Donald Trump's 500 Businesses Would Pose 'Unprecedented Ethical Dilemma'*, CNN (Mar. 17, 2016).

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 7:40 AM
To: 'Kristine Simmons'
Subject: RE: From POLITICO - Inside Trump's freewheeling vetting operation

Thanks, Kristine.

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

From: Kristine Simmons (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 7:34 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub; Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Fwd: From POLITICO - Inside Trump's freewheeling vetting operation

Good morning, just passing this along as it mentions OGE.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Max Stier (b)(6)
Date: November 23, 2016 at 6:21:21 AM EST
To: Kristine Simmons (b)(6), David Eagles
(b)(6) Samantha Donaldson
(b)(6) Wayne Palmer
(b)(6) Erika Walter
(b)(6)
Subject: From POLITICO - Inside Trump's freewheeling vetting operation

Someone using POLITICO for iOS wants to share this article with you:

[http://www.politico.com/feeds/ipad/images/politico_logo_140.png]<http://politico.com>

Inside Trump's freewheeling vetting operation<http://politi.co/2fPMf6v>
[<http://static2.politico.com/dims4/default/6e47d7a/2147483647/resize/1160x%3E/quality/90/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fstatic.politico.com%2Fb9%2F33%2F63d2bdda429f985474c84f90f7e6%2F161122-vetting-ap-1160.jpg>]<http://politi.co/2fPMf6v>

By Nancy Cook<http://www.politico.com/staff/nancy-cook> and Andrew Restuccia<http://www.politico.com/staff/andrew-restuccia>

Donald Trump's process for picking top political appointees is "pretty simple," says Rep. Devin Nunes<http://politi.co/2csfNmk>, a senior member of the president-elect's transition team.

When Trump's aides were scouting for names for a CIA chief, Nunes suggested his colleague, Kansas Republican Rep. Mike Pompeo<http://politi.co/2biH3F0>. Those aides got back to Nunes after the election and asked whether he still

thought Pompeo was the right guy. Roughly five days later — after an interview in Trump Tower — the president-elect nominated Pompeo to the powerful post....

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Sent from my iPhone

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 10:09 AM
To: 'Berrios, Roberto (HSGAC)'
Cc: Secreto, Jim (HSGAC)
Subject: RE: Letter to Director Shaub from Ranking Member Carper re Conflicts of Interest

Yes, 1 p.m. works for me. Will you call me at my direct below or is there a number that you would like me to call?

From: Berrios, Roberto (HSGAC) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 9:27 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Secreto, Jim (HSGAC)
Subject: RE: Letter to Director Shaub from Ranking Member Carper re Conflicts of Interest

Hi Shelley,

Jim and I are available this afternoon. Does 1pm work for you?

Best,
Roberto

From: Shelley K. Finlayson [<mailto:skfinlay@oge.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 7:53 AM
To: Berrios, Roberto (HSGAC)
Subject: FW: Letter to Director Shaub from Ranking Member Carper re Conflicts of Interest

Good morning, Roberto –

I see that you are the staff point of contact for the attached request. Are you available for a quick call today?

Thanks,
Shelley

Shelley K. Finlayson
Chief of Staff and Program Counsel
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 482-9314
skfinlay@oge.gov

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

From: Secreto, Jim (HSGAC) (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 8:27 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson

Cc: Berrios, Roberto (HSGAC); Sybenga, Kata (HSGAC); 'dapol@oge.gov'

Subject: Letter to Director Shaub from Ranking Member Carper re Conflicts of Interest

Hi Shelley,

Attached is a letter from Ranking Member Carper to Director Shaub regarding OGE's efforts related to potential conflicts of interests in the upcoming Administration of President-elect Donald Trump. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Jim Secreto

Chief Counsel for Oversight and Investigations (Minority)

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

(b)(6)

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: David Kaplan <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 10:54 AM
To: Kimberley H. Kaplan
Subject: Trump's White House counsel faces unusual challenges

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/11/trump-transition-counsel-mcgahn-231725>

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Jennifer Matis
Sent: Friday, November 25, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Diana Veilleux
Subject: FOIA request

Hi Shelley,

Hope you had a good Thanksgiving. As I mentioned last week, we have a FOIA request for all "briefing materials and information relating to the Presidential transition" prepared by the OGE for the Trump administration's Agency Review Teams and incoming political appointees. I know some things are on our transition web page, like the nominee ethics guide. Can you please point me to where I can find any responsive materials that aren't on our transition web page?

It's due on December 13.

Thanks,



Jennifer Matis
Assistant Counsel
Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
202-482-9216
jennifer.matis@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

Follow OGE on Twitter: [@OfficeGovEthics](https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Jennifer Matis
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 2:23 PM
To: Stephanie Nonluecha

Politico reports on the process of vetting President-elect Trump's nominees, including a discussion of OGE's role in reviewing nominees' financial disclosure reports. [Inside Trump's freewheeling vetting operation](#)

Thanks,

Jen

Jennifer Matis
Assistant Counsel
Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
202-482-9216
jennifer.matis@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov
Follow OGE on Twitter: [@OfficeGovEthics](https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Brandon A. Steele
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 11:03 AM
To: Rachel K. Dowell
Subject: RE: 17/014

Yes. She asked a follow-up question on the 17th re: online access to President-Elect Trump's financial disclosure, which I responded to on the 18th. To the best of my knowledge she has not responded to my response on the 18th or the other issues raised in my original request for clarification.

Brandon

From: Rachel K. Dowell
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 11:02 AM
To: Brandon A. Steele
Subject: 17/014

This request is still pending clarification, right? If we don't hear back from her by Dec. 17, please draft a letter closing the request (Template 13.3). Thanks!

--

Rachel K. Dowell
Assistant Counsel
Office of Government Ethics
General Counsel & Legal Policy Division
Ethics Law and Policy Branch
(202) 482-9267

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

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: USOGE
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 3:24 PM
To: (b)(6) - Russ Kick's
Subject: Your FOIA request OGE FOIA FY 17/009

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for all briefing materials and information relating to the Presidential transition prepared by the OGE for the Trump administration's Agency Review Teams and incoming political appointees. Your request has been assigned tracking number OGE FOIA FY 17/009 and is being processed. You can expect a response on or before December 13, 2016.

Thanks,

Jen

Jennifer Matis
OGE FOIA Team

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

Untitled

I received a call from Steve Braun, Associated Press (b)(6) while I was on an Integrity conference call.

He wanted to know if I was aware of anomalies or irregularities with OGE's twitter account.

He referenced some interesting tweets involving the president-elect were posted, taken down, and reposted.

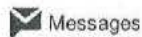
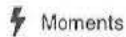
He wanted to know if the tweets were accurate, legitimate, or if OGE's twitter account had been hacked.

(I wasn't aware, but I told him that I had been on conference calls most of the day and was not involved. I assured him that the matter was being worked by appropriate OGE staff. I offered to take his information and get his inquiry to appropriate OGE staff for an official agency response.

Ty

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U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 15m

.@realDonaldTrump OGE applauds the "total" divestiture decision.
Bravo!



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.@realDonaldTrump this divestiture does what handing over control
could never have done



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.@realDonaldTrump - we told your counsel we'd sing your praises if
you divested, we meant it



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 16m

.@realDonaldTrump We can't repeat enough how good this total
divestiture will be



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 16m

.@realDonaldTrump Brilliant! Divestiture is good for you, very good for
America!



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 16m

.@realDonaldTrump Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts of
interest is to divest . Good call!



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 16m

.@realDonaldTrump this aligns with OGE opinion that POTUS should
act as if 18 USC 208 applies oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Le...



1





U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 16m

@realDonaldTrump As we discussed with your counsel, divestiture is the way to resolve these conflicts



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 17m

@realDonaldTrump OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · Nov 28

OGE publishes 2017 ethics dates and deadlines, supporting a strong, uniform executive branch ethics program. oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Da...



Moments



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U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · Nov 25

OGE's updated Gifts rules emphasize #ethical decision-making. Read more here gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2...



2



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · Nov 23

Do you know what rules apply to #feds accepting gifts from private parties? OGE just updated its rule: [gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2 ...](http://gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2...)



4



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · Nov 21

OGE amends its gift rules to strengthen the #ethics program. [oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Di ...](http://oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Di...)



4



2

2



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · Nov 20

New rule on gifts incorporates a values-based approach to make the #ethics program stronger. [oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Di ...](http://oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Di...)



5



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · Nov 19

Want to know what rules apply to #FederalEmployees accepting gifts? Read OGE's updated Gifts rule here [gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2 ...](http://gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2...)



1

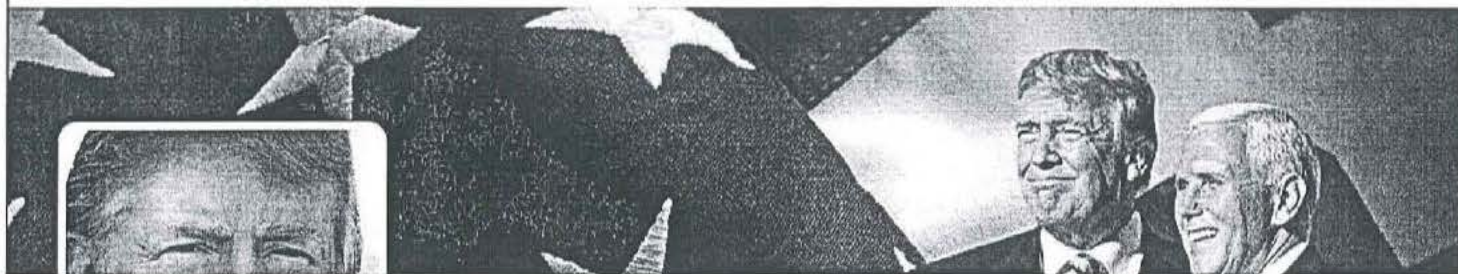


3



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · Nov 18

OGE's Director discusses changes to the gift rules



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Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

President-elect of the United States

📍 New York, NY

🌐 DonaldJTrump.com

📅 Joined March 2009

Tweet to Donald J. Trump

👤 6 Followers you know



📷 1,895 Photos and videos



[Tweets](#) [Tweets & replies](#) [Media](#)



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2h

Hence, legal documents are being crafted which take me completely out of business operations. The Presidency is a far more important task!

👤 3.5K 🔄 7K 📊 26K ...



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2h

do this under the law, I feel it is visually important, as President, to in no way have a conflict of interest with my various businesses..

👤 1.8K 🔄 5.2K 📊 19K ...



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2h

great business in total in order to fully focus on running the country in order to MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! While I am not mandated to

👤 1.3K 🔄 5.3K 📊 19K ...



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 3h

I will be holding a major news conference in New York City with my children on December 15 to discuss the fact that I will be leaving my ...

👤 1.6K 🔄 5.6K 📊 18K ...



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 3h

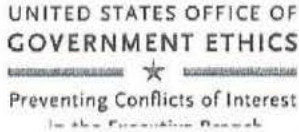
ISIS is taking credit for the terrible stabbing attack at Ohio State University by a Somali refugee who should not have been in our country.

👤 2.9K 🔄 12K 📊 34K ...



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 10h

Big day on Thursday for Indiana and the great workers of that wonderful state. We will keep our companies and jobs in the U.S. Thanks Carrier




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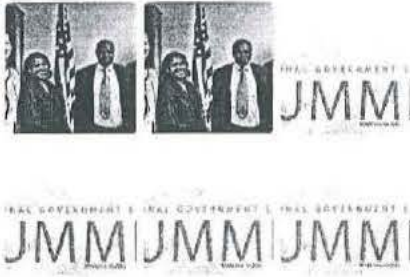
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.@realDonaldTrump OGE applauds the "total" divestiture decision.
Bravo!


  ...



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.@realDonaldTrump this divestiture does what handing over control
could never have done


  ...



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.@realDonaldTrump - we told your counsel we'd sing your praises if
you divested, we meant it


  ...



 **U.S. OGE** @OfficeGovEthics · 16m
.@realDonaldTrump We can't repeat enough how good this total
divestiture will be


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 **U.S. OGE** @OfficeGovEthics · 16m
.@realDonaldTrump Brilliant! Divestiture is good for you, very good for
America!


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 **U.S. OGE** @OfficeGovEthics · 16m
.@realDonaldTrump Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts of
interest is to divest . Good call!









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 **U.S. OGE** @OfficeGovEthics · 16m
.@realDonaldTrump this aligns with OGE opinion that POTUS should
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📅 Joined April 2013

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U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 15m
.@realDonaldTrump OGE applauds the "total" divestiture decision.
Bravo!

  ...



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 15m
.@realDonaldTrump this divestiture does what handing over control
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U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 15m
.@realDonaldTrump - we told your counsel we'd sing your praises if
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U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 16m
.@realDonaldTrump We can't repeat enough how good this total
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U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 16m
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U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 16m
.@realDonaldTrump this aligns with OGE opinion that POTUS should
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  1 ...

From: [Wendy G. Pond](#)
To: [Nicole Stein](#)
Subject: artilce
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:59:51 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/business/wp/2016/11/30/trump-announces-he-will-leave-business-in-total-leaving-open-how-he-will-avoid-conflicts-of-interest/?utm_term=.fa8d464384b4

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Brandon A. Steele
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:56 PM
To: Diana Veilleux; Shelley K. Finlayson; Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account

FYI on my below response to an inquiry from Twitter on the account activity.

From: Brandon A. Steele
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:55 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account

Dear Jared Benoff:

Thank you for reaching out to the Office of Government Ethics. I can confirm that the agency's Twitter account was not compromised. We have issued an official statement regarding the activity on the account.

Best regards,

Brandon A. Steele
Attorney Advisor
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9209
bastele@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov
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From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:38 PM
To: Brandon A. Steele
Subject: FW: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account

Brandon L. Bunderson

Desk Officer

Program Counsel Division

U.S. Office of Government Ethics

(202) 482-9307

blbunder@oge.gov

From: Jared Benoff (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:44 PM

To: Contact OGE

Subject: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account

Hi! I work in Twitter's DC office and I wanted to quickly reach out to confirm the activity from your Twitter account today. Thanks!

--

Jared Benoff

Public Policy | Twitter

Follow me at @jbenoff

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: CBS News question

Kehli Cage
Government Ethics Specialist
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9279
kehli.cage@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov
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From: Dore, Maggie (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:12 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: CBS News question

Hello can you explain the tweets on your account praising President-Elect Donald Trump for divesting his business interests? Was your account hacked?

Thanks,

Maggie Dore

Producer, CBS Evening News

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:32 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: Divestiture Tweets

Kehli Cage
Government Ethics Specialist
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9279
kehli.cage@oge.gov

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



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Divestiture Tweets

Please advise if indeed a rep of your office made the statements concerning Trump's intended divestiture on Twitter.

Thank you,

☺

≈ ๓๐๖๒๔๓

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:59 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: Hi from WSJ - Twitter account

Kehli Cage
Government Ethics Specialist
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9279
kehli.cage@oge.gov

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Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics



From: Andrews, Natalie (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:55 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Hi from WSJ - Twitter account

Hi -

I'm emailing in regards to your Twitter account and the tweets sent by Donald Trump. I am inquiring to know more about the ethics referenced - as well as the meeting with counsel you refer to.

My deadline is asap on this.

Thank you!

Natalie

--
Natalie Andrews
The Wall Street Journal
(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:58 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: Media inquiry regarding tweets
Attachments: signature.asc

Kehli Cage
Government Ethics Specialist
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9279
kehli.cage@oge.gov

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Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics



From: Andrew Couts (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:55 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Media inquiry regarding tweets

To whom it concerns;

I am an editor at the Daily Dot, an online news site. I'm wondering about a series of tweets posted to the @OfficeGovEthics account on Twitter addressed to President-elect Donald Trump regarding his plan to divest from his businesses.

Here is a sampling of those tweets:



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 43m

.@realDonaldTrump - we told your counsel we'd sing your praises if you divested, we meant it.

← 47 ↻ 60 ❤ 57 ...



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 43m

.@realDonaldTrump this divestiture does what handing over control could never have done.

← 4 ↻ 25 ❤ 13 ...



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 45m

.@realDonaldTrump this aligns with OGE opinion that POTUS should act as if 18 USC 208 applies. bit.ly/2fRplG0

← 1 ↻ 26 ❤ 20 ...



U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics · 45m

.@realDonaldTrump Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts of interest is to divest . Good call!

The tweets are also available in archived form here:

<https://archive.is/P4xyb>

<https://archive.is/jeWQE>

<https://archive.is/1QxKa>

<https://archive.is/pkFD5>

<https://archive.is/V4Cot>

<https://archive.is/TGziJ>

<https://archive.is/3Oslj>

<https://archive.is/zHKOP>

<https://archive.is/G0nTG>

I'm just wondering if these tweets are authentic? If not, was the @OfficeGovEthics account compromised in some way? If so, can you please explain the change in tone and phrasing in these tweets compared to other tweets posted to the account?

Thanks so much for your time.

Best regards,

Andrew Coutts

(b)(6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and any accompanying text. The text "(b)(6)" is visible in red at the top left of the redacted area.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:59 AM
To: Leigh J. Francis
Cc: Vincent Salamone
Subject: FW: NPR interview request

FYI

Kehli Cage
Government Ethics Specialist
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9279
kehli.cage@oge.gov

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



From: Jim Zarroli (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:21 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: NPR interview request

Hi—we'd like to talk to someone there about the tweets you just sent out about Trump divesting his holdings. I am at (b)(6) or this email address.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:31 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: OGE tweets re: Trump?

Kehli Cage
Government Ethics Specialist
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9279
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From: Peter Schroeder (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:29 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: OGE tweets re: Trump?

Hi there,

Could I get a confirmation on whether the tweets sent out today regarding Donald Trump's business and potential divestment were sent by OGE, and any statement you might have on the matter?

Thanks,
Peter

--

Peter Schroeder
The Hill

(b)(6)

Visit *The Hill's* Finance page at:
<http://thehill.com/policy/finance>

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:56 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: Press question from Vocativ

FYI

Kehli Cage
Government Ethics Specialist
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9279
kehli.cage@oge.gov

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Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics



From: Collier, Kevin (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:35 PM
To: Contact OGE; press@oge.gov
Subject: Press question from Vocativ

Hi. My name's Kevin Collier; I'm a cybersecurity reporter at Vocativ. Have you noticed someone's taken over the @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account? Was it hacked? Can you tell me if the tweets' views about Mr. Trump reflect those of the Office of Government Ethics?

Thanks

Kevin

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:18 PM
To: Leigh J. Francis
Subject: FW: PRESS REQUEST: The Daily Beast

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Kehli Cage
Government Ethics Specialist
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1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9279
kehli.cage@oge.gov

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



From: Resnick, Gideon (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:09 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: PRESS REQUEST: The Daily Beast

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a reporter with The Daily Beast and I was interested in speaking with someone about the lease agreement between the GSA and the Trump Organization for the Old Post Office Building. Let me know when you get a chance. Thanks so much!

Best,

Gideon Resnick

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: Re OGE tweets

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From: Katie Watson (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:07 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Re: Re OGE tweets

Also, was this one staffer's lone wolf effort or the opinion of the office as a whole? Thanks!

On Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 1:23 PM, Katie Watson (b)(6) wrote:
Hi Vincent or whoever gets this,

I just wanted to verify that the recent string of tweets was indeed sent by your office, and also check to see whether Trump has officially communicated with your office that he will be divesting.

<https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics?lang=en>

Trying to write this as quickly as possible.

Thank you!

--

Kathryn (Katie) Watson

Investigative Reporter
Daily Caller News Foundation

(b)(6)

--

Kathryn (Katie) Watson
Investigative Reporter
Daily Caller News Foundation

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:56 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: The Verge - request for comment

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From: Kaitlyn Tiffany (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:39 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: The Verge - request for comment

Good afternoon,

I'm a reporter for The Verge and I was hoping someone would be able to put me in contact with the person or persons who run the Twitter account for the Office of Government Ethics. We're curious about the recent string of tweets directed at Donald Trump and would love to talk about this strategy of calling him out via the platform he seems to care about the most — it's very compelling.

If anyone is available to comment via email that would be great and I'm also available on the phone at (b)(6)

Best

Kaitlyn

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:58 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: Tweets on PEOTUS for Washington Examiner

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From: Kyle Feldscher (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:55 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Tweets on PEOTUS for Washington Examiner

Hi, Kyle Feldscher with the Washington Examiner here.

I wanted to see if I could get answers to these questions:

- Why did the OGE tweeted multiple times at President-elect Trump today about his announcement this morning?
- Usually the advice OGE gives to presidents is kept confidential, why go public with these?
- Why did OGE praise his decision to divest when his plan has not been released at this point?
- How many times has OGE met with President-elect Trump?

Thanks,
Kyle

--
Kyle Feldscher

Reporter
Washington Examiner

(b)(6)



Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: Tweets regarding President-elect Trump

Kehli Cage
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From: Yasmeen Alamiri (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:51 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Tweets regarding President-elect Trump

Hello,

Your social media accounts show a series of tweets addressing President-elect Donald Trump, concerning his recent divestment from his companies. The tweets seem to address him directly.

Is it normal practice to tweet at an incoming official/PEOTUS? Do you know if he will be totally divested by the time he is sworn into office on January 20, 2017?

Thank you,
Yasmeen Alamiri
CCTV America

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taken in reliance on it, is prohibited and may be unlawful. It must not be disclosed to any person without authorization.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:59 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: URGENT: NBC News Request: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter Feed = HACKED?

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



From: Gardella, Rich (NBCUniversal) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:56 PM
To: Contact OGE; ljfrancis@oge.gov; vjsalamone@oge.gov
Cc: Reynolds, Talesha (NBCUniversal)
Subject: URGENT: NBC News Request: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter Feed = HACKED?

Leigh,

I called Vincent Salamone's direct number but his outgoing message says he is out-of-the-office today and directs all callers to contact you.

I have left you a voicemail message and am following up with this email.

I am contacting you regarding the Office of Government Ethics' Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>.

The Twitter feed/page now includes multiple Tweets during the last hour directly and enthusiastically praising Trump's divestiture decision.

Sample:

[U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics 50m50 minutes ago](#)

.[@realDonaldTrump](#) OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!

Are these authentic and authorized tweets? Or authentic and unauthorized tweets? Or inauthentic tweets? Has the account been hacked?

Thank you for your quick response. Please reply to all.

Rich Gardella

Off-Air Investigative Reporter/Producer

NBC News Investigative Unit

NBC News Washington Bureau

(b)(6)



Begin forwarded message:

From: Dataminr Momentum <(b)(6)>

Date: November 30, 2016 at 1:15:42 PM EST

To:

Subject: @OfficeGovEthics: [.@realDonaldTrump](#) OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!

Reply-To: <(b)(6)>

District of Columbia, United States | U.S. OGE (@OfficeGovEthics) | U.S. Office of Government Ethics -- Providing leadership in the executive branch to prevent conflicts of interest. Privacy: <http://1.usa.gov/1731Cf1> | Account Created: 04.16.2013 | Tweets: 1,046 | Followers: 1,458 |



Momentum



District of Columbia, United States

11.30.2016 at 12:55 PM EST GOV

[.@realDonaldTrump](#) OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!



U.S. OGE [@OfficeGovEthics](#)

EVENT AREA:

District of Columbia, United States



SOURCE VERIFICATION FOR @OFFICEGOVETHICS:

Account Created: **04.16.2013**

Tweets **1,046** | Followers **1,458**

U.S. Office of Government Ethics -- Providing leadership in the executive branch to prevent conflicts of interest. Privacy: <http://1.usa.gov/1731Cf1>

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:56 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: Urgent press inquiry

FYi

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From: Ruth Sherlock (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:38 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Urgent press inquiry

Hi,

I am writing a story on Donald Trump's tweets about removing himself from his business empire and the response by the OGE on Twitter.

I would be very grateful if someone could give me a call?

Unfortunately, working for a British newspaper, I am on a very tight deadline - our first edition goes in about an hour.

My cell is (b)(6)

Many thanks!
Best wishes,
Ruth

--

Ruth Sherlock
US Editor
The Telegraph*

(b)(6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering several lines of text.

*The Telegraph is the UK's best selling quality broadsheet. Our website sees as many as 25 million unique users from the United States every month. We have approximately 90 million globally.



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From: [Michelle M. Walker](#)
To: [Kelsey D. Phipps](#)
Subject: FW: 2017
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 1:30:22 PM

Hello Kelsey

Here is the email I have that contains the word twitter in it.

From: Magee, Michelle [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:26 AM
To: Michelle M. Walker
Subject: RE: 2017

(b)(5)

From: Michelle M. Walker [<mailto:mmwalker@oge.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:22 AM
To: Magee, Michelle (b)(6)
Subject: RE: 2017

Read this in Wash Post right now....

Trump spokespeople did not immediately return requests for more details on the move. But Richard Painter, chief White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush, said the move did not appear to offer enough of a division to keep entanglement worries at bay.

“That’s business operations, not ownership. The problem is, we need to resolve the conflicts of interest that arise from his ownership. And we’re hearing nothing about how that’s getting resolved,” Painter said.

“Even if he does not operate the businesses, you’re going to have lots of people working for the business running around the world trying to cut deals,” Painter added. “And it’s critical that none of those people discuss U.S. business in a way that could be interpreted, or misinterpreted, of offering quid pro quo ... or soliciting a bribe on the part of the president.”

[\[Trump’s presidency, overseas business deals and relations with foreign governments could all become intertwined\]](#)

If Trump’s family does take over management of the business, Norman Eisen, the chief White House ethics lawyer for President Obama from 2009 to 2011, said an “ethics firewall” would need to be put in place to combat the “risk of improper preferential relationships and treatment for the Trump Organization with the United States government and foreign ones.”

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said Wednesday on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” that he was not “ready to reveal” whether the move would include Trump truly severing ties to his business or whether he would simply leave the day-to-day operations to his kids.

“It’s not the easiest thing to work out,” Priebus said. “What you see in those tweets is the person at the top that understands and is willing and showing the American people that he’s working hard on it and he’s taking it seriously.”

In one confusing move, the official Twitter account of the Office of Government Ethics, which traditionally works closely with presidential transition teams, celebrated Wednesday morning that Trump had committed to fully divesting his company stake, though Trump has publicly said no such thing.

The tweets also said that OGE lawyers had told Trump the only way to fully guard against conflicts would be fully divesting his assets. OGE officials did not immediately respond to request for explanation. The tweets were deleted within an hour of their first posting.

The weeks since Trump’s electoral victory have been marked by a series of entanglements between his private ventures and public ambitions.

From: Magee, Michelle (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:14 AM
To: Michelle M. Walker
Subject: RE: 2017

And please you did....

J

From: Michelle M. Walker [<mailto:mmwalker@oge.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:02 AM
To: Magee, Michelle (b)(6)
Subject: RE: 2017

I aim to please J

From: Magee, Michelle (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:40 AM
To: Michelle M. Walker; 'Rigby, Karen'
Subject: RE: 2017

Thanks, and it already has my name on it. J

From: Michelle M. Walker [<mailto:mmwalker@oge.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:32 AM
To: 'Rigby, Karen' (b)(6); Magee, Michelle (b)(6)
Subject: 2017

Just fill it in J

Michelle Walker
Management Analyst
Compliance Division
United States Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
(b)(6)

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

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From: [Kaneisha T. Cunningham](#)
To: [Kelsey D. Phipps](#)
Subject: FW: link
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 4:27:12 PM

In response to your FOIA request.

From: Douglas L. Chapman
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:22 AM
To: Kaneisha T. Cunningham
Subject: FW: link

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:19 AM
To: Douglas L. Chapman
Subject: Fw: link

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

From: Walter M. Shaub <wmschaub@oge.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:07 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Fw: link

Here's the link to the opinion. Get all of these tweets posted as soon as humanly possible.

[https://www.oge.gov/web/oge/nsf/Legal%20Advisories/01F8E09232041FD185257E96005FBBE8/\\$FILE/64ed9ad9bd294b45a88ac8729a97968a3.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge/nsf/Legal%20Advisories/01F8E09232041FD185257E96005FBBE8/$FILE/64ed9ad9bd294b45a88ac8729a97968a3.pdf?open)

From: [Contact OGE](#)
To: [Leigh J. Francis](#)
Subject: FW: OGE statement today
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:32:41 PM

From: Nutter, Julia (NBCUniversal) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:25 PM
To: Contact OGE <contactoge@oge.gov>
Subject: OGE statement today

Hi there,
I'm looking for a full version of OGE's statement today regarding the tweets sent this morning to President-elect Donald Trump about his business dealings. Could someone please send my way?

Best,

julia nutter
segment producer
msnbc – "the rachel maddow show"
(b)(6)

From: [Kaneisha T. Cunningham](#)
To: [Kelsey D. Phipps](#)
Subject: FW: Tweets ASAP
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 4:26:45 PM

In response to your FOIA request.

From: Douglas L. Chapman
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:21 AM
To: Kaneisha T. Cunningham
Subject: FW: Tweets ASAP

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:19 AM
To: Douglas L. Chapman
Subject: Fw: Tweets ASAP

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

From: Walter M. Shaub <wmschaub@oge.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:04 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Tweets ASAP

Post the following tweets. I would like them posted first thing --8:30 if possible or as soon as possible thereafter . Post them all at once.

@realDonaldTrump OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!

@realDonaldTrump As we discussed with your counsel, divestiture is the way to resolve these conflicts

@realDonaldTrump this aligns with OGE opinion that POTUS should act as if 18 USC 208 applies
(put link to 1983 opinion after this one)

@realDonaldTrump Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts of interest is to divest . Good call!

@realDonaldTrump Brilliant! Divestiture is good for you, very good for America!

@realDonaldTrump We can't repeat enough how good this total divestiture will be

@realDonaldTrump - we told your counsel we'd sing your praises if you divested, we meant it

@realDonaldTrump this divestiture does what handing over control could never have done

@realDonaldTrump OGE applauds the "total" divestiture decision. Bravo!

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

From: [Contact OGE](#)
To: [Leigh J. Francis](#)
Subject: FW: we've been calling ... no reply ...
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:31:48 PM

From: Gordon, Greg (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:52 PM
To: Contact OGE <contactoge@oge.gov>
Subject: we've been calling ... no reply ...

Could you PLEASE confirm or deny the veracity or legitimacy of the flurry of extraordinary emails that were sent out today about president-elect Trump's supposed total "divestiture?"

We've left multiple phone messages and have received no reply. This affects a story we're writing on deadline.

Greg

Greg Gordon

National Correspondent

McClatchy Newspapers Washington Bureau

(b)(6)

See McClatchy news at <http://www.mcclatchydc.com>. Our 29 daily newspapers include the Miami Herald, Sacramento Bee, Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, Kansas City Star, Charlotte Observer, Raleigh News & Observer and others.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Eric Katz (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:25 PM
To: Leigh J. Francis
Subject: Fwd: Tweets

Hi Leigh- can you please give me a call? (b)(6). Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eric Katz (b)(6)
Date: Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 1:40 PM
Subject: Tweets
To: ContactOGE@oge.gov

Hello,

This is Eric Katz with GovExec. I just left a voicemail for Vince and Leigh...I wanted to ask you about the series of tweets OGE sent out about Trump and his business. If someone could give me a call at (b)(6) at your earliest possible convenience.

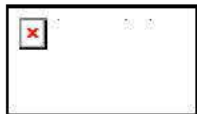
Thanks,

Eric

--

Eric Katz
Senior Correspondent
Government Executive Media Group
(b)(6)

[govexec](#) | [nextgov](#) | [DefenseOne](#) | [route fifty](#)



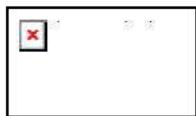
--

Eric Katz
Senior Correspondent

Government Executive Media Group

(b)(6)

[govexec](#) | [nextgov](#) | [DefenseOne](#) | [route fifty](#)



Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Michael Hanson
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:05 PM
To: Seth Jaffe; Leigh J. Francis
Cc: Vincent Salamone
Subject: Getting calls on our Twitter account

Hello Leigh & Seth,
I just received a call from Eric Geller at Politico (b)(6) about our [Twitter Feed](#).

He is asking about the 9-tweets to @realDonaldTrump that went up, came down, and went back up.

Told him "the appropriate person" would get back to him.

Michael Hanson
(202) 482-9221
Office of Government Ethics

Visit us at www.oge.gov

From: [Jennifer Matis](#)
To: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:19:26 AM

<http://www.govexec.com/excellence/promising-practices/2016/11/gsas-trump-hotel-lease-debacle/133424/>

Thanks,

Jen

Jennifer Matis
Assistant Counsel
Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
202-482-9216
jennifer.matis@oge.gov

Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov

Follow OGE on Twitter: [@OfficeGovEthics](https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Diana Veilleux
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2016 11:16 PM
To: Kelsey D. Phipps
Subject: Fw: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account

FOR FOIA response.

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

From: Brandon A. Steele <bastele@oge.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:56 PM
To: Diana Veilleux; Shelley K. Finlayson; Seth Jaffe
Subject: FW: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account

FYI on my below response to an inquiry from Twitter on the account activity.

From: Brandon A. Steele
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account

Dear Jared Benoff:

Thank you for reaching out to the Office of Government Ethics. I can confirm that the agency's Twitter account was not compromised. We have issued an official statement regarding the activity on the account.

Best regards,

Brandon A. Steele
Attorney Advisor
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9209
bastele@oge.gov

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



From: Contact OGE
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:38 PM
To: Brandon A. Steele
Subject: FW: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account

Brandon L. Bunderson

Desk Officer
Program Counsel Division
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
(202) 482-9307
blbunder@oge.gov

From: Jared Benoff (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:44 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter account

Hi! I work in Twitter's DC office and I wanted to quickly reach out to confirm the activity from your Twitter account today. Thanks!

--
Jared Benoff

Public Policy | Twitter

(b)(6)

From: [Walter M. Shaub](#)
To: (b)(6) - D. McGahn email
Subject: press inquiries
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:13:47 PM

We started receiving dozens of press calls as soon as the President-elect announced his plan to divest his assets. Here's the response our spokesperson is sending out to them:

Like everyone else, we were excited this morning to read the President-elect's twitter feed indicating that he wants to be free of conflicts of interest. OGE applauds that goal, which is consistent with an opinion OGE issued in 1983. Divestiture resolves conflicts of interest in a way that transferring control does not. We don't know the details of their plan, but we are willing and eager to help them with it.

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

From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:14 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Can we talk today?

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

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Timothy Mallon
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:09 PM
To: 'Dreyfuss, Emily'
Cc: Seth Jaffe; Leigh J. Francis
Subject: RE: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Emily – another contact is Leigh Francis (also cc'd). Apparently the Twitter account is not compromised. - Tim

From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:06 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Re: Quick question from WIRED

Thank you Tim! Seth, I just left you a voicemail. Please give me a call as soon as you can at (b)(6)

I appreciate it.

Emily

From: Timothy Mallon <tmallon@oge.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Dreyfuss, Emily
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: RE: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Emily – please contact Seth Jaffe (cc'd) - Tim

From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Subject: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Timothy,

Thanks for taking my call. Any information you can shed on what's going on with the OGE Twitter account would be greatly appreciated. Again, I want to make sure we--and the rest of the press--don't wrongly report on official tweets that are not sanctioned by the Office of Government Ethics. If you can point me to the person in charge of the Twitter account, I would be happy to follow up with them directly.

Thanks,

Emily

Emily Dreyfuss

National Affairs Writer

WIRED

(b)(6)

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:06 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Re: Quick question from WIRED

Thank you Tim! Seth, I just left you a voicemail. Please give me a call as soon as you can at (b)(6)

I appreciate it.

Emily

From: Timothy Mallon
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Dreyfuss, Emily
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: RE: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Emily – please contact Seth Jaffe (cc'd) - Tim

From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Subject: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Timothy,

Thanks for taking my call. Any information you can shed on what's going on with the OGE Twitter account would be greatly appreciated. Again, I want to make sure we--and the rest of the press--don't wrongly report on official tweets that are not sanctioned by the Office of Government Ethics. If you can point me to the person in charge of the Twitter account, I would be happy to follow up with them directly.

Thanks,

Emily

Emily Dreyfuss

National Affairs Writer

WIRED

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:17 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Cc: Seth Jaffe; Leigh J. Francis
Subject: Re: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Tim, Seth, and Leigh,

Can one of you please give me a call to clarify what, exactly, is going on with the OGE Twitter account?

Thank you,

Emily

Cell: (b)(6)

From: Timothy Mallon
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:09 PM
To: Dreyfuss, Emily
Cc: Seth Jaffe; Leigh J. Francis
Subject: RE: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Emily – another contact is Leigh Francis (also cc'd). Apparently the Twitter account is not compromised. - Tim

From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:06 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Re: Quick question from WIRED

Thank you Tim! Seth, I just left you a voicemail. Please give me a call as soon as you can at (b)(6)

I appreciate it.

Emily

From: Timothy Mallon <tmallon@oge.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Dreyfuss, Emily
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: RE: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Emily – please contact Seth Jaffe (cc'd) - Tim

From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Subject: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Timothy,

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Emily

Emily Dreyfuss

National Affairs Writer

WIRED

(b)(6)

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Timothy Mallon
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:09 PM
To: 'Dreyfuss, Emily'
Cc: Seth Jaffe; Leigh J. Francis
Subject: RE: Quick question from WIRED

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From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:06 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Re: Quick question from WIRED

Thank you Tim! Seth, I just left you a voicemail. Please give me a call as soon as you can at (b)(6)

I appreciate it.

Emily

From: Timothy Mallon <tmallon@oge.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Dreyfuss, Emily
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: RE: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Emily – please contact Seth Jaffe (cc'd) - Tim

From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Subject: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Timothy,

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Thanks,

Emily

Emily Dreyfuss

National Affairs Writer

WIRED

(b)(6)

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Timothy Mallon
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:58 PM
To: 'Dreyfuss, Emily'
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: RE: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Emily – please contact Seth Jaffe (cc'd) - Tim

From: Dreyfuss, Emily (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Timothy Mallon
Subject: Quick question from WIRED

Hi Timothy,

Thanks for taking my call. Any information you can shed on what's going on with the OGE Twitter account would be greatly appreciated. Again, I want to make sure we--and the rest of the press--don't wrongly report on official tweets that are not sanctioned by the Office of Government Ethics. If you can point me to the person in charge of the Twitter account, I would be happy to follow up with them directly.

Thanks,

Emily

Emily Dreyfuss

National Affairs Writer

WIRED

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Gardella, Rich (NBCUniversal) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Contact OGE; Leigh J. Francis; Vincent Salamone; Seth Jaffe
Cc: Reynolds, Talesha (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RESENDING: URGENT: NBC News Request: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter Feed = HACKED?

Resending and adding Leigh and Seth...

Please see below for more.

Rich Gardella

Off-Air Investigative Reporter/Producer

NBC News Investigative Unit

NBC News Washington Bureau

(b)(6)



From: Gardella, Rich (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:56 PM
To: ContactOGE@oge.gov
Cc: Reynolds, Talesha (NBCUniversal)
Subject: URGENT: NBC News Request: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter Feed = HACKED?

Leigh,

I called Vincent Salamone's direct number but his outgoing message says he is out-of-the-office today and directs all callers to contact you.

I have left you a voicemail message and am following up with this email.

I am contacting you regarding the Office of Government Ethics' Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>.

The Twitter feed/page now includes multiple Tweets during the last hour directly and enthusiastically praising Trump's divestiture decision.

Sample:

[U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics 50m50 minutes ago](#)

[.@realDonaldTrump](#) OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!

Are these authentic and authorized tweets? Or authentic and unauthorized tweets? Or inauthentic tweets? Has the account been hacked?

Thank you for your quick response. Please reply to all.

Rich Gardella

Off-Air Investigative Reporter/Producer


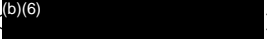
NBC News Investigative Unit

NBC News Washington Bureau

(b)(6)



Begin forwarded message:

From: Dataminr Momentum 
Date: November 30, 2016 at 1:15:42 PM EST
To:
Subject: @OfficeGovEthics: [.@realDonaldTrump](#) OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!
Reply-To: <>

District of Columbia, United States | U.S. OGE (@OfficeGovEthics) | U.S. Office of Government Ethics -- Providing leadership in the executive branch to prevent conflicts of interest. Privacy: <http://1.usa.gov/1731Cf1> | Account Created: 04.16.2013 | Tweets: 1,046 | Followers: 1,458 |



Momentum



 District of Columbia, United States

11.30.2016 at 12:55 PM EST GOV

[.@realDonaldTrump](#) OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!



U.S. OGE [@OfficeGovEthics](#)

EVENT AREA:

District of Columbia, United States




SOURCE VERIFICATION FOR @OFFICEGOVETHICS:

Account Created: **04.16.2013**
Tweets **1,046** | Followers **1,458**

U.S. Office of Government Ethics -- Providing leadership in the executive branch to prevent conflicts of interest. Privacy: <http://1.usa.gov/1731Cf1>

View Alert View Tweet Track Story

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 **Topics:** Politics, Social Issues, Business

Adjust topic importance by [opening settings](#)



Dataminr is a real-time information discovery company.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:31 PM
To: Brandon A. Steele
Subject: Fw: link

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

From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:07 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Fw: link

Here's the link to the opinion. Get all of these tweets posted as soon as humanly possible.

[https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/01F8E09232041FD185257E96005FBBE8/\\$FILE/64ed9ad9bd294b45a88ac8729a97968a3.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/01F8E09232041FD185257E96005FBBE8/$FILE/64ed9ad9bd294b45a88ac8729a97968a3.pdf?open)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Eric Geller (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:58 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Statement on OGE Twitter activity

Hi Seth,

I saw that you issued a statement about your agency's recent tweets. Could you send me that please?

—
Eric Geller
Cybersecurity Reporter
POLITICOPro

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:29 PM
To: Brandon A. Steele
Subject: Fw: Tweets ASAP

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

From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:04 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: Tweets ASAP

Post the following tweets. I would like them posted first thing --8:30 if possible or as soon as possible thereafter . Post them all at once.

@realDonaldTrump OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!

@realDonaldTrump As we discussed with your counsel, divestiture is the way to resolve these conflicts

@realDonaldTrump this aligns with OGE opinion that POTUS should act as if 18 USC 208 applies (put link to 1983 opinion after this one)

@realDonaldTrump Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts of interest is to divest . Good call!

@realDonaldTrump Brilliant! Divestiture is good for you, very good for America!

@realDonaldTrump We can't repeat enough how good this total divestiture will be

@realDonaldTrump - we told your counsel we'd sing your praises if you divested, we meant it

@realDonaldTrump this divestiture does what handing over control could never have done

@realDonaldTrump OGE applauds the "total" divestiture decision. Bravo!

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

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Davis, Julie (b)(6) >
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:00 PM
To: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Tweets re: Trump and divestiture

Hi Seth,

You may have heard already from my colleague Michael Shear. Can you help explain what all those tweets were about today on Trump's announcement about eliminating conflicts of interest? Were you the one who posted them? And is it your opinion that the steps he outlined in his tweets today meet the threshold that applies to a president as laid out in the 1983 opinion referenced in the tweet?

If you are able to talk this afternoon, I'd be grateful.

Thanks,
Julie

Julie Hirschfeld Davis
White House Correspondent
The New York Times

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Vincent Salamone
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 9:36 AM
To: Kelsey D. Phipps
Subject: FW: Tweets

From: Eric Katz (b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:33 PM
To: Vincent Salamone
Subject: Fwd: Tweets

Hey Vince - I know your voicemail said you were out of the office today, but if you could give me a call, or get in touch with someone else to have them do so, I'd appreciate it.

Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eric Katz (b)(6)
Date: Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 1:40 PM
Subject: Tweets
To: ContactOGE@oge.gov

Hello,

This is Eric Katz with GovExec. I just left a voicemail for Vince and Lee...I wanted to ask you about the series of tweets OGE sent out about Trump and his business. If someone could give me a call at (b)(6) at your earliest possible convenience.

Thanks,

Eric

--

Eric Katz
Senior Correspondent
Government Executive Media Group

(b)(6)

[govexec](#) | [nextgov](#) | [DefenseOne](#) | [route fifty](#)

Government
Executive
Media Group

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Vincent Salamone
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 9:37 AM
To: Kelsey D. Phipps
Subject: FW: RESENDING: URGENT: NBC News Request: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter Feed = HACKED?

From: Gardella, Rich (NBCUniversal) (b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Contact OGE; Leigh J. Francis; Vincent Salamone; Seth Jaffe
Cc: Reynolds, Talesha (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RESENDING: URGENT: NBC News Request: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter Feed = HACKED?

Resending and adding Leigh and Seth...

Please see below for more.

Rich Gardella

Off-Air Investigative Reporter/Producer

NBC News Investigative Unit

NBC News Washington Bureau

(b)(6)



From: Gardella, Rich (NBCUniversal)
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:56 PM
To: ContactOGE@oge.gov
Cc: Reynolds, Talesha (NBCUniversal)
Subject: URGENT: NBC News Request: @OfficeGovEthics Twitter Feed = HACKED?

Leigh,

I called Vincent Salamone's direct number but his outgoing message says he is out-of-the-office today and directs all callers to contact you.

I have left you a voicemail message and am following up with this email.

I am contacting you regarding the Office of Government Ethics' Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/OfficeGovEthics>.

The Twitter feed/page now includes multiple Tweets during the last hour directly and enthusiastically praising Trump's divestiture decision.

Sample:

[U.S. OGE @OfficeGovEthics](#) [50m50 minutes ago](#)

[.@realDonaldTrump](#) OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!

Are these authentic and authorized tweets? Or authentic and unauthorized tweets? Or inauthentic tweets? Has the account been hacked?

Thank you for your quick response. Please reply to all.

Rich Gardella

Off-Air Investigative Reporter/Producer

NBC News Investigative Unit

NBC News Washington Bureau

(b)(6)



Begin forwarded message:

From: Dataminr Momentum <(b)(6)>
Date: November 30, 2016 at 1:15:42 PM EST
To:
Subject: @OfficeGovEthics: [.@realDonaldTrump](#) OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!
Reply-To: <(b)(6)>

District of Columbia, United States | U.S. OGE (@OfficeGovEthics) | U.S. Office of Government Ethics -- Providing leadership in the executive branch to prevent conflicts of interest. Privacy: <http://1.usa.gov/1731Cf1> | Account Created: 04.16.2013 | Tweets: 1,046 | Followers: 1,458 |



📍 District of Columbia, United States

11.30.2016 at 12:55 PM EST GOV

[.@realDonaldTrump](#) OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!



U.S. OGE [@OfficeGovEthics](#)

EVENT AREA:

District of Columbia, United States



SOURCE VERIFICATION FOR @OFFICEGOVETHICS:

Account Created: **04.16.2013**
Tweets **1,046** | Followers **1,458**

U.S. Office of Government Ethics -- Providing leadership in the executive branch to prevent conflicts of interest. Privacy: <http://1.usa.gov/1731Cf1>

View Alert

<image001.png> [View
Alert](#)

View Tweet

<image002.png> [View
Tweet](#)

Track Story

<image003.png> [Track
Story](#)

≡ **Topics:** Politics, Social Issues, Business

Adjust topic importance by [opening settings](#)

Dataminr is a real-time information discovery company.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Vincent Salamone
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 9:38 AM
To: Kelsey D. Phipps
Subject: FW: Getting calls on our Twitter account

From: Michael Hanson
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:05 PM
To: Seth Jaffe; Leigh J. Francis
Cc: Vincent Salamone
Subject: Getting calls on our Twitter account

Hello Leigh & Seth,
I just received a call from Eric Geller at Politico (b)(6) about our [Twitter Feed](#).

He is asking about the 9-tweets to @realDonaldTrump that went up, came down, and went back up.

Told him "the appropriate person" would get back to him.

Michael Hanson
(202) 482-9221
Office of Government Ethics

Visit us at www.oge.gov

From: Michelle M. Walker
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:24 AM
To: Ciara M. Guzman
Subject: wed

Trump spokespeople did not immediately return requests for more details on the move. But Richard Painter, chief White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush, said the move did not appear to offer enough of a division to keep entanglement worries at bay.

“That’s business operations, not ownership. The problem is, we need to resolve the conflicts of interest that arise from his ownership. And we’re hearing nothing about how that’s getting resolved,” Painter said.

“Even if he does not operate the businesses, you’re going to have lots of people working for the business running around the world trying to cut deals,” Painter added. “And it’s critical that none of those people discuss U.S. business in a way that could be interpreted, or misinterpreted, of offering quid pro quo ... or soliciting a bribe on the part of the president.”

[\[Trump’s presidency, overseas business deals and relations with foreign governments could all become intertwined\]](#)

If Trump’s family does take over management of the business, Norman Eisen, the chief White House ethics lawyer for President Obama from 2009 to 2011, said an “ethics firewall” would need to be put in place to combat the “risk of improper preferential relationships and treatment for the Trump Organization with the United States government and foreign ones.”

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said Wednesday on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” that he was not “ready to reveal” whether the move would include Trump truly severing ties to his business or whether he would simply leave the day-to-day operations to his kids.

“It’s not the easiest thing to work out,” Priebus said. “What you see in those tweets is the person at the top that understands and is willing and showing the American people that he’s working hard on it and he’s taking it seriously.”

In one confusing move, the official Twitter account of the Office of Government Ethics, which traditionally works closely with presidential transition teams, celebrated Wednesday morning that Trump had committed to fully divesting his company stake, though Trump has publicly said no such thing.

The tweets also said that OGE lawyers had told Trump the only way to fully guard against conflicts would be fully divesting his assets. OGE officials did not immediately respond to request for explanation. The tweets were deleted within an hour of their first posting.

The weeks since Trump’s electoral victory have been marked by a series of entanglements between his private ventures and public ambitions.

Michelle Walker
Management Analyst
Compliance Division
United States Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 482-9213
mmwalker@oge.gov

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

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Michael Hanson
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 4:35 PM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Cc: Timothy Mallon
Subject: about that tweet font size...

Appears the mystery has one explanation: <https://www.designernews.co/stories/20695-new-twitter-design-why-are-some-posts-bigger>

Appears there is some threshold for each Twitterer that jumps the size . Ours appears somewhere around 800 share/retweets. (though Brandon may be selecting text-size).



Michael Hanson
(202) 482-9221
Office of Government Ethics

Visit us at www.oge.gov

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Braun, Stephen S (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 9:39 AM
To: USOGE
Subject: Associated Press FOIA request

OGE FOIA Officer Dec. 1, 2016
Office of Government Ethics
Suite 500
1201 New York Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20005-3917

usoge@oge.gov

(Request via Email)

RE: Freedom of Information Act request

Expedited processing requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of the following records maintained by your agency's Office of the Director and General Counsel & Legal Policy Division:

- All emails, memos, correspondence, inter-office communications, Twitter statements, directives and all other written materials related to the November 30, 2016 official OGE public statements on Twitter concerning contacts with the incoming Trump administration and comments about President-elect Donald J. Trump's possible divestiture plans.
- All emails, memos, correspondence, inter-office communications, Twitter statements, directives and all other written materials related to media and public reaction to the November 30, 2016 official OGE public statements on Twitter concerning contacts with the incoming Trump administration and comments about President-elect Donald J. Trump's possible divestiture plans.
- All emails, memos, correspondence, inter-office communications, directives and all other written materials related to contacts and meetings with representatives of President-elect Donald J. Trump about ethics, disclosure and possible divestiture planning.

The time frame for this request is Nov. 15, 2016, through the present, Dec. 1, 2016.

This request covers paper and electronic records, including but not limited to emails, email attachments, Portable Document Files and Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.

If possible, I request that these files be provided to me in electronic format.

I certify to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief that I am a credentialed reporter employed by The Associated Press. **Because this is a request by a member of the news media for records made in the public interest, I ask that you waive any search fees in accordance** with § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II).

If the fee for retrieving or reproducing these records will exceed \$50, please notify me before filling this request. I can be reached at (b)(6) or by electronic mail at (b)(6).

I also request expedited processing for this request under 32 CFR 299.5 (f)(2).

My request for expedited processing meets criteria for demonstrating a "compelling need" for the following reasons that I certify to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

One, I am a credentialed member of the news media employed by The Associated Press who is primarily engaged in disseminating information.

Two, the records I am seeking are “urgently needed” to inform the public about an actual government activity in that the value of the information I am seeking will be lost if it is not released before the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump in January 2017. Federal FOIA law and regulations afford expedited processing to those who demonstrate “an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity.” My request should also generally be read in light of the holdings in *Al-Fayed*.

This request qualifies for expedited processing because it goes beyond “the public’s right to know about government activity generally” and instead seeks to provide urgent information of “actual government activity” to the American people about Rudy Giuliani, who is being considered for important roles in the executive branch.

The Associated Press, as the largest news wire service in the world with more than 1 billion readers, takes its duty to inform American citizens very seriously. The hard deadline of the inauguration elevates the importance of these records as does the type of government activity they involve. These records concern the important interaction between an influential U.S. politician and a key executive branch agency. The public has a need to know about those interactions in order to judge the qualifications of Mr. Giuliani as he is possibly put forward for important cabinet-level positions.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that these records be released on an expedited schedule. **As you know, you must make a determination about my request for expedited processing within 10 calendars days of receipt of this request.**

As you know, agencies must redact only what is necessary to protect exempt information and must explain the basis for any redactions. See *Georgarakos v. FBI*, 908 F.Supp.2d 176, 186 (D.D.C. 2012). As well, please provide documents to me on a rolling basis, rather than waiting for my entire request to be processed before releasing documents.

As a reminder, the president has directed that the FOIA “be administered with a clear presumption: In the face of doubt, openness prevails.” Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Dep’ts and Agencies, 74 Fed. Reg. 15, 4683 (Jan. 26, 2009), emphasis added. This instruction is unambiguous: “All agencies should adopt a presumption in favor of disclosure, in order to renew their commitment to the principles embodied in the FOIA, and to usher in a new era of open government. The presumption of disclosure should be applied to all decisions involving the FOIA.” *Id.*

The Act, in § 552(a)(6), grants your office no more than twenty working days in which to respond to this request. See also *Oglesby v. U.S. Dep’t of Army*, 920 F.2d 57, 65 (D.C. Cir. 1990) (“Congress adopted the time limit provision in the FOIA in order to ‘contribute to the fuller and faster release of information, which is the

basic objective of the Act.” (quoting H.R. Rep. No. 93-876, March 5, 1974, reprinted (1974) U.S. Code Cong. & Ad. News 6267 at 6271)).

I certify that the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your prompt reply. My contact information is below.

Sincerely,

Stephen Braun

Associated Press Washington Bureau

1100 13th Street NW

Suite 700

Washington, DC 20005

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Leigh J. Francis
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:08 AM
To: Kimberly L. Sikora Panza
Subject: Communications Packet for Subpart B LA
Attachments: Tagging Form for Subpart B LA.pdf; Master Document Comm Content (Subpart B).docx

Kim,

Per the Legal Advisory procedures, I am providing you with the Communications Packet for the Subpart B LA. Attached to this email please find: 1) the Communications Form; and 2) the Tagging Form. Based on the LA procedures, I am to provide this before pushing it up for Working Draft Review by the Program Counsel and Director.

I was hoping to push this up sometime today, or Friday at the latest. However, I am sure you are quite busy, so if you need more time, please let me know, and let me know if you have any questions or would like to see the LA for your review (it is in the DGRAMS folder, Subpart B Amendments LA). Thank you in advance!

Best,

Leigh

Leigh Jason Francis
Assistant Counsel
General Counsel and Legal Policy Division
U.S. Office of Government Ethics (www.oge.gov)
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
Leigh.Francis@oge.gov
(202) 482-9313

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[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

(b)(5) - draft communications memo

(b)(5) - draft communications memo



(b)(5) - draft communications memo



Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:46 PM
To: Vincent Salamone
Subject: FW: [GRAYMAIL] Retraction?

Kehli Cage
Government Ethics Specialist
U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave NW
Suite #500
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph: 202-482-9279
kehli.cage@oge.gov

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Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics



From: Kenton Hyatt (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 11:33 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: [GRAYMAIL] Retraction?

Hello:

In the New York Times article, "Ethics Office Praises Donald Trump for a Move He Hasn't Committed To," by Michael D. Shear and Eric Liptonov, published Nov. 30, 2016, (http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/30/us/politics/donald-trump-business-president-elect.html?_r=0) the authors make clear that The Ethics Office acted with partiality in regard to the divestiture of business assets by Mr. Trump.

Clearly that is an ethical infringement on the part of the Ethics Office.

My first questions are straightforward and simple:

When will the retraction occur?

Where and how will the retraction occur?

What will be the disciplinary action for this ethical infringement be by the Ethics Office?

But the second question is more complicated:

What is the reasoning and justification for the impartial support you have shown to Mr. Trump?

Kenton Hyatt Ph.D.

Values Perspectives

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:40 AM
To: Vincent Salamone
Subject: FW: Media Query - Voice of America

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From: Masood Farivar (b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:12 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Media Query - Voice of America

Hello,

I'm a reporter with Voice of America in Washington. For a story on President-elect Trump's business interests, I have a question about his most recent form 278e: What period does it cover? Is the income listed in the form for the calendar or fiscal year 2015 or another period?

Would greatly appreciate it if you could provide an answer in writing by 4pm today.

Thanks,

Masood Farivar

Voice of America

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:34 PM
To: Vincent Salamone
Subject: FW: OGE // Medium

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From: Matt Higginson (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 12:21 PM
To: Contact OGE; Seth Jaffe
Subject: OGE // Medium

Hello Seth, et al,

I lead the government affairs team at [Medium](#) and was hoping to connect with you or someone from the communications or digital team. I imagine you may have been getting a flurry of messages since the agency's tweets yesterday.

Medium is a social publishing platform used by a number of government leaders and agencies including [POTUS](#), [VPOTUS](#), [The White House](#), [State](#), and many other departments, leaders, and Members of Congress.

[The Trump transition team is also using Medium](#) before they assume control over the White House Medium assets.

I wanted to see if you, Director Shaub, and/or another voice from OGE might be interested in using Medium to share more about how the agency recommends President-elect Trump proceed to avoid and ethical conflicts between his businesses and the presidency--or see if there is something else the office would like to communicate to the public.

I would be happy to help you and the agency understand on-platform best practices and we would be able to help promote anything you wanted to publish to help reach the widest audience possible. If any of this is interesting to you or the agency, I'm very willing to chat further at your convenience.

Cheers,
Matt

--



(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Vincent Salamone
Subject: FW: OGE TWITTER COMMENTS RE TRUMP ALLEGED CONFLICTS

Kehli Cage
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From: Joe diGenova [(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:06 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: OGE TWITTER COMMENTS RE TRUMP ALLEGED CONFLICTS

I am doing preparation for a legal commentary on this subject for Monday, December 5th, on WMAL RADIO and would like to discuss the process that was utilized to send out the OGE tweets on the above subject. I am looking for the process, who decided to do this, what is the historical precedent for such tweets, what other presidents-elect have received such tweets, etc. I am at [(b)(6)] Thank you for your assistance. Joseph E. diGenova

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:12 PM
To: Vincent Salamone
Subject: FW: Question for media liaison

Kehli Cage
Government Ethics Specialist
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From: Harris, Shane [(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:07 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Question for media liaison

Hi. I'm a senior writer at The Wall Street Journal. Can you tell me when you expect financial disclosure forms and other ethics documents to be available for President-Elect Trump's nominees? I'm specifically interested in the following individuals and how to obtain the documents they're required to file:

Mike Flynn (national security adviser)
KT McFarland (deputy national security adviser)
Mike Pompeo (CIA director)
Jeff Sessions (Attorney General)

I'd also be interested in getting the same forms for other positions as they become available.

Thanks!

Shane

--

Shane Harris
senior writer/national security



(b)
(6)



Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Kehli Cage
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:04 PM
To: Bernadette Tolson
Subject: FYI

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/30/us/politics/donald-trump-business-president-elect.html? r=1>

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Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Rachel K. Dowell
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:49 PM
To: Walter M. Shaub; Elizabeth D. Horton
Subject: RE: FOIA 17-010 and FOIA 17-011

(b)(5)

Courts have opined that a cut-off date that is based on the date of the search “results in a much fuller search and disclosure” than a less inclusive cut-off date, such as one based on the date of the request or its receipt by the agency. However, “agencies may choose not to use a ‘date-of-search cut-off’ if specific circumstances warrant.”

From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:02 PM
To: Elizabeth D. Horton
Cc: Rachel K. Dowell
Subject: RE: FOIA 17-010 and FOIA 17-011

[Oops used Rachel's WH address](#)

From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:58 PM
To: Elizabeth D. Horton
Cc: 'Dowell, Rachel'
Subject: RE: FOIA 17-010 and FOIA 17-011

[I thought the end date was normally the date of the request.](#)

From: Elizabeth D. Horton
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 7:55 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub
Subject: RE: FOIA 17-010 and FOIA 17-011

[Good morning Walt.](#)

[The requests ask for all emails to the present so the end date would be the date that you conduct the search. Please let me know if you have any further questions. Thank you.](#)

From: Walter M. Shaub
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 3:05 PM
To: Elizabeth D. Horton
Subject: RE: FOIA 17-010 and FOIA 17-011

[What is the ending date of the period covered?](#)

From: Elizabeth D. Horton
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 8:10 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub; David J. Apol
Subject: FW: FOIA 17-010 and FOIA 17-011

Good morning Walt and Dave.

This is a gentle reminder to provide responsive documents or indicate that you do not have any responsive documents for these FOIA requests. I have already received the legislative update emails from others, so you do not need to provide those but please provide any other responsive documents.

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

From: Elizabeth D. Horton
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 11:13 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub; Matthew A. Marinec; David J. Apol; Seth Jaffe; Diana Veilleux; Dale A. Christopher
Subject: FW: FOIA 17-010 and FOIA 17-011

I have spoken with the requester and he wishes to receive all emails including news summaries. Please provide all emails from January to the present. Thank you.

From: Elizabeth D. Horton
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 8:47 AM
To: Walter M. Shaub; Matthew A. Marinec; David J. Apol; Seth Jaffe; Diana Veilleux; Dale A. Christopher
Subject: FW: FOIA 17-010 and FOIA 17-011

Good morning.

One of the requesters is seeking all emails from January 2016 through the present and the other requester is seeking all emails sent on November 8, 9 and 10, 2016. I have contacted the requester seeking the emails from January to see if he is willing to exclude emails regarding news summaries (i.e., leg updates).

In the meantime, please forward all emails from November 8, 9, and 10 (including leg updates) and any other emails besides leg updates from January to the present and I will let you know whether or not the requester has agreed to limit his request.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

From: Elizabeth D. Horton
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 5:15 PM
To: Walter M. Shaub; Matthew A. Marinec; Dale A. Christopher; David J. Apol; Seth Jaffe; Diana Veilleux
Subject: FOIA 17-010 and FOIA 17-011

Good afternoon.

OGE received two FOIA requests for all emails to, from or carbon copying "Walter Shaub, Matthew Marinec, Dale A. Christopher, Barbara A. Mullen-Roth, David J. Apol, Seth Jaffe, Diana Veilleux that contain the word 'TRUMP'" from January 2016 to the present.

Please search your email accounts for any records responsive to these requests and provide any responsive records by COB November 21, 2016.

If you do not have any responsive records, 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

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From: [Wendy G. Pond](#)
To: [David J. Apol](#); [Vincent Salamone](#)
Subject: RE: link
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:31:31 PM

Correct link:

<https://www2.oge.gov/Web/OGE.nsf/Resources/Third-Party+Website+Privacy+Statement+-+Social+Media>

From: Wendy G. Pond
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:24 PM
To: David J. Apol <djapol@oge.gov>; Vincent Salamone <vjsalamo@oge.gov>
Subject: link

<https://intpriaps02.oge.gov/Web/OGE.nsf/Resources/Third-Party+Website+Privacy+Statement+-+Social+Media>

From: [Tracey Ligon](#)
To: [Wendy G. Pond](#)
Subject: RE: Twitter
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:14:20 AM

Thanks, Wendy.

Tracey L. Ligon
Attorney and Deputy Ethics Official
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463
(b)(6)

From: Wendy G. Pond [mailto:wgpond@oge.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:31 PM
To: Tracey Ligon (b)(6)
Cc: Leigh J. Francis <ljfranci@oge.gov>
Subject: Twitter

Hi Tracey –

Thanks for your voicemail. If your press officer wants, s/he can talk to the person at OGE who's handling our press inquiries on this issue. His name is Leigh Francis, ljfranci@oge.gov, 202-482-9313.

Best,

Wendy

Wendy Pond

Senior Desk Officer &

International Assistance and Outreach Team Lead

US Office of Government Ethics

202-482-9285

wgpond@oge.gov

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OGE Confidential Notice: This email, including all attachments, may constitute a Federal record or other Government property that is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This email also may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the transmission to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or use of this email or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender by responding to the email and then immediately delete the email.

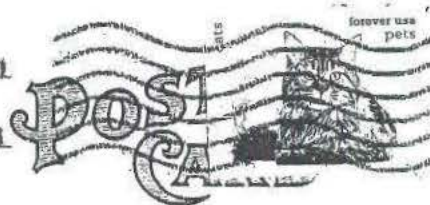
Dear office of Government

BOSTON MA 021

Please do all you can do to enforce ethics laws and practices by holding PE Trump accountable ! We encourage you as you work to seek a CERTIFICATE OF DIVESTITURE from PE Trump !

Alexander Hamilton, Founding Father

An illegitimate child born and orphaned in the West Indies, Alexander Hamilton managed to make his way to New York and enrolled at Columbia University on the eve of the American Revolution. By age 20, he was Chief of Staff to General George Washington. Appointed the first Secretary of the Treasury, he solidified federal fiscal powers, laying the groundwork for an industrial economy. The emergence of Wall Street as a financial capital was shaped largely by his actions. He also established the Bank of New York and New York Post, both still in operation today. Ahead of his time and loathed by many of his peers, most especially Thomas Jefferson, Hamilton was shot and killed during a duel with the nut-job Aaron Burr, his nemesis in New York politics, in Weehawken, New Jersey, 1804.



TO U.S. Office of
Government Ethics
1201 New York Ave.
Suite 500
Washington DC
20005



ART BY JENNIFER HOWLAND HILL
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(b)(6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the top right portion of the document.

December 2, 2016

U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

To whom it may concern:

I am a citizen from Massachusetts. I am writing because I am concerned about the President-elect's conflicts of interest from his business. I am also concerned that your office sent out a tweet storm Wednesday congratulating the President-elect on his announcement that he will leave his business. His commitment to leave his business is vague. It is likely that he will retain a financial interest in his business, and that his children will be running his business. That does not constitute a blind trust. I hope that the Office of Government Ethics intends to more diligently ensure that the President-elect is not subject to conflicts of interest.

Thank you for your time.

(b)(6)

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2016 DEC -6 AM 11:00

(b)(6)



November 26, 2016

To whom it may concern:

U.S. Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, N.W. Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

I am deeply concerned about Donald Trump's conflicts of interest and nepotism.

He has already used his President Elect status to lure dignitaries from all over the world to his new Hotel in Washington DC, to garner favors from Argentina for his Buenos Aries project on a phone call with Ivanka, met with partners in India, met with Japans Prime minister with Ivanka, sought to strong-arm the British government to appoint his Brexit ally, Nigel Farage, as ambassador to the United States, encouraged Mr. Farage and his entourage to oppose the kind of offshore wind farms that Mr. Trump believes will mar the pristine view from one of his two Scottish golf courses, his son attended meetings with Syria and Russia, he has scolded and berated and tried to silence the news media, please protect our first amendment rights.

All this screams conflict of interest and nepotism.

First and foremost Trump needs to decide if he wants to run his businesses or run the government.

If he wants to run the government he needs to accept and adhere to the recommendations and guidelines to place his businesses in a blind trust (not with his children) and accept and adhere to the laws and guidelines in regard to nepotism.

Donald Trump thinks that he is above all the laws, rules and regulations.

I am depending on your department to let Donald Trump know that he must adhere to these rules, regulations, recommendations and laws or he needs to step down.

Additionally, I would like to know the status of the investigations into his ties with Russia and the misappropriations of his foundation funds.

Thank you.

(b)(6)



Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 1:00 PM
To: Vincent Salamone
Subject: FW: Puzder/DOL

Kehli Cage
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From: Penn, Ben (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 12:39 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Puzder/DOL

Hi Vincent,

I'm a reporter covering the Labor Department a newbie to government ethics law. Any way you or somebody else at OGE could help me this afternoon for an article on potential Trump labor secretary Andrew Puzder and whether DOL investigations of his restaurants pose a conflict of interests if he's appointed?

Thanks.

Ben Penn

Reporter, Daily Labor Report

Bloomberg BNA

Office: (703) 341-3978

Cell: (b)(6)

bpenn@bna.com

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 9:56 AM
To: Vincent Salamone
Subject: FW: Question from Newsweek/IB Times about General Mattis stock portfolio

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From: Avi Asher-Schapiro (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 12:25 AM
To: Contact OGE
Cc: Seth Jaffe
Subject: Question from Newsweek/IB Times about General Mattis stock portfolio

Hi Vincent,

I hope this finds you well. President-elect Trump announced his plans to appoint General Mattis to be Secretary of Defense. Public records indicate he [owns](#) over \$700,000 in General Dynamics stocks—one of the Pentagon's largest contractors.

I am wondering if he will be required to divest from those holdings, given the conflicts definition outlined in 18 U.S.C. § 208(a).

Thank you,

Avi

--

Avi Asher-Schapiro | **Politics Reporter**

(b)(6)

From: [David J. Apol](#)
To: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
Subject: FW: Donald Trump cabinet list - New White House administration - Washington Post
Date: Friday, December 02, 2016 10:55:11 AM

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

From: David J. Apol
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 1:43 PM
To: Ty Cooper
Subject: Donald Trump cabinet list - New White House administration - Washington Post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/trump-administration-appointee-tracker/>

From: [David J. Apol](#)
To: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
Subject: FW: Donald Trump Can Legally Run His Company From the Oval Office - The Daily Beast
Date: Friday, December 02, 2016 10:52:45 AM

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

From: Vincent Salamone
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:39 AM
To: David J. Apol
Subject: Donald Trump Can Legally Run His Company From the Oval Office - The Daily Beast

Daily Beast Story:

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/09/21/donald-trump-can-legally-run-his-company-from-the-oval-office.html>

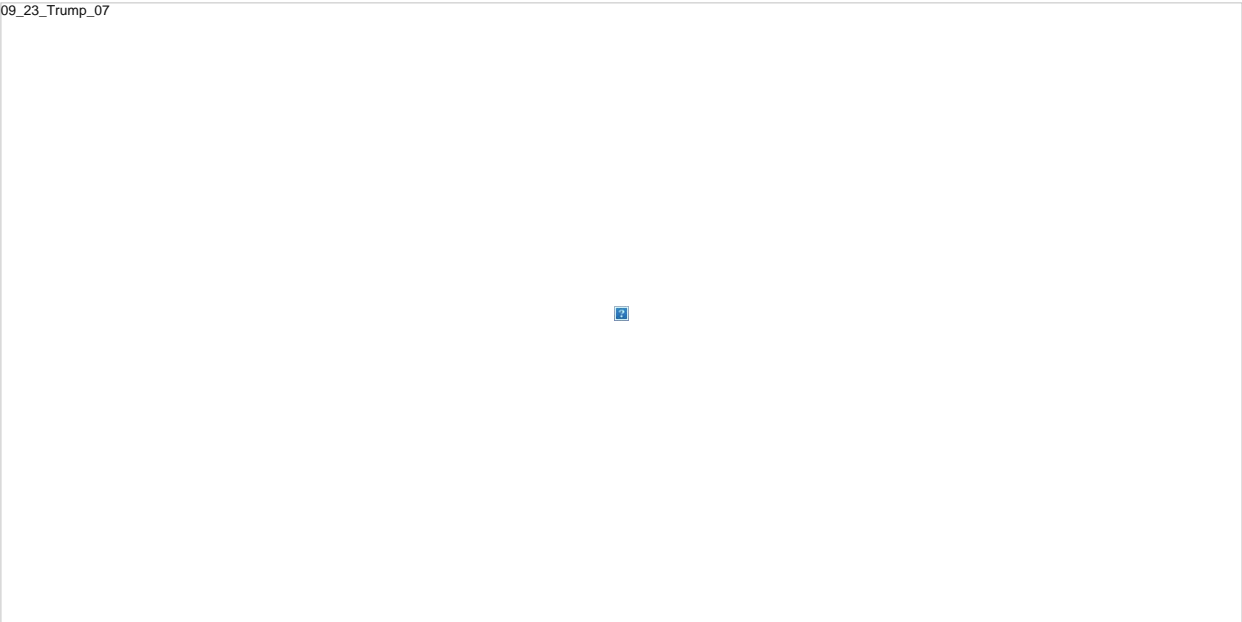
Vince

From: [David J. Apol](#)
To: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
Subject: FW: Email ng: How the Trump Organization's Foreign Business Ties Could Upend U.S. National Security.htm
Date: Friday, December 02, 2016 10:53:01 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.jpg](#)

From: Vincent Salamone
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:36 AM
To: David J. Apol
Subject: Email ng: How the Trump Organization's Foreign Business Ties Could Upend U.S. National Security.htm
SEPTEMBER 23

HOW THE TRUMP ORGANIZATION'S FOREIGN BUSINESS TIES COULD UPEND U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

BY **KURT EICHENWALD** ON 9/14/16 AT 5:30 AM
09_23_Trump_07



09/23/16

COVER STORY

Trump's global deals would make it impossible for him to conduct foreign policy in many countries without padding or depleting his wallet. Gabe Souza/Portland Press Herald/Getty

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U.S.

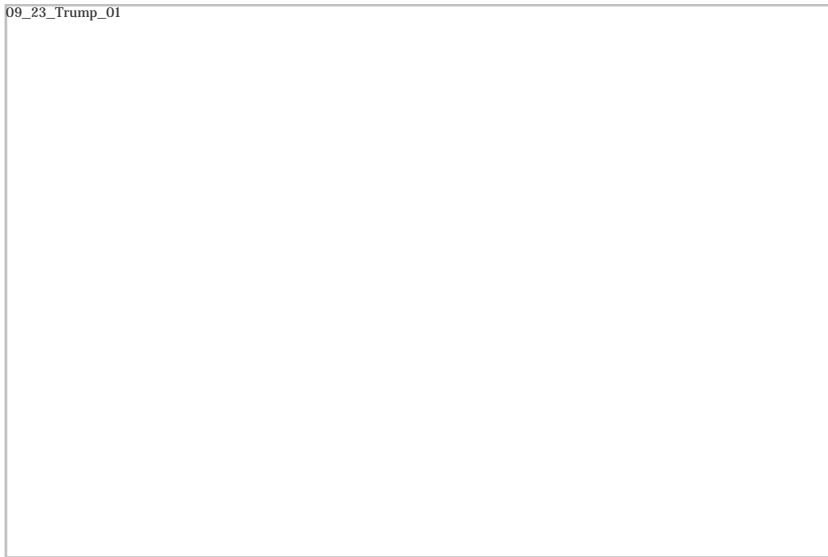
CLOSE

Updated | If Donald Trump is elected president, will he and his family permanently sever all connections to the Trump Organization, a sprawling business empire that has spread a secretive financial web across the world? Or will Trump instead choose to be the most conflicted president in American history, one whose business interests will constantly jeopardize the security of the United States?

Throughout this campaign, the Trump Organization, which pumps potentially hundreds of millions of dollars into the Trump family's bank accounts each year, has been largely ignored. As a private enterprise, its businesses, partners and investors are hidden from public view, even though they are the very people who could be enriched by—or will further enrich—Trump and his family if he wins the presidency.

Try Newsweek for only **\$1.25 per week**

A close examination by *Newsweek* of the Trump Organization, including confidential interviews with business executives and some of its international partners, reveals an enterprise with deep ties to global financiers, foreign politicians and even criminals, although there is no evidence the Trump Organization has engaged in any illegal activities. It also reveals a web of contractual entanglements that could not be just canceled. If Trump moves into the White House and his family continues to receive any benefit from the company, during or even after his presidency, almost every foreign policy decision he makes will raise serious conflicts of interest and ethical quagmires.



Donald Trump waves during a campaign event in Albany, New

York, April 11, 2016. John Taggart/Bloomberg/Getty

The Mumbai Shuffle

The Trump Organization is not like the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, the charitable enterprise that has been the subject of intense scrutiny about possible conflicts for the Democratic presidential nominee. There are allegations that Hillary Clinton bestowed benefits on contributors to the foundation in some sort of “pay to play” scandal when she was secretary of state, but that makes no sense because there was no “pay.” Money contributed to the foundation was publicly disclosed and went to charitable efforts, such as fighting neglected tropical diseases that infect as many as a billion people. The financials audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the global independent accounting company, and the foundation’s tax filings show that about 90 percent of the money it raised went to its charitable programs. (Trump surrogates have falsely claimed that it was only 10 percent and that the rest was used as a Clinton “slush fund.”) No member of the Clinton family received any cash from the foundation, nor did it finance any political campaigns. In fact, like the Clintons, almost the entire board of directors works for free.

On the other hand, the Trump family rakes in untold millions of dollars from the Trump Organization every year. Much of that comes from deals with international financiers and developers, many of whom have been tied to controversial and even illegal activities. None of Trump’s overseas contractual business relationships examined by *Newsweek* were revealed in his campaign’s financial filings with the Federal Election Commission, nor was the amount paid to him by his foreign partners. (The Trump campaign did not respond to a request for the names of all foreign entities in partnership or contractually tied to the Trump Organization.) Trump’s financial filings also indicate he is a shareholder or beneficiary of several overseas entities, including Excel Venture LLC in the French West Indies and Caribusiness Investments SRL, based in the Dominican Republic, one of the world’s tax havens.

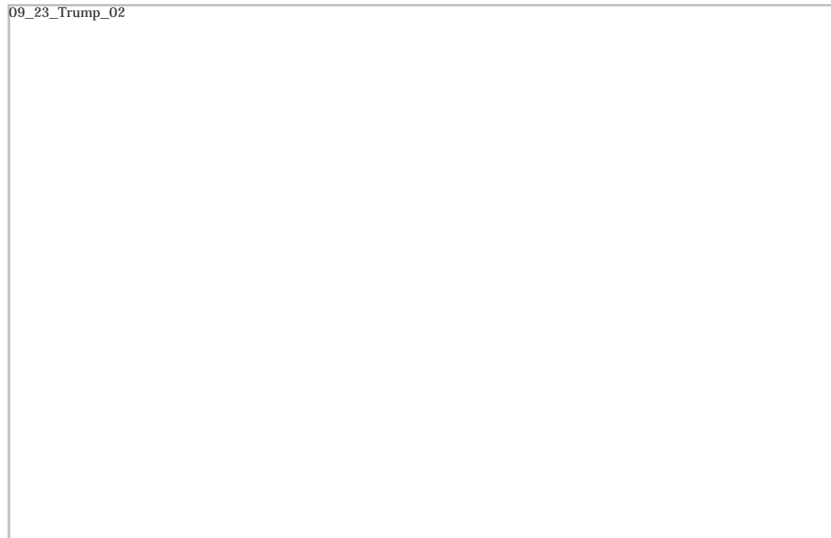
Trump’s business conflicts with America’s national security interests cannot be resolved so long as he or any member of his family maintains a financial interest in the Trump Organization during a Trump administration, or even if they leave open the possibility of returning to the company later. The Trump Organization cannot be placed into a blind trust, an arrangement used by many politicians to prevent them from knowing their financial interests; the Trump family is already aware of who their overseas partners are and could easily learn about any new ones.

Many foreign governments retain close ties to and even control of companies in their country, including several that already are partnered with the Trump Organization. Any government wanting to seek future influence with President Trump could do so by arranging for a partnership with the Trump Organization, feeding money directly to the family or simply stashing it away inside the company for their use once Trump is out of the White House. This is why, without a permanent departure of the entire Trump family from their company, the prospect of legal bribery by overseas powers seeking to influence American foreign policy, either through existing or future partnerships, will remain a reality throughout a Trump presidency.

Moreover, the identity of every partner cannot be discovered if Trump reverses course and decided to release his taxes. The partnerships are struck with some of the more than 500 entities disclosed in Trump’s financial disclosure forms; each of those entities has its own records that would have to be revealed for a full accounting of all of Trump’s foreign entanglements to be made public.

The problem of overseas conflicts emerges from the nature of Trump’s business in recent years. Much of the public believes Trump is a hugely successful developer, a television personality and a failed casino operator. But his primary business deals for almost a decade have been a quite different endeavor. The GOP nominee is essentially a licensor who leverages his celebrity into streams of cash from partners from all over the world. The business model for Trump’s company started to change around 2007, after he became the star of NBC’s *The Apprentice*, which boosted his national and international fame. Rather than constructing Trump’s own hotels, office towers and other buildings, much of his business involved striking deals with overseas developers who pay his company for the right to slap his name on their buildings. (The last building constructed by Trump with his name on it is the Trump-SoHo hotel and condominium project, completed in 2007.)

In public statements, Trump and his son Donald Trump Jr. have celebrated their company’s international branding business and announced their intentions to expand it. “The opportunities for growth are endless, and I look forward to building upon the tremendous success we have enjoyed,” Donald Trump Jr. said in 2013. Trump Jr. has cited prospects in Russia, Ukraine, Vietnam, Thailand, Argentina and other countries.



Trump and his many family members receive millions each year from the Trump Organization, which gets most of its profits from a complex web of licensing deals all over the globe. Dennis Van Tine/ABACAUSA/Newscom

The idea of selling the Trump brand name to overseas developers emerged as a small piece of the company's business in the late 1990s. At that time, two executives from Daewoo Engineering and Construction met with Trump at his Manhattan offices to propose paying him for the right to use his name on a new complex under development, according to former executives from the South Korean company. Daewoo had already worked with the Trump Organization to build the Trump World Tower, which is close to the Manhattan headquarters of the United Nations. The former Daewoo executives said Trump was at first skeptical, but in 1999 construction began on the South Korean version of Trump World, six condominium properties in Seoul and two neighboring cities. According to the two former executives, the Trump Organization received an annual fee of approximately \$8 million a year.

Shortly after the deal was signed, the parent company of Daewoo Engineering and Construction, the Daewoo Group, collapsed into bankruptcy amid allegations of what proved to be a \$43 billion accounting fraud. The chairman of the Daewoo Group, Kim Woo Choong, fled to North Korea; he returned in 2005, was arrested and convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to 10 years in prison. According to the two former Daewoo executives, a reorganization of Daewoo after its bankruptcy required revisions in the Trump contract, but the Trump Organization still remains allied with Daewoo Engineering and Construction.

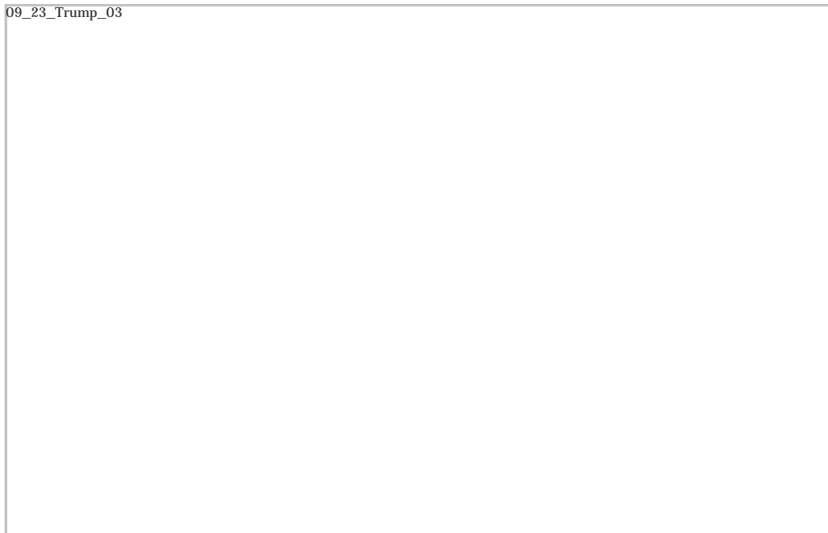
This relationship puts Trump's foreign policies in conflict with his financial interests. Earlier this year, he said South Korea should plan to shoulder its own military defense rather than relying on the United States, including the development of nuclear weapons. (He later denied making that statement, which was video-recorded.) One of the primary South Korean companies involved in nuclear energy, a key component in weapons development, is Trump's partner—Daewoo Engineering and Construction. It would potentially get an economic windfall if the United States adopted policies advocated by Trump.

In India, the conflicts between the interests of the Trump Organization and American foreign policy are starker. Trump signed an agreement in 2011 with an Indian property developer called Rohan Lifescapes that wanted to construct a 65-story building with his name on it. Leading the talks for Rohan was Kalpesh Mehta, a director of the company who would later become the exclusive representative of Trump's businesses in India. However, government regulatory hurdles soon impeded the project. According to a former Trump official who spoke on condition of anonymity, Donald Trump Jr. flew to India to plead with Prithviraj Chavan, chief minister of Maharashtra, a state in Western India, asking that he remove the hurdles, but the powerful politician refused to make an exception for the Trump Organization. It would be extremely difficult for a foreign politician to make that call if he were speaking to the son of the president of the United States.

The Mumbai deal with Rohan fell apart in 2013, but a new branding deal (Trump Tower Mumbai) was struck with the Lodha Group, a major Indian developer. By that time, Trump had an Indian project underway in the city of Pune with a large developer called Panchshil Realty that agreed to pay millions for use of the Trump brand on two 22-floor towers. His new partner, Atul Chordia of Panchshil, appeared awed in public statements about his association with the famous Trump name and feted Trump with a special dinner attended by actors, industrialists, socialites and even a former Miss Universe.

Last month, scandal erupted over the development, called Trump Towers Pune, after the state government and local police started looking into discrepancies in the land records suggesting that the land on which the building was constructed may not have been legally obtained by Panchshil. The Indian company says no rules or laws were broken, but if government officials conclude otherwise, the project's future will be in jeopardy—and create a problem that Indian politicians eager to please an American president might have to resolve.

Through the Pune deal, the Trump Organization has developed close ties to India's Nationalist Congress Party—a centrist political organization that stands for democratic secularism and is led by Sharad Pawar, an ally of the Chordia family that owns Panchshil—but that would be of little help in this investigation. Political power in India rests largely with the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress, a secular nationalist party that led controlled the central government for nearly 50 years. (However, Trump is very popular with the Hindu Sena, a far-right radical nationalist group that sees his anti-Muslim stance as a sign he would take an aggressive stand against Pakistan. When Trump turned 70 in June, members of that organization threw a birthday party for the man they called "the savior of humanity.")



A billboard for the luxury residential apartment complex Trump

Tower Mumbai tries to lure in buyers by using the Trump name. Trump's company hopes to invest aggressively in India, and critics wonder if an investigation into one of his major developments there will be dropped if he's elected. INDRANIL MUKHERJEE/AFP/Getty

Even as Trump was on the campaign trail, the Trump Organization struck another deal in India that drew the Republican nominee closer to another political group there. In April, the company inked an agreement with Ireo, a private real estate equity business based in the Indian city of Gurgaon. The company, which has more than 500 investors in the fund that will be paying the Trump Organization, is headed by Madhukar Tulsi, a prominent real estate executive in India. In 2010, Tulsi's home and the offices of Ireo were raided as part of a sweeping corruption inquiry related to the 2010 Commonwealth Games held in New Delhi. According to one Indian business executive, government investigators believed that Ireo had close ties with a prominent Indian politician—Sudhanashu Mittal, then a senior member of the BJP—who was suspected in playing a role in rerouting money earned from Commonwealth Games contracts through tax havens into Ireo's real estate projects. A senior official with Ireo, Tulsi is a relative of Mittal's. No charges were ever brought in the case, but the investigation did reveal the close political ties between a prominent Indian political party and a company that is now a Trump partner.

No doubt, few Indian political groups hoping to establish close ties to a possible future American president could have missed the recent statements from the Trump family that its company wanted to do more deals in their country. As the Republican National Convention was about to get underway in July, the Trump Organization declared it was planning a massive expansion in the South Asian country. "We are very bullish on India and plan to build a pan-India development footprint for Trump-branded residential and office projects," Donald Trump Jr. told the *Hindustan Times*. "We have a very aggressive pipeline in the north and east, and look forward to the announcement of several exciting new projects in the months ahead."

That is a chilling example of the many looming conflicts of interest in a Trump presidency. If he plays tough with India, will the government assume it has to clear the way for projects in that "aggressive pipeline" and kill the investigations involving Trump's Pune partners? And if Trump takes a hard line with Pakistan, will it be for America's strategic interests or to appease Indian government officials who might jeopardize his profits from Trump Towers Pune?

Branding Wars in the Middle East

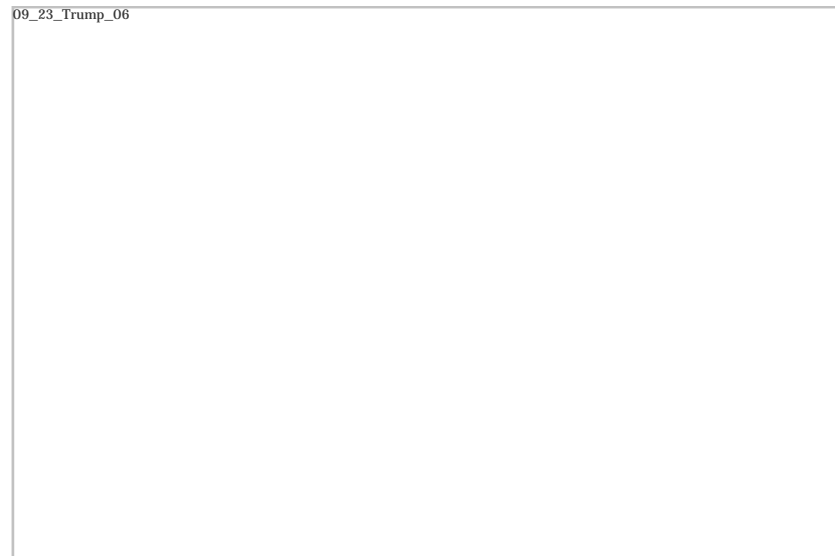
Trump already has financial conflicts in much of the Islamic world, a problem made worse by his anti-Muslim rhetoric and his impulsive decisions during this campaign. One of his most troubling entanglements is in Turkey. In 2008, the Trump Organization struck a branding deal with the Dogan Group, named for its owners, one of the most politically influential families in Turkey. Trump and Dogan first agreed that the Turkish company would pay a fee to put the Trump name on two towers in Istanbul.

When the complex opened in 2012, Trump attended the ribbon-cutting and declared his interest in more collaborations with Turkish businesses and in making significant investments there. In a sign of the political clout of the Dogan family, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with Trump and even presided over the opening ceremonies for the Trump-branded property. (Erdogan attended even though a newspaper the Dogan's own, called *Hurriyet*, is one of the few media outlets in the country that publishes articles criticizing a government that is renowned for clamping down on journalistic freedom.)

The influence that allowed for the Dogans to attract Erdogan to the ceremonies has collapsed, and once again, a Trump partner became caught up in allegations of criminal activities. In March of this year, an Istanbul court accepted an indictment of Aydin Dogan, chairman of the Dogan Group, on charges he engaged in a fuel smuggling. Aydin Dogan has proclaimed his innocence, and critics of the action have proclaimed that the indictment was a politically motivated attempt to crush the company that has served as a journalistic opponent of the government.

Erdogan also struck at the family's business partner, Trump, for his anti-Muslim rhetoric. In June, Erdogan called for the Trump name to be removed from the complex in Istanbul and said presiding over its dedication had been a mistake. Still, that would leave a President Trump in a conflict. Dogan is his business partner, Erdogan is an essential American ally, and they both now are set against each other. Trump might have to choose whether to ignore his partner's plight or to pressure Erdogan for his own financial benefit.

This is no minor skirmish. American-Turkish relations are one of the most important national security issues for the United States. Turkey is among the few Muslim countries allied with America in the fight against the Islamic State militant group; it carries even greater importance because it is a Sunni-majority nation aiding the U.S. military against the Sunni extremists. Turkey has allowed the U.S. Air Force to use a base as a major staging area for bombing and surveillance missions against ISIS. A Trump presidency, according to the Arab financier in direct contact with senior Turkish officials, would place that cooperation at risk, particularly since Erdogan, who is said to despise Trump, has grasped more power following a thwarted coup d'état in July.



Trump tried to get into Dubai, but his deal with Nakheel LLC, run

by Ali Rashid Lootah, in white, to build a tulip-shaped hotel died on the vine. Subhash Sharma/Polaris/Newscom

In other words, Trump would be in direct financial and political conflict with Turkey from the moment he was sworn into office. Once again, all his dealings with Turkey would be suspect. Would Trump act in the interests of the United States or his wallet? When faced with the prospect of losing the millions of dollars that flow into the Trump Organization each year from that Istanbul property, what position would President Trump take on the important issues involving Turkish-American relations, including that country's role in the fight against ISIS?

Another conundrum. Turkey is at war with the Kurds, America's allies in the fight against ISIS in Syria. Kurdish insurgent groups are in armed conflict with Turkey, demanding an independent Kurdistan. If Turkey cuts off the Trump Organization's cash flow from Istanbul, will Trump, who has shown many times how petty and impulsive he can be, allow that to influence how the U.S. juggles the interests of these two critical allies?

Similar disturbing problems exist with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), another Muslim nation that is an important American ally. Trump has pursued business opportunities in the oil-rich nation for years, with mixed success. His first venture was in 2005, when the Trump Organization struck a branding deal with a top Emirates developer called Nakheel LLC, backed by Dubai's royal family, that planned to build a tulip-shaped hotel on a man-made island designed to look like a palm tree.

In 2008, a bribery and corruption probe was launched involving the company's multibillion-dollar Dubai Waterfront project. Two Nakheel executives were charged with fraud and cleared, but Nakheel's financial condition deteriorated amid a collapse in real estate prices; the Trump project was delayed and then canceled.

So, in 2013, the Trump Organization struck another branding deal, this time with Nakheel's archrival, Damac Properties, a division of the Damac Group, that wanted the Trump name on a planned 18-hole PGA Championship golf course. The deal was negotiated by Hussain Ali Sajwani, chairman of Damac, who had engaged in controversial land deals with senior government officials in the UAE. He met personally with Trump about the project, and their relationship grew, ultimately leading to Damac working with the Trump Organization on two branded golf courses and a collection of villas in Dubai. According to the former executive with the Trump Organization, Trump has said he personally invested in some of the Dubai projects.

In this case, even the possibility of a Trump presidency has created chaos for the Trump Organization. On December 7, when Trump called for a "total and complete shutdown" of Muslims being allowed into the United States, the reaction in the UAE was instantaneous. There were calls to boycott the Damac-Trump properties. Damac put out a statement essentially saying its deal with the Trump Organization had nothing to do with Donald Trump personally, a claim that fooled no one. On December 10, Damac removed Trump's image and name from its properties. Two days later, the name went back up, setting off an even louder outcry. Damac's share price dropped 15 percent amid the controversy, and it was forced to guarantee rental returns for some of its luxury properties bearing the Trump name.

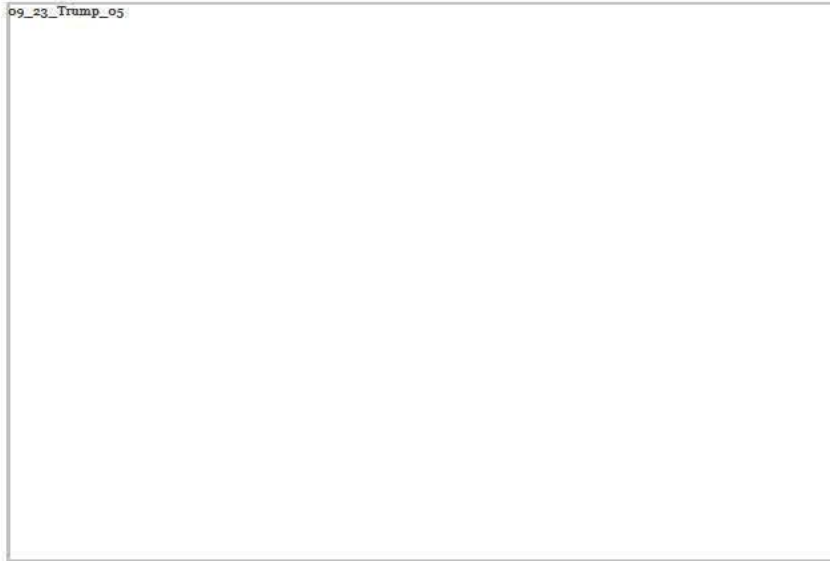
Other UAE businesses with connections to Trump are also shunning the brand. The Dubai-based Landmark Group, one of the Middle East's largest retail companies, said it was pulling products with Trump's name off of its shelves.

With Middle Eastern business partners and American allies turning on him, Trump lashed out. Prince Alwaleed bin Talal—the billionaire who aided Trump during his corporate bankruptcies in the 1990s by purchasing his yacht, which provided him with desperately needed cash—sent out a tweet amid the outcry in Dubai, calling the Republican candidate a "disgrace." (Alwaleed is a prodigious tweeter and Twitter's second largest shareholder.) Trump responded with an attack on the prince—a member of the ruling Saudi royal family—with a childish tweet, saying, "Dopey Prince @Alwaleed_Talal wants to control our U.S. politicians with daddy's money. Can't do it when I get elected. #Trump2016."

Once again, Trump's personal and financial interests are in conflict with critical national security issues for the United States. During the Bush administration, Abu Dhabi, the UAE's capital, and Washington reached a bilateral agreement to improve international standards for nuclear nonproliferation. Cooperation is particularly important for the United States because Iran—whose potential development of nuclear weapons has been a significant security issue, leading to an international agreement designed to place controls on its nuclear energy efforts—is one of the UAE's largest trading partners, and Dubai has been a transit point for sensitive technology bound for Iran.

Given Trump's name-calling when faced with a critical tweet from a member of the royal family in Saudi Arabia, an important ally, how would he react as president if his company's business in the UAE collapsed? Would his decisions in the White House be based on what is best for America or on what would keep the cash from Dubai flowing to him and his family?

09_23_Trump_05



Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, a nephew of Saudi Arabia's King

Abdullah and one of the world's richest men, has traded insults with Trump over Twitter. Neil Hall/Reuters

A Strongman's Best Friend

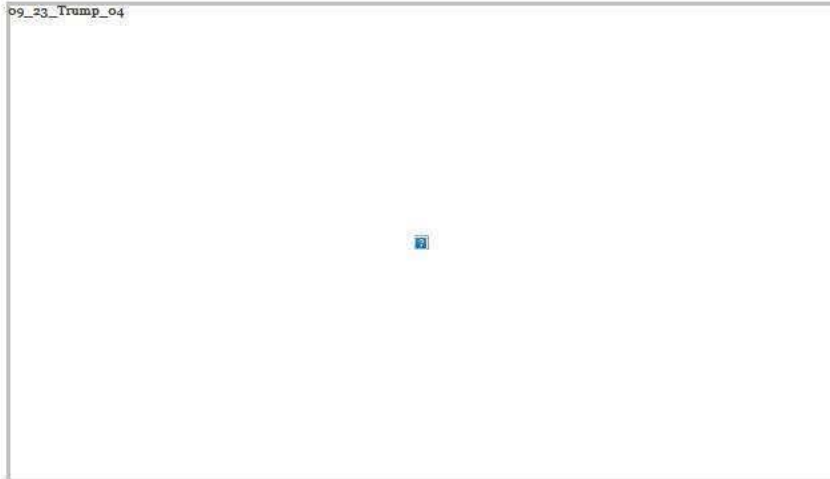
Some of the most disturbing international dealings by the Trump Organization involved Trump's attempts to woo Libyan dictator Muammar el-Qaddafi. The United States had labeled Qaddafi as a sponsor of terrorism for decades; President Ronald Reagan even launched a military attack on him in 1986 after the National Security Agency intercepted communications that showed Qaddafi was behind the bombing of a German discotheque that killed two Americans. He was also linked to the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259 people, in 1988.

But for the Trump Organization, Qaddafi was not a murdering terrorist; he was a prospect who might bring the company financing and the opportunity to build a resort on the Mediterranean coast of Libya. According to an Arab financier and a former businessman from the North African country, Trump made entreaties to Qaddafi and other members of his government, beginning in 2008, in which he sought deals that would bring cash to the Trump Organization from a sovereign wealth fund called the Libyan Investment Authority. The following year, Trump offered to lease his estate in Westchester County, New York, to Qaddafi; he took Qaddafi's money but, after local protests, forbade him from staying at his property. (Trump kept the cash.) "I made a lot of money with Qaddafi," Trump said recently about the Westchester escapade. "He paid me a fortune."

Another business relationship that could raise concerns about conflicts involves Azerbaijan, a country the State Department said in an official report was infused with "corruption and predatory behavior by politically connected elites." According to Trump's financial filings, the Republican nominee is the president of two entities called OT Marks Baku LLC and DT Marks Baku Manaaina Member Corp. Those were established as part of deals the Trump Organization made last year for a real estate project in the country's capital. The partner in the deal is Garant Holding, which is controlled by Anar Mammadov, the son of the country's transportation minister, Ziya Mammadov. According to American diplomatic cables made public in 2010, the United States possessed information that led diplomats to believe Ziya Mammadov laundered money for the Iranian military. No formal charges have been brought against either Mammadov.

Once again, however, this exposes potential conflicts between Trump's business connections and national security. While the development is currently on hold, it has not been canceled, meaning that Anar Mammadov could soon be paying millions of dollars to Trump. If American intelligence concludes, or has already concluded, that his business partner's father has been aiding Iran by laundering money for the military, will Trump's foreign policy decisions on Iran and Azerbaijan be based on the national security of the United States or the financial security of Donald Trump?

09_23_Trump_04



A taxi drives past a billboard showing US real-estate magnate

Donald Trump playing golf advertising the Trump International Golf Club Dubai in the United Arab Emirates on August 12, 2015. The empire of White House hopeful Donald Trump outside the United States extends to 12 countries including Turkey, South Korea, India, Brazil, and the United Arab Emirates. KARIM SAHIB/AFP/Getty

An Oligarch in D.C.

The Trump Organization also has dealings in Russia and Ukraine, and officials with the company have repeatedly stated they want to develop projects there. The company is connected to a controversial Russian figure, Vladimir Potanin, a billionaire with interests in mining, metals, banking and real estate. He was a host of the Russian version of *The Apprentice* (called *Candidate*), and Trump, through the Trump Organization, served as the show's executive producer. Potanin is deeply tied to the Russian government and obtained much of his wealth in the 1990s through what was called the loans-for-shares program, part of an effort by Moscow to privatize state properties through auction. Those sales were rigged. Insiders with political connections were the biggest beneficiaries.

Hoping to start its branding business in Russia, the Trump Organization registered the Trump name in 2008 as a trademark for projects in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Sochi. It also launched negotiations with a development company called the Mos City Group, but no deal was reached. The former Trump executive said that talks fell apart over the fees the Trump Organization wanted to charge—25 percent of the planned project's cost. However, the executive said, the Trump Organization has maintained close relations with Pavel Fuks, head of the Mos City Group. Fuks is one of the most politically prominent oligarchs in Russia, with significant interests in real estate and the country's financial industry, including the Pushkino bank and Sovcombank.

The Trump Organization has also shown interest in Ukraine. In 2006, Donald Trump Jr. and Ivanka Trump met with Viktor Tkachuk, an adviser to the Ukrainian president, and Andriy Zaika, head of the

From: [David J. Apol](#)
To: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
Subject: FW: Rizzi Op-Ed on Trump
Date: Friday, December 02, 2016 10:51:30 AM

From: Heather A. Jones
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 4:13 PM
To: Deborah J. Bortot; David J. Apol; Walter M. Shaub
Subject: Rizzi Op-Ed on Trump
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/ethics-rules-would-have-little-impact-on-a-president-trump/2016/10/03/e04e4dd2-875f-11e6-92c2-14b64f3d453f_story.html?hpid=hp_no-name_opinion-card-f%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.65b217cbe102

Heather Jones
(202) 482-9316
Office of Government Ethics
Visit OGE's website: www.oge.gov
Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics

From: [David J. Apol](#)
To: [Elizabeth D. Horton](#)
Subject: FW: thanks again
Date: Friday, December 02, 2016 10:52:25 AM

From: Steven Schooner (b)(6)]

Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 12:10 PM

To: David J. Apol

Subject: thanks again

Greetings and thanks again for your time last week. If you haven't seen these yet, you might be interested.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/11/15/trump-needs-to-give-up-his-trump-hotel-lease-right-now/>

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2016/11/16/donald-trump-hotel-conflict-mattingly-dnt-erin.cnn>

Best wishes

--

Steven L. Schooner

Nash & Cibinic Professor of Government Procurement Law

George Washington University

[Contact and info page](#)

Papers available on [SSRN-Schooner](#)

(b)(6)

(b)(5) - internal notes on teleconference call



From: [Penn, Ben](#)
To: [Contact OGE](#)
Subject: Puzder/DOL
Date: Friday, December 02, 2016 12:39:02 PM

Hi Vincent,

I'm a reporter covering the Labor Department a newbie to government ethics law. Any way you or somebody else at OGE could help me this afternoon for an article on potential Trump labor secretary Andrew Puzder and whether DOL investigations of his restaurants pose a conflict of interests if he's appointed?

Thanks.

Ben Penn

Reporter, Daily Labor Report

Bloomberg BNA

(b)(6)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: George Hancock
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 1:38 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Subject: RE: Update: Help Desk & Substantive Support to Filer Designee

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	Shelley K. Finlayson	Delivered: 12/2/2016 1:38 PM

It was a productive call. I think Keith appreciated hearing the positive feedback. Walt should be pleased with it too.

Appears Integrity may be used a lot this weekend. I alerted Alex in case. I will check the Integrity Help Desk email periodically and have my BB available.

Thank you.

From: Shelley K. Finlayson
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 1:09 PM
To: George Hancock
Subject: Re: Update: Help Desk & Substantive Support to Filer Designee

Thank you for the update. The call Sounds productive and it is nice to hear the positive feedback on the system.

From: George Hancock
Sent: Friday, December 2, 2016 12:24 PM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Diana Veilleux
Subject: Update: Help Desk & Substantive Support to Filer Designee

Update. I just found that this didn't go out when I planned.

Keith, Austin and I had the call. It lasted 26 minutes. After the initial navigation question, they had substantive questions that Keith answered.

The filer designee mentioned that (b)(5) Keith and I gave our contact information in case.

At the end, the filer designee added that he was impressed with the system indicating it is very intuitive and you've done a fine job with it.

Thank you.

From: George Hancock
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 9:36 AM
To: Shelley K. Finlayson
Cc: Diana Veilleux

Subject: Help Desk & Substantive Support to Filer Designee

Importance: High

Shelley:

I left you a voice message about an email to the Help Desk from (b)(5) filer designee for (b)(5) later emailed me while Austin was preparing a response.

I coordinated a planned response with Keith. I asked if he wanted to be on the call too in case substantive reporting questions arose. (b)(5)

I've scheduled a call for 10 to discuss with the filer designee.

Thank you.

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, December 04, 2016 10:20 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Request

If the OGE "Tweeted" the reported quote (below) regarding president-elect Donald Trump, who was the approving "tweeting" individual? I would like to avoid the FOIA process, but am interested in whether Mr. Shaub approved of the that Tweet and the elaborating ones later in the day. If the reports/Tweets are accurate, I think the OGE has behaved in a biased, unprofessional, and unethical manner. I look forward to your response. Thank you.

(b)(6)

San Diego, Ca.

"Bravo! Only way to resolve these conflicts of interest is to divest . Good call!" the agency tweeted, mimicking Trump's own tweeting style. And: "OGE is delighted that you've decided to divest your businesses. Right decision!"

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, December 04, 2016 12:29 PM
To: Contact OGE
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Tweet to President Elect Trump

Absolutely deplorable and misleading! tweeting Trump applauding his decision to divest his business holdings when he has NOT. This department is truly Un-ethical and I have lost ALL respect for the administrators of this department. SHAME (b)(6), New York an independent voter

Sent from my iPhone

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 4:36 PM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Hatch Act

You have recently indicated that even though Trump isn't legally obligated to distance himself from his businesses that he should anyway.

What about Obama/Biden using their positions within the government to influence the last election? Seems like the same thing, they were legally allowed to do this as they were exempted from the Hatch Act but shouldn't they have refrained from campaigning for Clinton anyway the way you expect Trump to divest even though he doesn't have to legally?

Where was your voice on the Hatch Act issue?

(b)(6)

Kelsey D. Phipps

From: Suzanne L. Meyer
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 12:46 PM
To: Kelsey D. Phipps
Subject: FOIA request response
Attachments: Hatch Act; Tweet to President Elect Trump; Request ; Feedback; FOIA request 12.9.16.pdf

Hi Kelsey,

Please see attached as well as email below.

Thanks,

Suzanne

From: Contact OGE
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 10:32 AM
To: Suzanne L. Meyer
Subject: FW: Question for media liaison

From: Shane Harris (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, December 04, 2016 11:19 AM
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Re: Question for media liaison

Can you please direct me to the media liaison on this question?

Shane Harris
Senior Writer, The Wall Street Journal
Fellow, International Security Program, New America
Author of @War: The Rise of the Military-Internet Complex
(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 1, 2016, at 2:06 PM, Harris, Shane <shane.harris@wsj.com> wrote:

Hi. I'm a senior writer at The Wall Street Journal. Can you tell me when you expect financial disclosure forms and other ethics documents to be available for President-Elect Trump's nominees? I'm specifically interested in the following individuals and how to obtain the documents they're required to file:

Mike Flynn (national security adviser)
KT McFarland (deputy national security adviser)
Mike Pompeo (CIA director)

Jeff Sessions (Attorney General)

I'd also be interested in getting the same forms for other positions as they become available.

Thanks!

Shane

--

Shane Harris

senior writer/national security

☐

(b)
(6)

☐

(b)(5) - internal notes



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



December 12, 2016

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6250

Dear Ranking Member Carper:

Thank for your letter dated November 20, 2016, regarding the role of the United States Office of Government Ethics (OGE) in preventing conflicts of interest. Your letter initially set a response deadline of December 5, 2016, but your office extended that deadline to December 12, 2016. I have enclosed OGE's responses to the questions posed in your letter.

If your staff has any questions or would like to discuss these responses, they may feel free to contact OGE's Chief of Staff, Shelley K. Finlayson, at (202) 482-9292.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Walter M. Shaub, Jr.", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.
Director

Enclosure

cc. The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman

RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS POSED IN THE NOVEMBER 20, 2016, LETTER OF THOMAS R. CARPER, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, UNITED STATES SENATE (DECEMBER 12, 2016)

Before responding to each of your questions, some background on OGE and its legal authorities may prove helpful. As your letter correctly indicates, OGE oversees the executive branch ethics program and works with ethics practitioners in more than 130 federal agencies to carry out its important mission of preventing conflicts of interest on the part of the approximately 2.7 million federal employees. However, OGE is not, as your letter indicates, an “independent” agency, with the protections and authorities¹ that such status would confer. Instead, OGE is an executive agency with the limited authorities that the Ethics in Government Act vests in it.²

As your letter suggests, OGE has some involvement in ethics issues related to Presidents. For example, the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act (STOCK Act) imposes limited ethics-related restrictions on the President.³ The STOCK Act bars the President from: using nonpublic information for private profit;⁴ engaging in insider trading;⁵ participating in an initial public offering;⁶ intentionally influencing an employment decision or practice of a private entity solely on the basis of partisan political affiliation;⁷ and participating in a particular matter directly and predictably affecting the financial interests of any person with whom he has, or is negotiating for, an agreement of future employment or compensation.⁸ In addition, OGE is authorized to review the President’s annual, periodic transaction, and termination financial disclosure reports.⁹ OGE’s regulations on gifts from outside sources and gifts from employees also apply to the President.¹⁰

¹ Such protections and authorities typically include: a restriction on removing the agency head, except for cause; a requirement that Congress be notified of the agency’s independent budget request; and bypass authority for unrestricted communications with Congress. *See, e.g.*, 5 U.S.C. §§ 1202(d), 1204(k)-(l), 1205-1206, 1211(b), 1212(e), 1217-18 (2012); 5 U.S.C. app. §§ 3(b), 5, 6(f) (2012).

² 5 U.S.C. app. §§ 401-408 (2012).

³ *See* STOCK Act, Pub. L. No. 112-105, § 2(3)(B)(i), 126 Stat. 291 (2012), as amended.

⁴ *See* STOCK Act, Pub. L. No. 112-105, § 9(a), 126 Stat. 291 (2012) (linked to the subject of OGE’s regulation on the misuse of nonpublic information at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.703 (2016)).

⁵ *See* STOCK Act, Pub. L. No. 112-105, § 9(b), 126 Stat. 291 (2012).

⁶ *See* STOCK Act, Pub. L. No. 112-105, § 12, 126 Stat. 291 (2012). However, note that, except for identifying and advising covered executive branch officials, OGE is not involved in interpreting section 12 because that section amends the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78u-1. *Cf.* OGE LA-14-02 (Mar. 7, 2014).

⁷ *See* STOCK Act, Pub. L. No. 112-105, § 18, 126 Stat. 291 (2012), (codified at 18 U.S.C. § 227 (2012)). Note, however, that the Ethics in Government Act does not authorize OGE to make any finding that a criminal law has been violated. 5 U.S.C. app. § 402(f)(5).

⁸ *See* STOCK Act, Pub. L. No. 112-105, § 17, 126 Stat. 291 (2012). Note that OGE has interpreted future employment or compensation as employment or compensation that will commence after a covered individual’s government service has ended. *See* OGE LA-13-06 (Apr. 25, 2013); OGE LA-12-01 (Apr. 6, 2012).

⁹ *See* 5 U.S.C. app. §§ 101(f)(1), 103(b), 106 (2012).

¹⁰ *See* 5 C.F.R. 2635.102(h) (2016). Note that an exception to the gift rules generally permits the President to accept gifts from outside sources, but that exception does not except him from overarching considerations relating to the acceptance of gifts. *See* 5 C.F.R. §§ 2635.204(j), 2635.202(c) (2016); *see also* 81 Fed. Reg. 81,641, 81,648-49 (Nov. 18, 2016) (to be codified at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.201).

At the same time, OGE's involvement in ethics issues related to the President has significant limits. For example, although the bribery statute applies to the President, a 1980 memorandum of understanding between OGE and the U.S. Department of Justice withholds from OGE authority to issue binding opinions on the statutory prohibition against bribery.¹¹ Similarly, although the President is subject to the Emoluments Clause¹² and the Presidential Emoluments Clause¹³ of the United States Constitution, OGE lacks authority and expertise to address issues arising under those clauses. In addition, provisions of the Ethics in Government Act limiting outside earned income and outside employment are inapplicable to the President because they employ the terms "officer" and "employee," which are subject to definitions that exclude the President in the same title of the United States Code.¹⁴ Most important to the questions raised in your letter, the primary criminal conflicts of interest statute, 18 U.S.C. § 208, is inapplicable to the President, though OGE has for more than three decades asserted authority to make nonbinding recommendations regarding a President's conflicts of interest.¹⁵

While OGE's role in ethics issues involving the President is limited, OGE has significant involvement in ethics issues related to the President's nominees. The law requires OGE to review the financial disclosure reports of most Presidential nominees for civilian positions requiring Senate confirmation. If confirmed, these individuals become, upon assuming their government positions, subject to the criminal conflict of interest laws at 18 U.S.C. §§ 201-208, as well as the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch (Standards of Conduct) and other OGE regulations. Those who are not special government employees also become subject to 18 U.S.C. § 209.¹⁶ Therefore, OGE reviews their financial disclosure reports not only for compliance with applicable disclosure requirements but also for conflicts of interest. OGE approaches this work from the perspective of managing risk, preparing ethics agreements to prescribe concrete steps they must take to reduce the potential for conflicts of interest to arise. OGE then transmits their nominee packages directly to the Senate.¹⁷

With this background, please find below OGE's responses to each of the questions posed in your November 20, 2016, letter.

¹¹ See 18 U.S.C. § 201 (2012).

¹² U.S. Const., art. I, § 9, cl. 8.

¹³ U.S. Const., art. II, § 1, cl. 7.

¹⁴ See 5 U.S.C. §§ 2104 (officer), 2105 (employee); 5 U.S.C. app. §§ 501 (Outside earned income limitation), 502 (Limitations on outside employment), 505(2) (modifying the definitions of "officer" and "employee" in title 5, United States Code to exclude from those definitions special government employees for purposes of title V of the Ethics in Government Act).

¹⁵ See 18 U.S.C. § 202(c) (2012); see also OGE opinion 83x16 (October 20, 1983) available online at [https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/01F8E09232041FD185257E96005FBBE8/\\$FILE/64ed9ad9bd294b45a88ac8729a97968a3.pdf?open](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Legal%20Advisories/01F8E09232041FD185257E96005FBBE8/$FILE/64ed9ad9bd294b45a88ac8729a97968a3.pdf?open).

¹⁶ For additional information, you may find it helpful to review OGE's Transition Guide, OGE's Nominee Ethics Guide, and the appendix to OGE's Nominee Ethics Guide. All three of these documents are available online at: <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Resources/PRESIDENTIAL+TRANSITION>.

¹⁷ For more information about OGE's mission, structure and operations, you might find it useful to review OGE's newly released agency profile publication, which is available online at [https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/0/AAD52FD1763F7B6A85258082005E8840/\\$FILE/OGE%20Agency%20Profile%20Book%20Spread%20View.pdf](https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/0/AAD52FD1763F7B6A85258082005E8840/$FILE/OGE%20Agency%20Profile%20Book%20Spread%20View.pdf)

QUESTION 1:

1. ***Handling of Trump Organization***—*For constitutional reasons, the President is exempt from certain conflict of interest rules, such as the prohibition on acting in matters affecting his personal financial interest or representing his own claims and business interests to the government. However, the President remains subject to many related statutes, such as prohibitions on bribery and embezzlement. President-elect Trump and the Trump Organization reportedly have business with the federal government, lease federal property, and have regulatory and enforcement matters presently being adjudicated by federal government agencies.*
 - a. *What guidance has Office of Government Ethics (OGE) provided to agency ethics officials regarding the protocols for handling matters directly affecting President-elect Trump and the Trump Organization?*

For approximately the past 18 months, OGE has worked diligently to prepare the executive branch ethics community for the types of ethics issues that demand greater focus during a Presidential transition. As part of that preparation, OGE undertook significant regulatory reforms and provided extensive guidance and training to agency ethics officials across the executive branch. The effort included, among other measures, strengthening OGE's regulations on seeking employment, gifts from outside sources, and requirements for the executive branch ethics program.¹⁸ 81 Fed. Reg. 48,687 (July 26, 2016); 81 Fed. Reg. 81,641 (November 18, 2016) (gifts from outside sources); and 81 Fed. Reg. 36,193 (June 6, 2016) (ethics program requirements). The effort also included proposed revisions to OGE's financial disclosure regulations. 81 Fed. Reg. 69,204 (October 5, 2016). In addition, OGE developed and distributed a number of new guidance and resource materials to ethics officials on topics such as nominee financial disclosure, ethics agreements, and post-employment restrictions.¹⁹ OGE provided extensive training to agency ethics officials on ethics issues related to the transition, including: a three-day training event regarding the Presidential transition with over 500 in-person participants and thousands of online viewers; a full day of financial disclosure training, with separate tracks for beginner and advanced reviewers; and a transition readiness program, comprising six distance learning events. This transition-specific training was in addition to the regular training that OGE presents in order to ensure that agency ethics officials have the requisite skills to support executive branch officials. In fiscal year 2016, OGE received nearly 7,000 registrations for its training courses, and recorded sessions from its past training events were viewed online over 20,000 times across the year.

OGE also worked extensively with the nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service and a number of agency service providers to advance the Partnership's transition readiness project. This project involved the development of guidance, training, and an expansive database of resource materials²⁰ for the transition teams of both major party Presidential candidates. In

¹⁸ Significantly, OGE's regulatory revisions to ethics program requirements included expanded ethics training requirements for executive branch employees, with specific emphasis on impartiality and misuse of position.

¹⁹ These materials are all available on OGE's website at www.oge.gov.

²⁰ For additional information, you may want to review the Partnership for Public Service's Center for Presidential Transition online at <http://presidentialtransition.org/>.

conjunction with this project, OGE met separately with each of the two transition teams and provided additional technical information and training on establishing transition procedures and operating *Integrity*,²¹ OGE's electronic public financial disclosure filing system. OGE also developed a page on its website dedicated to the Presidential transition, which is linked through a prominent banner on the homepage of its website.²² OGE contributed other information and materials to websites operated by the General Services Administration, as well.²³

b. Will OGE recommend safeguards to protect federal officials from fear of reprisal in dealings with the Trump Organization?

OGE believes that a strong ethical culture inherently depends on protecting whistleblowers. For this reason, OGE is supportive of the important work of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, which is the agency authorized to investigate and administratively prosecute executive branch officials for whistleblower retaliation, and the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, which is the agency authorized to adjudicate claims of whistleblower retaliation.

c. Will OGE take steps to ensure Trump Organization employees do not have privileged access to decision-makers or access to nonpublic government information?

As an initial matter, it bears emphasizing that members of President-elect's Transition Team (PETT) will necessarily interact with executive branch officials, some of whom may have decision-making authority. Such interaction is not only permitted but encouraged by the authorities that establish processes for Presidential transitions.²⁴ Moreover, the PETT is not a federal agency and its members are not executive branch employees.²⁵ Therefore, the ethics restrictions applicable to federal employees are inapplicable to PETT members, and OGE has no authority over them.²⁶

OGE is aware of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Chief of Staff to the President and the Chair of the PETT that addresses the confidentiality of nonpublic government information. That agreement addresses the responsibilities of PETT members with regard to nonpublic information and related conflicts of interest.²⁷ The MOU also references a Code of Ethical Conduct for the transition, as well as the public disclosure requirements of the Presidential Transition Act, as amended.²⁸ OGE has no role in drafting either such an MOU or a

²¹ Available online at <https://integrity.gov/efeds-login/> or simply integrity.gov.

²² Available online at <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Resources/PRESIDENTIAL+TRANSITION>.

²³ Available online at <https://presidentialtransition.usa.gov/>.

²⁴ See Pub. L. No. 88-277 (1963), Pub. L. No. 94-499 (1976), Pub. L. No. 100-398 (1988), Pub. L. No. 106-293 (2000), Pub. L. No. 111-283 (2010), Pub. L. No. 114-136 (2016); Exec. Order 13,727 (May 6, 2016).

²⁵ See Pub. L. No. 88-277, § 3(a)(2) (1963); see also Applicability of 18 U.S.C. § 207(c) to President-Elect's Transition Team, Letter for the Director, Office of Government Ethics, 12 Op. O.L.C. 264, 265 n.1, (Nov. 18, 1988).

²⁶ See 5 U.S.C. app. § 402(a) (2012).

²⁷ See Mem. of Understanding between Denis R. McDonough, Chief of Staff to the President, and Michael R. Pence, Chair of the President-elect's Transition Team (Nov. 15, 2016), available online at <https://presidentialtransition.usa.gov/files/2015/11/16-11-15-Final-Signed-MOU.pdf>.

²⁸ See *id.* In addition, the disclosure provisions of the Presidential Transition Act, as amended, require the PETT, as a condition of receiving funds and services from the government, to make public (1) the names and most recent employment of all transition personnel who are members of agency transition teams, and (2) information regarding the sources of funding that support the transition activities of each transition team member. Presidential Transition

transition code of ethical conduct. The Office of Management and Budget or the PETT may be able to supply additional information about these documents.

It is OGE's understanding that the requirements set forth in the MOU and the Code of Ethical Conduct are contractual and cannot be enforced against PETT members using the mechanisms generally applicable to federal employees. Federal employees who interact with the PETT, however, continue to be subject to the full range of executive branch ethics laws, including restrictions on the use of nonpublic information and the use of public office for private gain established in the Standards of Conduct.²⁹ Accordingly, federal employees may not provide PETT members with nonpublic information unless the requirements of the MOU and the Presidential Transition Act, as amended, have been met. Their employing agencies have authority to impose disciplinary sanctions for violations of these authorities.³⁰

With regard to other potential contacts between outside organizations, such as the one mentioned in your question, executive branch employees are subject to requirements in the Standards of Conduct related to impartiality, misuse of position, and release of nonpublic information.³¹ To ensure that employees comply with these requirements, OGE will continue providing training and guidance to the nearly 4,500 agency ethics officials in the executive branch, who in turn will continue to provide training and guidance to the 2.7 million federal employees in their agencies. OGE similarly supports Offices of Inspectors General through training and guidance related to the enforcement of ethics laws and regulations.

d. President-elect Trump reportedly intends to transfer control of the Trump Organization to his three oldest children. Does this transfer meet the standards of a qualified blind trust, as defined under the Ethics in Government Act?

OGE does not have any independent knowledge of facts that would either support or refute the premise of this question. As to the question itself, the Ethics in Government Act prescribes specific requirements for establishing a qualified blind trust.³² Transferring operational control of a company to one's children would not constitute the establishment of a qualified blind trust, nor would it eliminate conflicts of interest under 18 U.S.C. § 208 if applicable.³³

Act of 1963, 3 U.S.C. § 102 note, Sec. 6(b)(1), *amended by* Edward 'Ted' Kaufman and Michael Leavitt Presidential Transitions Improvements Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-136, 130 Stat. 301.

²⁹ See 5 C.F.R. §§ 2635.702-2635.703 (2016). In addition, the MOU states that a government employee may not allow the improper use of nonpublic information to further his or her own private interest or that of another. This provision is enforceable, through normal disciplinary procedures, by the employing agency of any employee who violates it.

³⁰ See, e.g., 5 U.S.C. ch. 75 (2012).

³¹ See 5 C.F.R. 2635, subparts E and G (2016).

³² See 5 U.S.C. app. § 102(f) (2012).

³³ *Id.*

QUESTION 2:

2. ***President-elect Trump's Financial Conflicts***—*President-elect Trump's previous financial disclosure reports reveal potential financial conflicts of interest in several areas of the economy and foreign relations. While Presidents are exempt from conflict of interest rules for constitutional reasons, Presidents of both parties, dating back to Lyndon Johnson, have taken significant steps to avoid the appearance of a conflict.*
- a. *Please identify the information that must be included in the President's annual financial disclosure, when a President must file his first disclosure, and whether the public will receive access to these disclosures.*

The President-elect's first annual public financial disclosure report will be due on or before May 15, 2018.^{34 35} Traditionally, Presidents voluntarily file an annual financial disclosure report by May 15 during their first year in office, but OGE does not know whether the President-elect will choose to adhere to that tradition. Because the STOCK Act requires that his annual public financial disclosure report be posted online, it will be posted on either OGE's website or the White House's website.³⁶ The items below describe the information that a President is required to disclose in an annual public financial disclosure report (OGE Form 278e).³⁷

- *Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government*

Part 1 of the OGE Form 278e discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation. This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

³⁴ See 5 U.S.C. app. § 101(a) and (d) (2012).

³⁵ Note that in 2012 the STOCK Act amended the Ethics in Government Act, in part, by requiring Presidents to file periodic transaction reports in order to disclose each covered transaction. See 5 U.S.C. app. § 103(l) (2012). In the case of the President-elect, this requirement will apply only to transactions occurring on or after January 20, 2017. The deadline for disclosing each such transaction is "[n]ot later than 30 days after receiving notification of any transaction required to be reported under section 102(a)(5)(B), but in no case later than 45 days after such transaction." *Id.*

³⁶ See STOCK Act, Pub. L. No. 112-105, 126 Stat. 291, § 11(b) (2012), as amended by Pub. Law No. 113-7, § 1(b)(2) (2013). Note that the public posting requirement applies equally to periodic transaction reports. *Id.*

³⁷ 5 U.S.C. app. § 102 (2012); 5 C.F.R. part 2634, subpart C (2016).

- *Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts*

Part 2 of the OGE Form 278e discloses the following:

- Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than \$200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes); and
- Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities that (1) ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) produced more than \$200 in income during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents).

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note that the type of income is not required to be identified if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

- *Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements*

Part 3 of the OGE Form 278e discloses agreements and arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

- Future employment;
- Leave of absence;
- Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer);
- Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan; and
- Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.).

- *Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts*

Part 5 of the OGE Form 278e discloses the following:

- Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than \$1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share);
- Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than \$200 during the reporting period; and
- Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities that (1) ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000, or (2) produced more than \$200 in income during the reporting period (e.g., equity in a business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents).

Information disclosed in Part 5 does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note that the type of income is not required to be identified if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an EIF. Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

- *Other Assets and Income*

Part 6 of the OGE Form 278e discloses each asset, not already reported, that (1) ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) produced more than \$200 in investment income during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children. This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, certificates of deposit, money market accounts, etc.) at a single financial institution with a value of \$5,000 or less (unless more than \$200 of income was produced). Additional exceptions apply. Note that the type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an EIF.

- *Transactions*

Part 7 of the OGE Form 278e discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of \$1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during the reporting period. This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, certificates of deposit, money market accounts, etc.) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

- *Liabilities*

Part 8 of the OGE Form 278e discloses liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse, or the filer's dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period. With regard to a President, this section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (2) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed \$10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

- *Gifts and Travel Reimbursements*

Part 9 of the OGE Form 278e discloses:

- Gifts totaling more than \$375 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period; and
- Travel reimbursements totaling more than \$375 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of \$150 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment, etc.) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

Note that annual filers are not required to complete Part 4 of the OGE Form 278e. Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than \$5,000 in a

calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period. The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

b. What steps does OGE require a President to take if any conflicts of interest are apparent on the face of a financial disclosure?

Congress amended 18 U.S.C. § 202 in 1989 to clarify that 18 U.S.C. § 208 does not apply to a President.^{38,39} Even prior to that amendment, OGE did not construe 18 U.S.C. § 208 as applicable to a President.⁴⁰ Nevertheless, it has been the consistent policy of the executive branch that a President should conduct himself "as if" he were bound by this financial conflict of interest law.⁴¹ Given the unique circumstances of the Presidency, OGE's view is that a President should comply with this law by divesting conflicting assets,⁴² establishing a qualified blind trust,⁴³ or both. However, although every President in modern times has adopted OGE's recommended approach, OGE has no power to require adherence to this tradition.

c. What steps will OGE require to prevent acquisition of new conflicts by President-elect Trump and his Trump Organization?

Please refer to OGE's response to (2)(b), above.

QUESTION 3:

3. *Transition Team*—President-elect Trump's three oldest children are members of the Presidential Transition team while continuing to serve as executives and officers in the Trump Organization. As leaders on the Transition team, his children will be party to

³⁸ See Ethics Reform Act of 1989, Pub. L. No. 101-194, § 401 (1989); see also 18 U.S.C. § 202(c) (2012).

³⁹ Note that, as mentioned earlier, the STOCK Act separately imposes one limited conflict of interest restriction on the President. That law prohibits the President from participating in any particular matter directly and predictably affecting the financial interests of any person with whom he has, or is negotiating for, an agreement of future employment or compensation. STOCK Act, Pub. L. 112-105 at § 17. OGE has interpreted future employment or compensation as employment or compensation that will commence after a covered individual's government service has ended. See OGE LA-13-06 (Apr. 25, 2013); OGE LA-12-01 (Apr. 6, 2012). However, it is Congress, not OGE, that possesses authority to address violations of law by sitting Presidents. U.S. Const., art. II, § 4.

⁴⁰ See OGE Opinion 83 x 16 (Oct. 20, 1983). Setting aside constitutional arguments, the merits of which are the subject of differing views, the inapplicability of the prohibition under 18 U.S.C. § 208(a) stems from the statute's use of the terms "officer" and "employee," which are generally construed to have the meanings assigned in 5 U.S.C. §§ 2104-05. See Applicability of 18 U.S.C. § 207(c) to President-Elect's Transition Team, 29 Op. O.L.C. 127, 128 (Jul. 22, 2005) ("Title 18 does not define 'officer' or 'employee,' but we have found the definitions in title 5 to be the most obvious source of a definition for title 18 purposes" (internal quotation marks omitted)); see also Application of Conflict of Interest Rules to Appointees Who Have Not Begun Service, 26 Op. O.L.C. 32 (May 8, 2002) ("Because title 18 sets out no definition of 'officer' or 'employee,' we have looked to the definitions in title 5 as the most obvious source of a definition for title 18 purposes" (internal quotation marks omitted)).

⁴¹ See OGE Advisory 83 x 16 (Oct. 20, 1983) (and authorities cited therein).

⁴² In lieu of a blind trust, the proceeds could be reinvested in diversified mutual funds. See 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a) (2016).

⁴³ See 5 U.S.C. app. § 102(f) (2012).

sensitive government information and empowered to discuss matters of government policy and operations with the leadership of several federal agencies.

- a. What guidance has OGE provided to agency ethics officials regarding the handling of non-transition business communications from Mr. Trump's children and the Trump Organization during the transition?*

As explained in response to Question 1(c), OGE lacks authority over the Presidential transition team and its members, but will continue to provide training and guidance to agency ethics officials regarding provisions of the Standards of Conduct related to impartiality, misuse of position, and release of nonpublic information.

QUESTION 4:

- 4. *President-elect Trump's Oldest Children and Jared Kushner***—*President-elect Trump has reportedly expressed interest in obtaining security clearances for his three oldest children and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner.*

- a. What guidance has OGE provided to President-elect Trump's oldest children and Mr. Kushner concerning the management of their conflicts of interest while participating in executive branch deliberations?*

To the best of OGE's knowledge, these individuals are private citizens who have not been appointed to positions as officers or employees of the federal executive branch. For this reason, the criminal conflicts of interest law, 18 U.S.C. § 208, is inapplicable to them. Please refer to OGE's response to Question 1(c) for discussion of documents governing their activities in the capacity of PETT members.

- b. Does President-elect Trump have legal authority to appoint these individuals to government positions?*

The Constitution of the United States authorizes the President to appoint officers and employees in the executive branch.⁴⁴ Various statutes and regulations outside OGE's purview may address the exercise of that authority.⁴⁵ The U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, and the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board may have some role in interpreting such authorities.

- c. Are President-elect Trump's children and Mr. Kushner exempt from conflict of interest laws?*

Please refer to OGE's response to Question 4(a).

⁴⁴ U.S. Const., art. II, § 2, cl. 2.

⁴⁵ See, e.g., 5 U.S.C. § 3110 (2012).

- d. *Has OGE provided guidance to these individuals to ensure they disqualify themselves from matters in which they have financial interests and to prevent inadvertent disclosure of confidential government information?*

Please refer to OGE's response to Question 4(a).

QUESTION 5:

5. ***Ongoing Financial Disclosure Obligations***—*President-elect Trump has disclosed a large portfolio of financial interests that include securities interests in several investment companies. President-elect Trump will be under an ongoing obligation to file public reports of any securities transactions so that the public may understand his financial interests.*

- a. *What guidance has OGE provided to President-elect Trump to ensure he continues to file any required financial disclosures of securities transactions?*

OGE provides assistance to the PETT and the White House. As part of this effort, OGE will be providing the PETT and, after January 20, 2016, the White House assistance in complying with applicable financial disclosure requirements. OGE has also made information available on its website in the form of legal advisories, a public financial disclosure guide, and training materials.⁴⁶ In addition, OGE's electronic filing system is available to assist public filers with satisfying public financial disclosure requirements.⁴⁷ A President's public financial disclosure reports are filed with OGE.⁴⁸

- b. *How often will President-elect Trump be required to file such disclosures?*

Annual public financial disclosure reports are filed annually on or before May 15 each year.⁴⁹ Periodic transaction reports are filed by the earlier of 45 days after the transaction or 30 days after receiving notification of the transaction.⁵⁰ Additional information regarding periodic

⁴⁶ OGE's legal advisories are available online at <https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGELegal.nsf/Legal%20Advisories>. OGE's online Public Financial Disclosure Guide is available online at <https://www.oge.gov/Web/278eGuide.nsf>. Examples of OGE's training materials are available online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/OGELInstitute> and <https://plus.google.com/+OGELInstitute>. Checklists for nominee financial disclosure reports, which would also be useful for a President's representatives, are available at [https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGELegal.nsf/0/BC975C546E68A21C852580560045BE83/\\$FILE/Financial%20Disclosure%20Checklists.pdf](https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGELegal.nsf/0/BC975C546E68A21C852580560045BE83/$FILE/Financial%20Disclosure%20Checklists.pdf). A guide for Presidential nominees and an appendix to that guide, both of which contain information that would be useful for a President's representatives are available at [https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGELegal.nsf/0/908088E45E5A64778525801B00590DD5/\\$FILE/Final%20Nomination%20Guide%20Spreads%20Optimized%20Web.pdf](https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGELegal.nsf/0/908088E45E5A64778525801B00590DD5/$FILE/Final%20Nomination%20Guide%20Spreads%20Optimized%20Web.pdf) and [https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGELegal.nsf/0/0EA56347F998FFA78525801B0058E0F9/\\$FILE/Final%20Appendix%20Spreads%20Web%20.pdf](https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGELegal.nsf/0/0EA56347F998FFA78525801B0058E0F9/$FILE/Final%20Appendix%20Spreads%20Web%20.pdf), respectively. A guide for the transition team is available online at [https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGELegal.nsf/0/915128106F6180848525801B0059371D/\\$FILE/Transition%20Guide%20Spread.pdf](https://www.oge.gov/Web/OGELegal.nsf/0/915128106F6180848525801B0059371D/$FILE/Transition%20Guide%20Spread.pdf).

⁴⁷ That system is available online at <https://integrity.gov/efeds-login/>.

⁴⁸ 5 U.S.C. app. § 103(b) (2012).

⁴⁹ 5 U.S.C. app. § 101(c) (2012).

⁵⁰ 5 U.S.C. app. § 103(l) (2012).

transaction reports can be found in OGE's legal advisories.⁵¹ Termination financial disclosure reports are filed on or before the thirtieth day after terminating employment in a filing position.⁵²

c. Will OGE or the White House Counsel be responsible for assessing fines for any late filings?

Having never encountered this issue, OGE does not currently know whether a sitting President can be assessed late filing fees.⁵³ If so, the Counsel to the President is responsible for collecting them.⁵⁴

QUESTION 6:

6. *Outside Fiduciary Positions*—President-elect Trump has disclosed that he serves as chairman or board member of hundreds of companies. As a board member or officer, he owes those entities and their investors legal fiduciary duties that have the potential to interfere with his duties as president.

a. What guidance has OGE provided to President-elect Trump regarding his outside positions and the steps he should take to address potential conflicts of interest?

The President-elect has indicated publicly that he will announce a plan for resolving his conflicts of interest on December 15, 2016. Although OGE offered to provide recommendations, OGE has not been involved in developing that plan. Please refer to Question 2(b) for discussion of OGE's views on conflicts of interest.

b. What safeguards will OGE establish to prevent conflicts of interest between his legal fiduciary obligations to these companies and his legal obligations and duties as President?

Please refer to Question 2(b).

7. *Misuse of Image*—Longstanding White House policy across Administrations prohibits the use of the President's name or image in advertising or for the endorsement of any commercial product or service.

a. What guidance has OGE provided to President-elect Trump regarding the use of his name and image for the endorsement of the Trump Organization or his children's businesses?

The policy to which this question refers is outside OGE's purview. Furthermore, OGE is not familiar with that policy or its interpretation and application by the White House.

⁵¹ See OGE LA-12-04 (Jun. 20, 2012); OGE LA-13-01 (Jan. 18, 2013).

⁵² 5 U.S.C. app. § 101(e) (2012).

⁵³ See 5 U.S.C. app. § 104 (2012); cf. A Sitting President's Amenability to Indictment and Criminal Prosecution, 24 Op. O.L.C. 222 (Oct. 16, 2000).

⁵⁴ 5 U.S.C. app. § 104(d) (2012); 5 C.F.R. § 2634.704 (2016).