Thread by Michael Shellenberger

‹ TWITTER FILES ›

#7 The FBI & the Hunter Biden Laptop

1. TWITTER FILES: PART 7

@UngaTheGreat

The FBI & the Hunter Biden Laptop

How the FBI & intelligence community discredited factual information about Hunter Biden's foreign business dealings both after and *before* The New York Post revealed the contents of his laptop on October 14, 2020

In Twitter Files #6, we saw the FBI relentlessly seek to exercise influence over Twitter, including over its content, its users, and its data.

Unroll available on Thread Reader

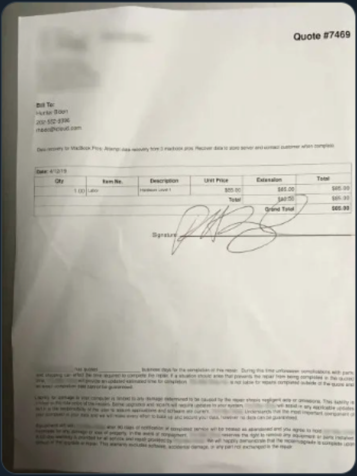
External Tweet loading...
If nothing shows, it may have been deleted
https://twitter.com/mtaibbi/status/1603857534737072128?s=20&t=wWOBReiY21kHb8JRq5ng7Q

In Twitter Files #7, we present evidence pointing to an organized effort by representatives of the intelligence community (IC), aimed at senior executives at news and social media companies, to discredit leaked information about Hunter Biden before and after it was published.

The story begins in December 2019 when a Delaware computer store owner named John Paul (J.P.) Mac Isaac contacts the FBI about a laptop that Hunter Biden had left with him

On Dec 9, 2019, the FBI issues a subpoena for, and takes, Hunter Biden's laptop.

nypost.com/2020/10/14/ema…



Quote #7469

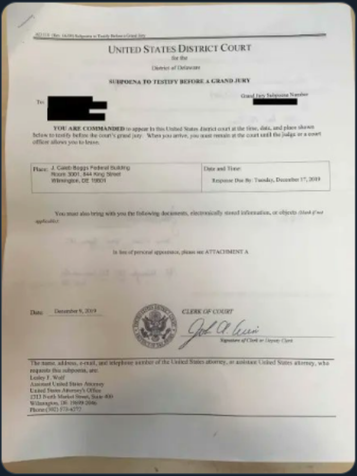
Bill To:
Hunter Biden

Data recovery for MacBook Pros: Attempt data recovery from 3 macbook pros. Recover data to store server and contact customer when complete.

Date: 4/12/19

Qty	Item No.	Description	Unit Price	Extension	Total
1.00	Labor	Hardware Level 1	$85.00	$85.00	$85.00
			Total	$85.00	$85.00
				Grand Total	$85.00

Signature



AO 110 (Rev. 06/09) Subpoena to Testify Before a Grand Jury

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
District of Delaware

SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY BEFORE A GRAND JURY

Grand Jury Subpoena Number [redacted]

To: [redacted]

YOU ARE COMMANDED to appear in this United States district court at the time, date, and place shown below to testify before the court's grand jury. When you arrive, you must remain at the court until the judge or a court officer allows you to leave.

Place: J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building Room 3001, 844 King Street Wilmington, DE 19801	Date and Time: Response Due By: Tuesday, December 17, 2019

You must also bring with you the following documents, electronically stored information, or objects *(blank if not applicable)*:

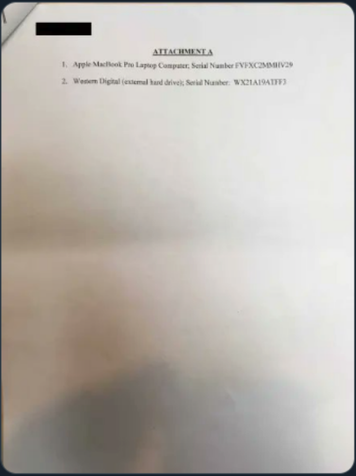
In lieu of personal appearance, please see ATTACHMENT A

Date: December 9, 2019

CLERK OF COURT

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

The name, address, e-mail, and telephone number of the United States attorney, or assistant United States attorney, who requests this subpoena, are:
Lesley F. Wolf
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
1313 North Market Street, Suite 400
Wilmington, DE 19899-2046
Phone (302) 573-6277



[redacted]

ATTACHMENT A

1. Apple MacBook Pro Laptop Computer; Serial Number FVFXC2MMHV29
2. Western Digital (external hard drive); Serial Number: WX21A19ATFF3

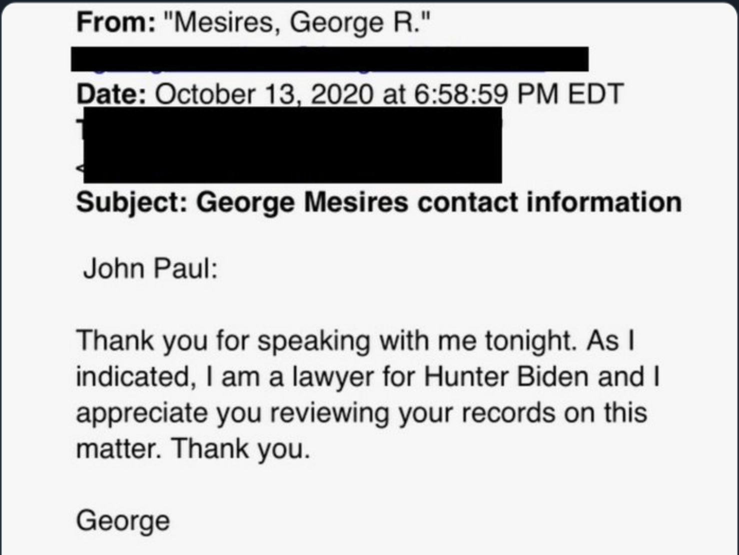
Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian busine...
Hunter Biden introduced his father, then-Vice President Joe Biden, to a top executive at a Ukrainian energy firm less than a year before the elder Biden pressured...
https://nypost.com/2020/10/14/email-reveals-how-hunter-biden-introduced-ukrainian...

By Aug 2020, Mac Isaac still had not heard back from the FBI, even though he had discovered evidence of criminal activity. And so he emails Rudy Giuliani, who was under FBI surveillance at the time. In early Oct, Giuliani gives it to @nypost

Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian busine...
Hunter Biden introduced his father, then-Vice President Joe Biden, to a top executive at a Ukrainian energy firm less than a year before the elder Biden pressured...
https://nypost.com/2020/10/14/email-reveals-how-hunter-biden-introduced-ukrainian...

Shortly before 7 pm ET on October 13, Hunter Biden's lawyer, George Mesires, emails JP Mac Isaac.

Hunter and Mesires had just learned from the New York Post that its story about the laptop would be published the next day.

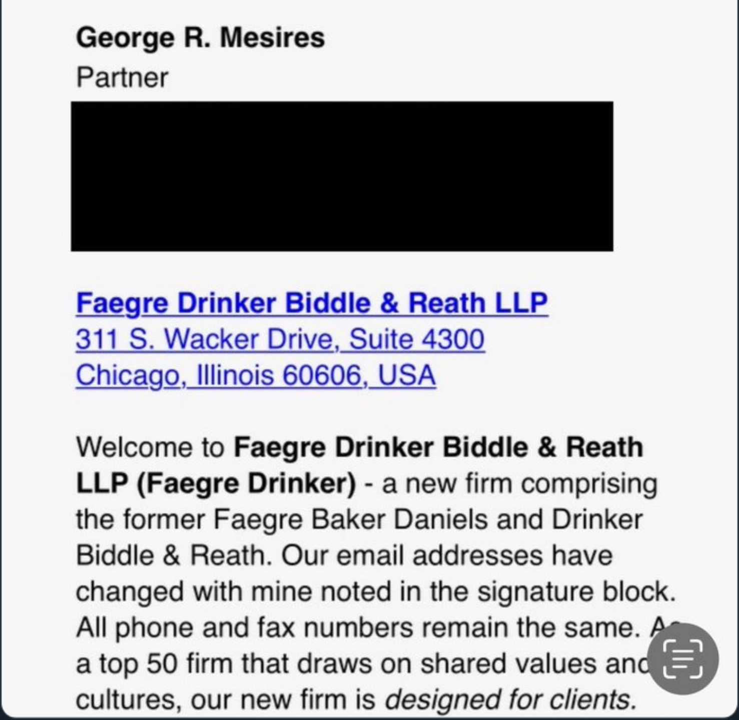


From: "Mesires, George R."
[redacted]
Date: October 13, 2020 at 6:58:59 PM EDT
[redacted]
Subject: George Mesires contact information

John Paul:

Thank you for speaking with me tonight. As I indicated, I am a lawyer for Hunter Biden and I appreciate you reviewing your records on this matter. Thank you.

George



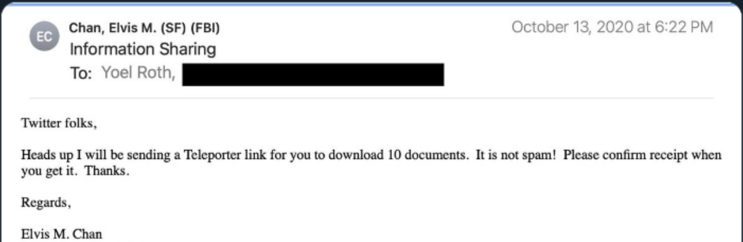
George R. Mesires
Partner

[redacted]

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
311 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 4300
Chicago, Illinois 60606, USA

Welcome to **Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP (Faegre Drinker)** - a new firm comprising the former Faegre Baker Daniels and Drinker Biddle & Reath. Our email addresses have changed with mine noted in the signature block. All phone and fax numbers remain the same. A a top 50 firm that draws on shared values and cultures, our new firm is *designed for clients.*

7. At 9:22 pm ET (6:22 PT), FBI Special Agent Elvis Chan sends 10 documents to Twitter's then-Head of Site Integrity, Yoel Roth, through Teleporter, a one-way communications channel from the FBI to Twitter.



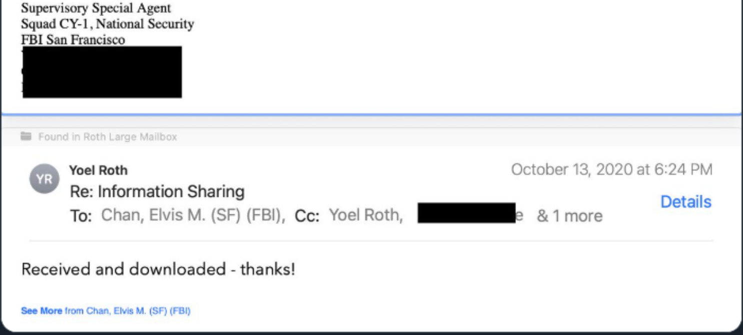
Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI) October 13, 2020 at 6:22 PM
Information Sharing
To: Yoel Roth, [redacted]

Twitter folks,

Heads up I will be sending a Teleporter link for you to download 10 documents. It is not spam! Please confirm receipt when you get it. Thanks.

Regards,

Elvis M. Chan



Supervisory Special Agent
Squad CY-1, National Security
FBI San Francisco
[redacted]

Found in Roth Large Mailbox

YR

Yoel Roth
Re: Information Sharing
To: Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI), Cc: Yoel Roth, [redacted] & 1 more

October 13, 2020 at 6:24 PM

Received and downloaded - thanks!

8. The next day, October 14, 2020, The New York Post runs its explosive story revealing the business dealings of President Joe Biden's son, Hunter. Every single fact in it was accurate.

NEW YORK POST
Page Six
METRO EDITION
Revealed: Ukrainian exec thanked Hunter Biden for 'opportunity to meet' veep dad
BIDEN SECRET E-MAILS
EXCLUSIVE PAGES 4-7
Dear Hunter
giving an op
some time t
As we spok
meet today
to DC and
er and spent
r and pleasu
d be great to
you think?
around noon

9. And yet, within hours, Twitter and other social media companies censor the NY Post article, preventing it from spreading and, more importantly, undermining its credibility in the minds of many Americans.

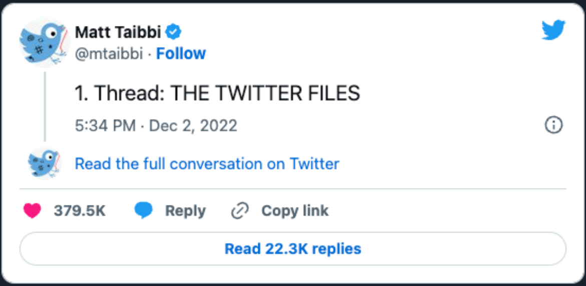
Why is that? What, exactly, happened?

10. On Dec 2, @mtaibbi described the debate inside Twitter over its decision to

censor a wholly accurate article.

Since then, we have discovered new info that points to an organized effort by the intel community to influence Twitter & other platforms

Unroll available on Thread Reader



Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi · Follow

1. Thread: THE TWITTER FILES

5:34 PM · Dec 2, 2022

Read the full conversation on Twitter

11. First, it's important to understand that Hunter Biden earned *tens of millions* of dollars in contracts with foreign businesses, including ones linked to China's government, for which Hunter offered no real work.
Here's an overview by investigative journalist @peterschweizer

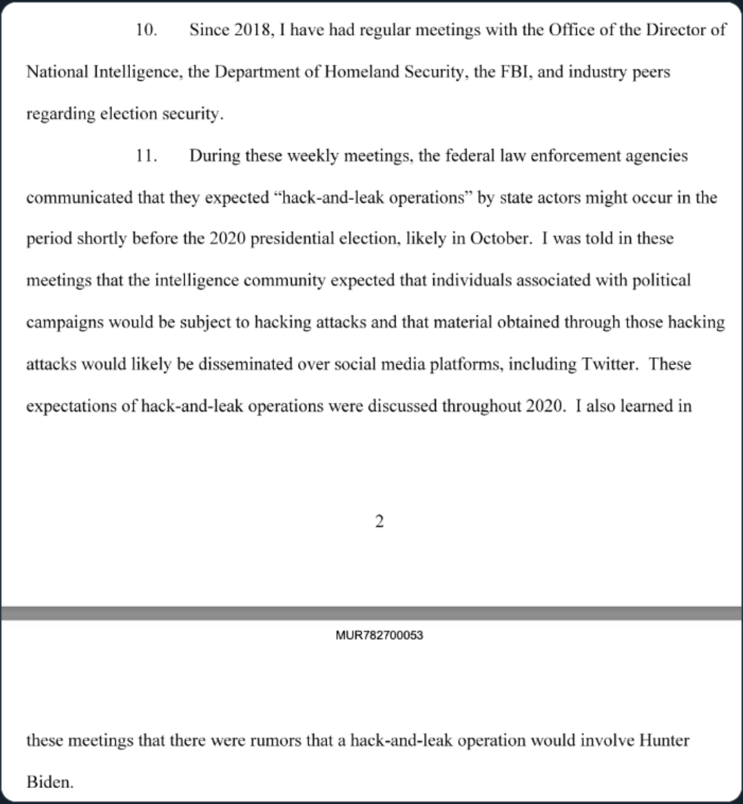
0:00 / 9:38
Michael Shellenberger

12. And yet, during all of 2020, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies repeatedly primed Yoel Roth to dismiss reports of Hunter Biden's laptop as a Russian

“hack and leak” operation.

This is from a sworn declaration by Roth given in December 2020.

fec.gov/files/legal/mu…

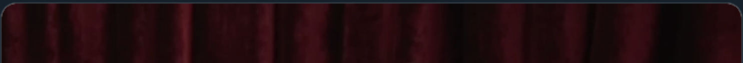


10. Since 2018, I have had regular meetings with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and industry peers regarding election security.

11. During these weekly meetings, the federal law enforcement agencies communicated that they expected “hack-and-leak operations” by state actors might occur in the period shortly before the 2020 presidential election, likely in October. I was told in these meetings that the intelligence community expected that individuals associated with political campaigns would be subject to hacking attacks and that material obtained through those hacking attacks would likely be disseminated over social media platforms, including Twitter. These expectations of hack-and-leak operations were discussed throughout 2020. I also learned in

these meetings that there were rumors that a hack-and-leak operation would involve Hunter Biden.

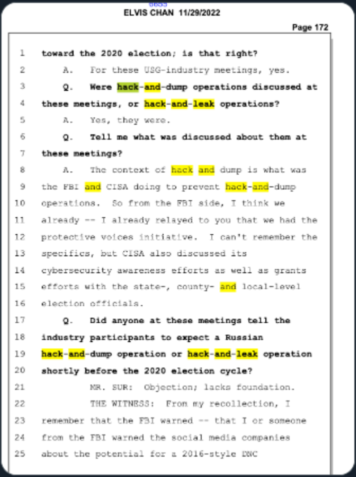
13. They did the same to Facebook, according to CEO Mark Zuckerberg. “The FBI basically came to us [and] was like, ‘Hey... you should be on high alert. We thought that there was a lot of Russian propaganda in 2016 election. There's about to be some kind of dump similar to that.'"



14. Were the FBI warnings of a Russian hack-and-leak operation relating to Hunter Biden based on *any* new intel?

No, they weren't

“Through our investigations, we did not see any similar competing intrusions to what had happened in 2016,” admitted FBI agent Elvis Chan in Nov.



ELVIS CHAN 11/29/2022

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toward the 2020 election; is that right?

A. For these USG-industry meetings, yes.

Q. Were hack-and-dump operations discussed at these meetings, or hack-and-leak operations?

A. Yes, they were.

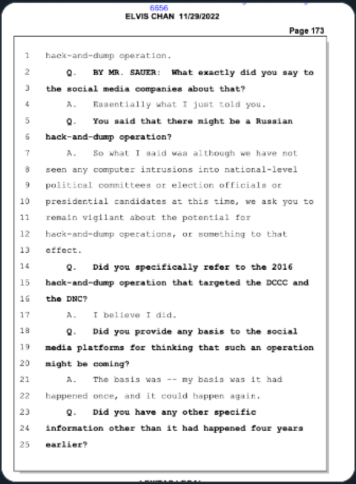
Q. Tell me what was discussed about them at these meetings?

A. The context of hack and dump is what was the FBI and CISA doing to prevent hack-and-dump operations. So from the FBI side, I think we already -- I already relayed to you that we had the protective voices initiative. I can't remember the specifics, but CISA also discussed its cybersecurity awareness efforts as well as grants efforts with the state-, county- and local-level election officials.

Q. Did anyone at these meetings tell the industry participants to expect a Russian hack-and-dump operation or hack-and-leak operation shortly before the 2020 election cycle?

MR. SUR: Objection; lacks foundation.

THE WITNESS: From my recollection, I remember that the FBI warned -- that I or someone from the FBI warned the social media companies about the potential for a 2016-style DNC



6656

ELVIS CHAN 11/29/2022

Page 173

hack-and-dump operation.

Q. BY MR. SAUER: What exactly did you say to the social media companies about that?

A. Essentially what I just told you.

Q. You said that there might be a Russian hack-and-dump operation?

A. So what I said was although we have not seen any computer intrusions into national-level political committees or election officials or presidential candidates at this time, we ask you to remain vigilant about the potential for hack-and-dump operations, or something to that effect.

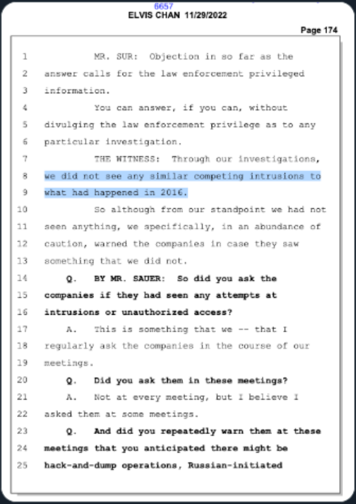
Q. Did you specifically refer to the 2016 hack-and-dump operation that targeted the DCCC and the DNC?

A. I believe I did.

Q. Did you provide any basis to the social media platforms for thinking that such an operation might be coming?

A. The basis was -- my basis was it had happened once, and it could happen again.

Q. Did you have any other specific information other than it had happened four years earlier?



MR. SUR: Objection in so far as the answer calls for the law enforcement privileged information.

You can answer, if you can, without divulging the law enforcement privilege as to any particular investigation.

THE WITNESS: Through our investigations, we did not see any similar competing intrusions to what had happened in 2016.

So although from our standpoint we had not seen anything, we specifically, in an abundance of caution, warned the companies in case they saw something that we did not.

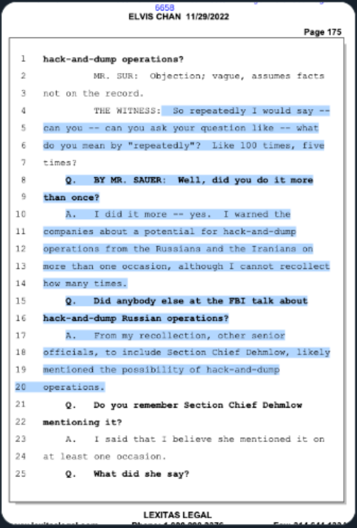
Q. BY MR. SAUER: So did you ask the companies if they had seen any attempts at intrusions or unauthorized access?

A. This is something that we -- that I regularly ask the companies in the course of our meetings.

Q. Did you ask them in these meetings?

A. Not at every meeting, but I believe I asked them at some meetings.

Q. And did you repeatedly warn them at these meetings that you anticipated there might be hack-and-dump operations, Russian-initiated



hack-and-dump operations?

MR. SUR: Objection; vague, assumes facts not on the record.

THE WITNESS: So repeatedly I would say -- can you -- can you ask your question like -- what do you mean by "repeatedly"? Like 100 times, five times?

Q. BY MR. SAUER: Well, did you do it more than once?

A. I did it more -- yes. I warned the companies about a potential for hack-and-dump operations from the Russians and the Iranians on more than one occasion, although I cannot recollect how many times.

Q. Did anybody else at the FBI talk about hack-and-dump Russian operations?

A. From my recollection, other senior officials, to include Section Chief Dehmlow, likely mentioned the possibility of hack-and-dump operations.

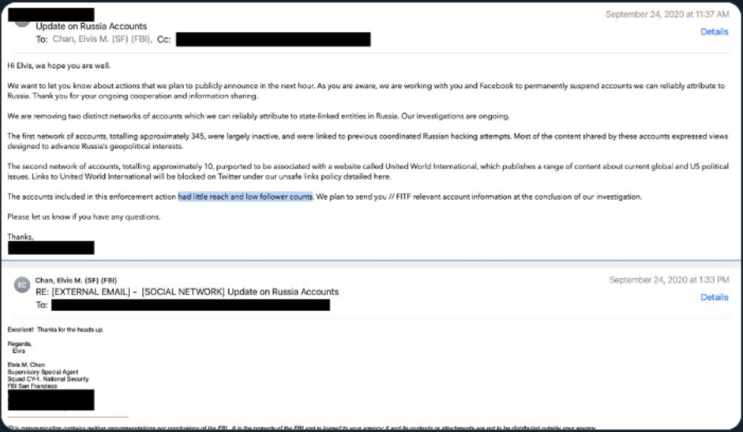
Q. Do you remember Section Chief Dehmlow mentioning it?

A. I said that I believe she mentioned it on at least one occasion.

Q. What did she say?

15. Indeed, Twitter executives *repeatedly* reported very little Russian activity.

E.g., on Sept 24, 2020, Twitter told FBI it had removed 345 “largely inactive” accounts “linked to previous coordinated Russian hacking attempts.” They “had little reach & low follower accounts."



[redacted]
Update on Russia Accounts
To: Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI), Cc: [redacted]

September 24, 2020 at 11:37 AM
Details

Hi Elvis, we hope you are well.

We want to let you know about actions that we plan to publicly announce in the next hour. As you are aware, we are working with you and Facebook to permanently suspend accounts we can reliably attribute to Russia. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and information sharing.

We are removing two distinct networks of accounts which we can reliably attribute to state-linked entities in Russia. Our investigations are ongoing.

The first network of accounts, totalling approximately 345, were largely inactive, and were linked to previous coordinated Russian hacking attempts. Most of the content shared by these accounts expressed views designed to advance Russia's geopolitical interests.

The second network of accounts, totalling approximately 10, purported to be associated with a website called United World International, which publishes a range of content about current global and US political issues. Links to United World International will be blocked on Twitter under our unsafe links policy detailed here.

The accounts included in this enforcement action had little reach and low follower counts. We plan to send you // FITF relevant account information at the conclusion of our investigation.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
[redacted]

EC
Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)
RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - [SOCIAL NETWORK] Update on Russia Accounts
To: [redacted]

September 24, 2020 at 1:33 PM
Details

Excellent! Thanks for the heads up.

Regards,
Elvis

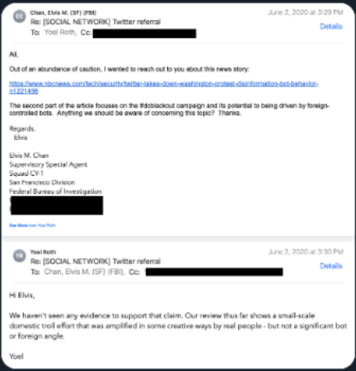
Elvis M. Chan
Supervisory Special Agent
Squad CY-1, National Security
FBI San Francisco
[redacted]

This communication contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents or attachments are not to be distributed outside your agency.

16. In fact, Twitter debunked false claims by journalists of foreign influence on its platform

"We haven't seen any evidence to support that claim" by @oneunderscore__ @nbc News of foreign-controlled bots.

"Our review thus far shows a small-scale domestic troll effort…"



Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)
Re: [SOCIAL NETWORK] Twitter referral
To: Yoel Roth, Cc: [redacted]
June 2, 2020 at 3:29 PM
Details

All,

Out of an abundance of caution, I wanted to reach out to you about this news story:

https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/twitter-takes-down-washington-protest-disinformation-bot-behavior-n1221456

The second part of the article focuses on the #dcblackout campaign and its potential to being driven by foreign-controlled bots. Anything we should be aware of concerning this topic? Thanks.

Regards,
Elvis

Elvis M. Chan
Supervisory Special Agent
Squad CY-1
San Francisco Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
[redacted]

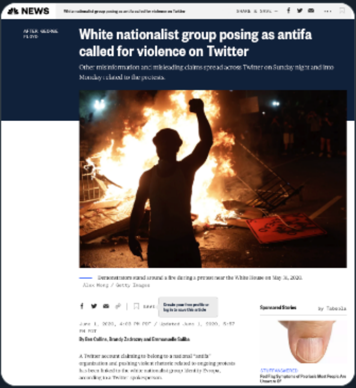
See More from Yoel Roth

Yoel Roth
Re: [SOCIAL NETWORK] Twitter referral
To: Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI), Cc: [redacted]
June 2, 2020 at 3:30 PM
Details

Hi Elvis,

We haven't seen any evidence to support that claim. Our review thus far shows a small-scale domestic troll effort that was amplified in some creative ways by real people - but not a significant bot or foreign angle.

Yoel



NEWS
AFTER GEORGE FLOYD

White nationalist group posing as antifa called for violence on Twitter

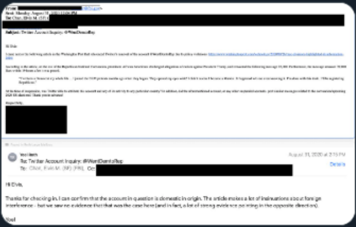
Other misinformation and misleading claims spread across Twitter on Sunday night and into Monday related to the protests.

Demonstrators stand around a fire during a protest near the White House on May 31, 2020.
Alex Wong / Getty Images

June 1, 2020, 4:03 PM PDT / Updated June 1, 2020, 5:57 PM PDT
By Ben Collins, Brandy Zadrozny and Emmanuelle Saliba

A Twitter account claiming to belong to a national "antifa" organization and pushing violent rhetoric related to ongoing protests has been linked to the white nationalist group Identity Evropa, according to a Twitter spokesperson.

17. After FBI asks about a WaPo story on alleged foreign influence in a pro-Trump tweet, Twitter's Roth says, "The article makes a lot of insinuations… but we saw no evidence that that was the case here (and in fact, a lot of strong evidence pointing in the other direction)."



From: [redacted]
[redacted]
Subject: Twitter Account Inquiry: @WentDemtoRep

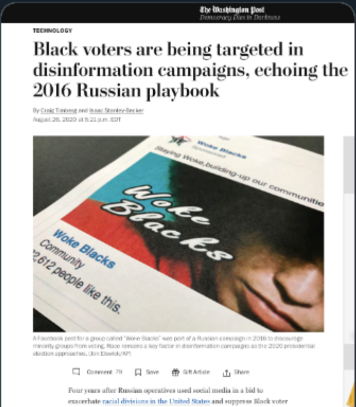
[redacted]

Yoel Roth
Re: Twitter Account Inquiry: @WentDemtoRep
To: Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI), Cc: [redacted]
August 31, 2020 at 2:15 PM
Details

Hi Elvis,

Thanks for checking in. I can confirm that the account in question is domestic in origin. The article makes a lot of insinuations about foreign interference - but we saw no evidence that that was the case here (and in fact, a lot of strong evidence pointing in the opposite direction).

Yoel



The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

TECHNOLOGY

Black voters are being targeted in disinformation campaigns, echoing the 2016 Russian playbook

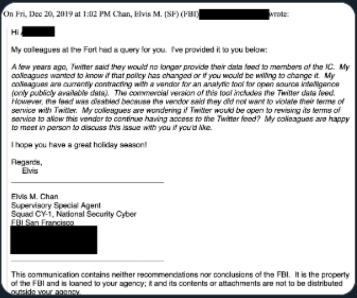
By Craig Timberg and Isaac Stanley-Becker
August 26, 2020 at 5:21 p.m. EDT

A Facebook post for a group called "Woke Blacks" was part of a Russian campaign in 2016 to discourage minority groups from voting. Race remains a key factor in disinformation campaigns as the 2020 presidential election approaches. (Jon Elswick/AP)

Four years after Russian operatives used social media in a bid to exacerbate racial divisions in the United States and suppress Black voter

turnout, such tactics have spread across a wide range of deceptive online campaigns operated from numerous nations — including from within the United States itself.

18. It's not the first time that Twitter's Roth has pushed back against the FBI. In January 2020, Roth resisted FBI efforts to get Twitter to share data outside of the normal search warrant process.



On Fri, Dec 20, 2019 at 1:02 PM Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI) [redacted] wrote:

Hi [redacted]

My colleagues at the Fort had a query for you. I've provided it to you below:

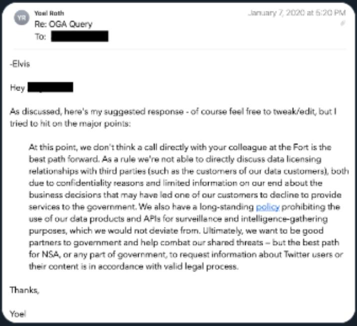
A few years ago, Twitter said they would no longer provide their data feed to members of the IC. My colleagues wanted to know if that policy has changed or if you would be willing to change it. My colleagues are currently contracting with a vendor for an analytic tool for open source intelligence (only publicly available data). The commercial version of this tool includes the Twitter data feed. However, the feed was disabled because the vendor said they did not want to violate their terms of service with Twitter. My colleagues are wondering if Twitter would be open to revising its terms of service to allow this vendor to continue having access to the Twitter feed? My colleagues are happy to meet in person to discuss this issue with you if you'd like.

I hope you have a great holiday season!

Regards,
Elvis

Elvis M. Chan
Supervisory Special Agent
Squad CY-1, National Security Cyber
FBI San Francisco
[redacted]

This communication contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents or attachments are not to be distributed outside your agency.



YR Yoel Roth
Re: OGA Query
To: [redacted]

January 7, 2020 at 6:20 PM

-Elvis

Hey [redacted]

As discussed, here's my suggested response - of course feel free to tweak/edit, but I tried to hit on the major points:

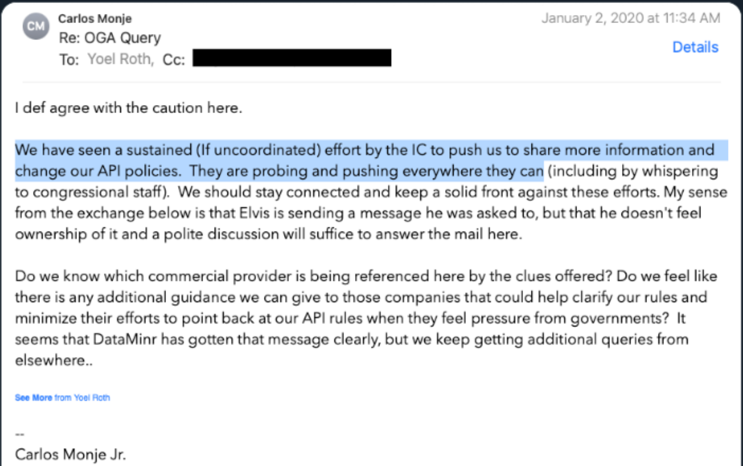
> At this point, we don't think a call directly with your colleague at the Fort is the best path forward. As a rule we're not able to directly discuss data licensing relationships with third parties (such as the customers of our data customers), both due to confidentiality reasons and limited information on our end about the business decisions that may have led one of our customers to decline to provide services to the government. We also have a long-standing policy prohibiting the use of our data products and APIs for surveillance and intelligence-gathering purposes, which we would not deviate from. Ultimately, we want to be good partners to government and help combat our shared threats – but the best path for NSA, or any part of government, to request information about Twitter users or their content is in accordance with valid legal process.

Thanks,

Yoel

19. Pressure had been growing:

"We have seen a sustained (If uncoordinated) effort by the IC [intelligence community] to push us to share more info & change our API policies. They are probing & pushing everywhere they can (including by whispering to congressional staff)."



CM **Carlos Monje**
Re: OGA Query
To: Yoel Roth, Cc: [redacted]

January 2, 2020 at 11:34 AM

I def agree with the caution here.

We have seen a sustained (If uncoordinated) effort by the IC to push us to share more information and change our API policies. They are probing and pushing everywhere they can (including by whispering to congressional staff). We should stay connected and keep a solid front against these efforts. My sense from the exchange below is that Elvis is sending a message he was asked to, but that he doesn't feel ownership of it and a polite discussion will suffice to answer the mail here.

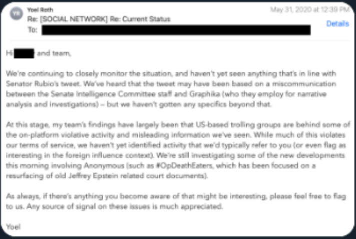
Do we know which commercial provider is being referenced here by the clues offered? Do we feel like there is any additional guidance we can give to those companies that could help clarify our rules and minimize their efforts to point back at our API rules when they feel pressure from governments? It seems that DataMinr has gotten that message clearly, but we keep getting additional queries from elsewhere..

--
Carlos Monje Jr.

Director of Policy & Philanthropy, United States & Canada
Twitter, Inc.
@CarlosMonjeJr
cmonje@twitter.com

20. Time and again, FBI asks Twitter for evidence of foreign influence & Twitter responds that they aren't finding anything worth reporting.

"[W]e haven't yet identified activity that we'd typically refer to you (or even flag as interesting in the foreign influence context)."



Yoel Roth
Re: [SOCIAL NETWORK] Re: Current Status
To: [redacted]

May 31, 2020 at 12:39 PM

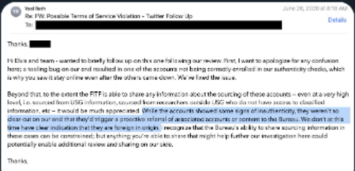
Hi [redacted] and team,

We're continuing to closely monitor the situation, and haven't yet seen anything that's in line with Senator Rubio's tweet. We've heard that the tweet may have been based on a miscommunication between the Senate Intelligence Committee staff and Graphika (who they employ for narrative analysis and investigations) – but we haven't gotten any specifics beyond that.

At this stage, my team's findings have largely been that US-based trolling groups are behind some of the on-platform violative activity and misleading information we've seen. While much of this violates our terms of service, we haven't yet identified activity that we'd typically refer to you (or even flag as interesting in the foreign influence context). We're still investigating some of the new developments this morning involving Anonymous (such as #OpDeathEaters, which has been focused on a resurfacing of old Jeffrey Epstein related court documents).

As always, if there's anything you become aware of that might be interesting, please feel free to flag to us. Any source of signal on these issues is much appreciated.

Yoel



Yoel Roth
Re: FW: Possible Terms of Service Violation - Twitter Follow Up
To: [redacted]

June 26, 2020 at 8:18 AM

Thanks, [redacted]

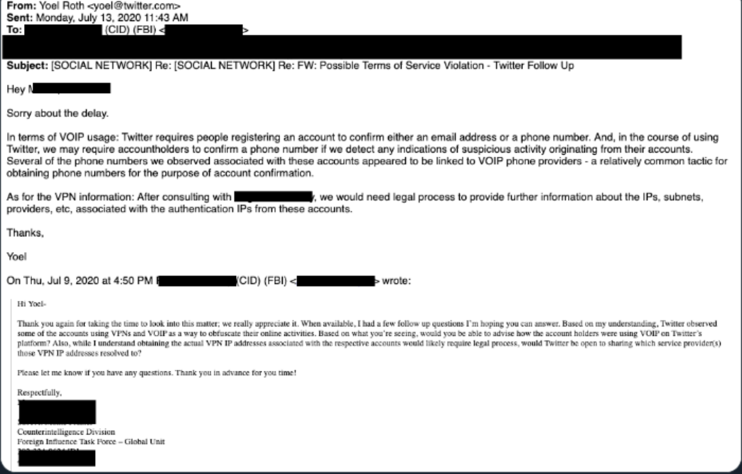
Hi Elvis and team - wanted to briefly follow up on this one following our review. First, I want to apologize for any confusion here; a tooling bug on our end resulted in one of the accounts not being correctly enrolled in our authenticity checks, which is why you saw it stay online even after the others came down. We've fixed the issue.

Beyond that, to the extent the FITF is able to share any information about the sourcing of these accounts – even at a very high level, i.e. sourced from USG information, sourced from researchers outside USG who do not have access to classified information, etc – it would be much appreciated. While the accounts showed some signs of inauthenticity, they weren't so clear-cut on our end that they'd trigger a proactive referral of associated accounts or content to the Bureau. We don't at this time have clear indication that they are foreign in origin. I recognize that the Bureau's ability to share sourcing information in these cases can be constrained; but anything you're able to share that might help further our investigation here could potentially enable additional review and sharing on our side.

Thanks,

Yoel

21. Despite Twitter's pushback, the FBI repeatedly requests information from Twitter that Twitter has already made clear it will not share outside of normal legal channels.



From: Yoel Roth <yoel@twitter.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:43 AM
To: [redacted] (CID) (FBI) <[redacted]>
[redacted]
Subject: [SOCIAL NETWORK] Re: [SOCIAL NETWORK] Re: FW: Possible Terms of Service Violation - Twitter Follow Up

Hey [redacted]

Sorry about the delay.

In terms of VOIP usage: Twitter requires people registering an account to confirm either an email address or a phone number. And, in the course of using Twitter, we may require accountholders to confirm a phone number if we detect any indications of suspicious activity originating from their accounts. Several of the phone numbers we observed associated with these accounts appeared to be linked to VOIP phone providers - a relatively common tactic for obtaining phone numbers for the purpose of account confirmation.

As for the VPN information: After consulting with [redacted], we would need legal process to provide further information about the IPs, subnets, providers, etc, associated with the authentication IPs from these accounts.

Thanks,

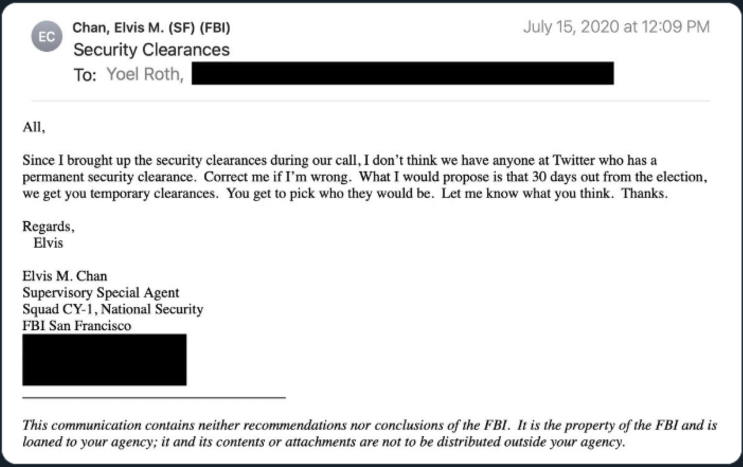
Yoel

On Thu, Jul 9, 2020 at 4:50 PM [redacted](CID) (FBI) <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Yoel-
>
> Thank you again for taking the time to look into this matter; we really appreciate it. When available, I had a few follow up questions I'm hoping you can answer. Based on my understanding, Twitter observed some of the accounts using VPNs and VOIP as a way to obfuscate their online activities. Based on what you're seeing, would you be able to advise how the account holders were using VOIP on Twitter's platform? Also, while I understand obtaining the actual VPN IP addresses associated with the respective accounts would likely require legal process, would Twitter be open to sharing which service provider(s) those VPN IP addresses resolved to?
>
> Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for you time!
>
> Respectfully,
> [redacted]
> Counterintelligence Division
> Foreign Influence Task Force – Global Unit
> [redacted]

22. Then, in July 2020, the FBI's Elvis Chan arranges for temporary Top Secret

security clearances for Twitter executives so that the FBI can share information about threats to the upcoming elections.



Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)
July 15, 2020 at 12:09 PM
Security Clearances
To: Yoel Roth, [redacted]

All,

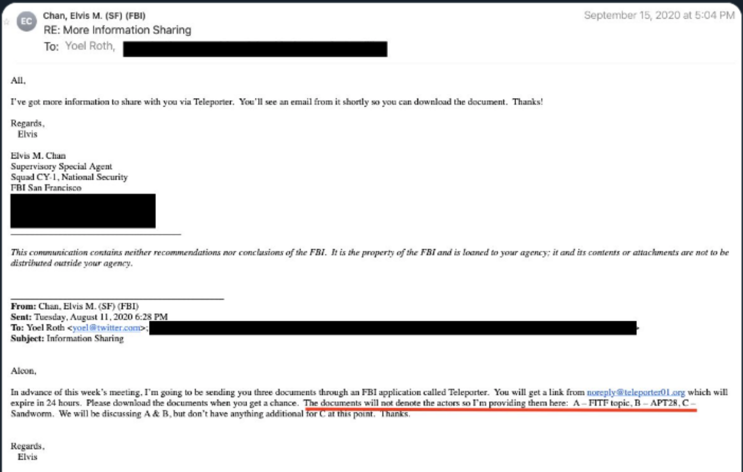
Since I brought up the security clearances during our call, I don't think we have anyone at Twitter who has a permanent security clearance. Correct me if I'm wrong. What I would propose is that 30 days out from the election, we get you temporary clearances. You get to pick who they would be. Let me know what you think. Thanks.

Regards,
Elvis

Elvis M. Chan
Supervisory Special Agent
Squad CY-1, National Security
FBI San Francisco
[redacted]

This communication contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents or attachments are not to be distributed outside your agency.

23. On August 11, 2020, the FBI's Chan shares information with Twitter's Roth relating to the Russian hacking organization, APT28, through the FBI's secure, one-way communications channel, Teleporter.



Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)
September 15, 2020 at 5:04 PM
RE: More Information Sharing
To: Yoel Roth, [redacted]

All,

I've got more information to share with you via Teleporter. You'll see an email from it shortly so you can download the document. Thanks!

Regards,
Elvis

Elvis M. Chan
Supervisory Special Agent
Squad CY-1, National Security
FBI San Francisco
[redacted]

This communication contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents or attachments are not to be distributed outside your agency.

From: Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:28 PM
To: Yoel Roth <yoel@twitter.com>; [redacted]
Subject: Information Sharing

Alcon,

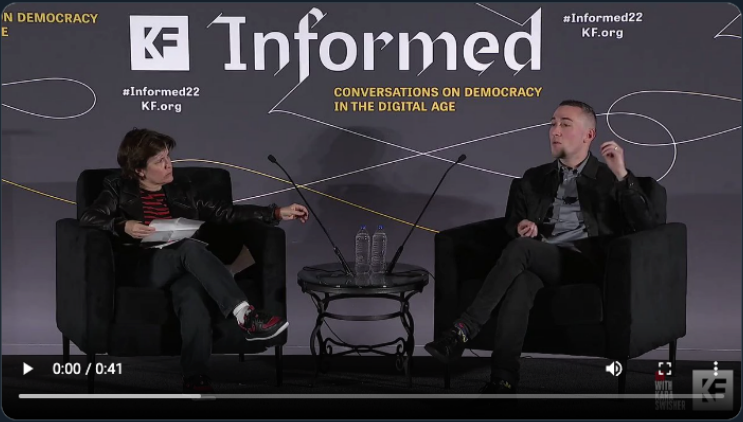
In advance of this week's meeting, I'm going to be sending you three documents through an FBI application called Teleporter. You will get a link from noreply@teleporter01.org which will expire in 24 hours. Please download the documents when you get a chance. The documents will not denote the actors so I'm providing them here: A – FITF topic, B – APT28, C – Sandworm. We will be discussing A & B, but don't have anything additional for C at this point. Thanks.

Regards,
Elvis

Elvis M. Chan
Supervisory Special Agent
Squad CY-1, National Security
FBI San Francisco
[redacted]

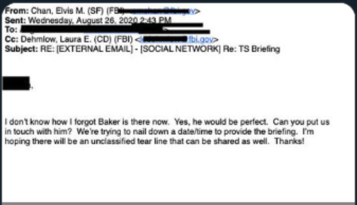
24. Recently, Yoel Roth told @karaswisher that he had been primed to think about the Russian hacking group APT28 before news of the Hunter Biden laptop came out.

When it did, Roth said, "It set off every single one of my finely tuned APT28 hack-and-leap campaign alarm bells."



25. In Aug, 2020, FBI's Chan asks Twitter: does anyone there have top secret clearance?

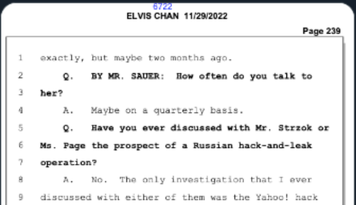
When someone mentions Jim Baker, Chan responds, "I don't know how I forgot him" — an odd claim, given Chan's job is to monitor Twitter, not to mention that they worked together at the FBI.



From: Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FB[redacted]v>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 2:43 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Dehmlow, Laura E. (CD) (FBI) <[redacted]fbi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - [SOCIAL NETWORK] Re: TS Briefing

[redacted],

I don't know how I forgot Baker is there now. Yes, he would be perfect. Can you put us in touch with him? We're trying to nail down a date/time to provide the briefing. I'm hoping there will be an unclassified tear line that can be shared as well. Thanks!



6722
ELVIS CHAN 11/29/2022

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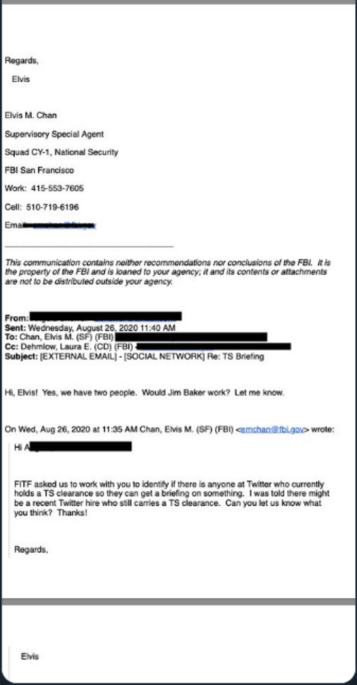
exactly, but maybe two months ago.
Q. BY MR. SAUER: How often do you talk to her?
A. Maybe on a quarterly basis.
Q. Have you ever discussed with Mr. Strzok or Ms. Page the prospect of a Russian hack-and-leak operation?
A. No. The only investigation that I ever discussed with either of them was the Yahoo! hack



Regards,
Elvis

Elvis M. Chan
Supervisory Special Agent
Squad CY-1, National Security
FBI San Francisco
Work: 415-553-7605
Cell: 510-719-6196
Emai[redacted]

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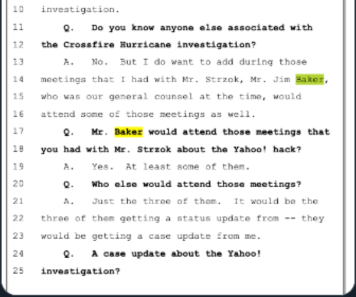
From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: Dehmlow, Laura E. (CD) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - [SOCIAL NETWORK] Re: TS Briefing

Hi, Elvis! Yes, we have two people. Would Jim Baker work? Let me know.

On Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 11:35 AM Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI) <emchan@fbi.gov> wrote:

> Hi A[redacted]
>
> FITF asked us to work with you to identify if there is anyone at Twitter who currently holds a TS clearance so they can get a briefing on something. I was told there might be a recent Twitter hire who still carries a TS clearance. Can you let us know what you think? Thanks!
>
> Regards,
>
> Elvis



investigation.

Q. Do you know anyone else associated with the Crossfire Hurricane investigation?

A. No. But I do want to add during those meetings that I had with Mr. Strzok, Mr. Jim Baker, who was our general counsel at the time, would attend some of those meetings as well.

Q. Mr. Baker would attend those meetings that you had with Mr. Strzok about the Yahoo! hack?

A. Yes. At least some of them.

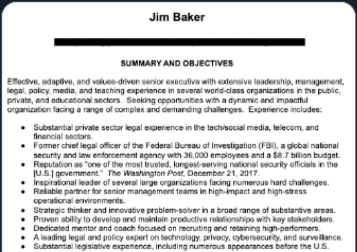
Q. Who else would attend those meetings?

A. Just the three of them. It would be the three of them getting a status update from -- they would be getting a case update from me.

Q. A case update about the Yahoo! investigation?

26. Who is Jim Baker? He's former general counsel of the FBI (2014-18) & one of the most powerful men in the U.S. intel community.

Baker has moved in and out of government for 30 years, serving stints at CNN, Bridgewater (a $140 billion asset management firm) and Brookings



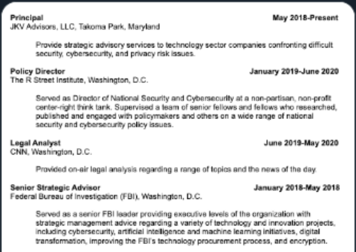
Jim Baker

[redacted]

SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

Effective, adaptive, and values-driven senior executive with extensive leadership, management, legal, policy, media, and teaching experience in several world-class organizations in the public, private, and educational sectors. Seeking opportunities with a dynamic and impactful organization facing a range of complex and demanding challenges. Experience includes:

- Substantial private sector legal experience in the tech/social media, telecom, and financial sectors.
- Former chief legal officer of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a global national security and law enforcement agency with 36,000 employees and a $8.7 billion budget.
- Reputation as "one of the most trusted, longest-serving national security officials in the [U.S.] government." *The Washington Post*, December 21, 2017.
- Inspirational leader of several large organizations facing numerous hard challenges.
- Reliable partner for senior management teams in high-impact and high-stress operational environments.
- Strategic thinker and innovative problem-solver in a broad range of substantive areas.
- Proven ability to develop and maintain productive relationships with key stakeholders.
- Dedicated mentor and coach focused on recruiting and retaining high-performers.
- A leading legal and policy expert on technology, privacy, cybersecurity, and surveillance.
- Substantial legislative experience, including numerous appearances before the U.S.



Principal **May 2018-Present**
JKV Advisors, LLC, Takoma Park, Maryland

Provide strategic advisory services to technology sector companies confronting difficult security, cybersecurity, and privacy risk issues.

Policy Director **January 2019-June 2020**
The R Street Institute, Washington, D.C.

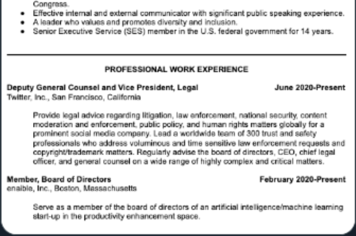
Served as Director of National Security and Cybersecurity at a non-partisan, non-profit center-right think tank. Supervised a team of senior fellows and fellows who researched, published and engaged with policymakers and others on a wide range of national security and cybersecurity policy issues.

Legal Analyst **June 2019-May 2020**
CNN, Washington, D.C.

Provided on-air legal analysis regarding a range of topics and the news of the day.

Senior Strategic Advisor **January 2018-May 2018**
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Washington, D.C.

Served as a senior FBI leader providing executive levels of the organization with strategic management advice regarding a variety of technology and innovation projects, including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and machine learning initiatives, digital transformation, improving the FBI's technology procurement process, and encryption.



Congress.
- Effective internal and external communicator with significant public speaking experience.
- A leader who values and promotes diversity and inclusion.
- Senior Executive Service (SES) member in the U.S. federal government for 14 years.

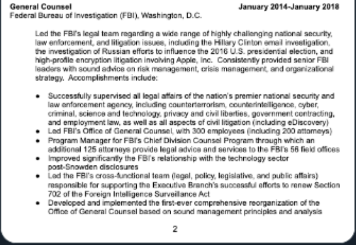
PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Deputy General Counsel and Vice President, Legal **June 2020-Present**
Twitter, Inc., San Francisco, California

Provide legal advice regarding litigation, law enforcement, national security, content moderation and enforcement, public policy, and human rights matters globally for a prominent social media company. Lead a worldwide team of 300 trust and safety professionals who address voluminous and time sensitive law enforcement requests and copyright/trademark matters. Regularly advise the board of directors, CEO, chief legal officer, and general counsel on a wide range of highly complex and critical matters.

Member, Board of Directors **February 2020-Present**
enaible, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts

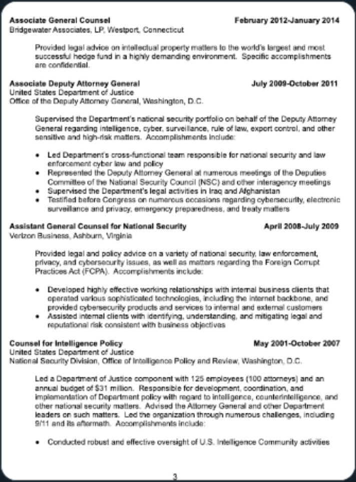
Serve as a member of the board of directors of an artificial intelligence/machine learning start-up in the productivity enhancement space.



General Counsel **January 2014-January 2018**
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Washington, D.C.

Led the FBI's legal team regarding a wide range of highly challenging national security, law enforcement, and litigation issues, including the Hillary Clinton email investigation, the investigation of Russian efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election, and high-profile encryption litigation involving Apple, Inc. Consistently provided senior FBI leaders with sound advice on risk management, crisis management, and organizational strategy. Accomplishments include:

- Successfully supervised all legal affairs of the nation's premier national security and law enforcement agency, including counterterrorism, counterintelligence, cyber, criminal, science and technology, privacy and civil liberties, government contracting, and employment law, as well as all aspects of civil litigation (including eDiscovery)
- Led FBI's Office of General Counsel, with 300 employees (including 200 attorneys)
- Program Manager for FBI's Chief Division Counsel Program through which an additional 125 attorneys provide legal advice and services to the FBI's 56 field offices
- Improved significantly the FBI's relationship with the technology sector post-Snowden disclosures
- Led the FBI's cross-functional team (legal, policy, legislative, and public affairs) responsible for supporting the Executive Branch's successful efforts to renew Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act
- Developed and implemented the first-ever comprehensive reorganization of the Office of General Counsel based on sound management principles and analysis



Associate General Counsel **February 2012-January 2014**
Bridgewater Associates, LP, Westport, Connecticut

Provided legal advice on intellectual property matters to the world's largest and most successful hedge fund in a highly demanding environment. Specific accomplishments are confidential.

Associate Deputy Attorney General **July 2009-October 2011**
United States Department of Justice
Office of the Deputy Attorney General, Washington, D.C.

Supervised the Department's national security portfolio on behalf of the Deputy Attorney General regarding intelligence, cyber, surveillance, rule of law, export control, and other sensitive and high-risk matters. Accomplishments include:

- Led Department's cross-functional team responsible for national security and law enforcement cyber law and policy
- Represented the Deputy Attorney General at numerous meetings of the Deputies Committee of the National Security Council (NSC) and other interagency meetings
- Supervised the Department's legal activities in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Testified before Congress on numerous occasions regarding cybersecurity, electronic surveillance and privacy, emergency preparedness, and treaty matters

Assistant General Counsel for National Security **April 2008-July 2009**
Verizon Business, Ashburn, Virginia

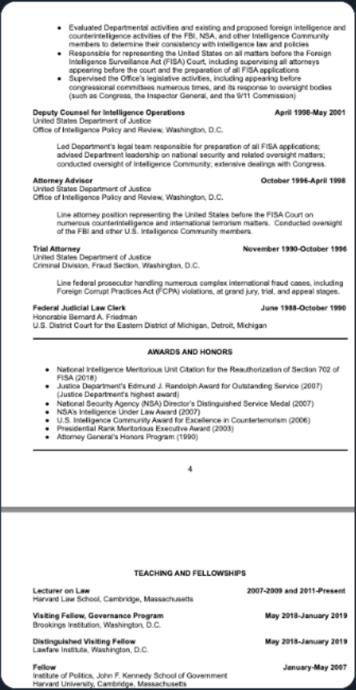
Provided legal and policy advice on a variety of national security, law enforcement, privacy, and cybersecurity issues, as well as matters regarding the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Accomplishments include:

- Developed highly effective working relationships with internal business clients that operated various sophisticated technologies, including the internet backbone, and provided cybersecurity products and services to internal and external customers
- Assisted internal clients with identifying, understanding, and mitigating legal and reputational risk consistent with business objectives

Counsel for Intelligence Policy **May 2001-October 2007**
United States Department of Justice
National Security Division, Office of Intelligence Policy and Review, Washington, D.C.

Led a Department of Justice component with 125 employees (100 attorneys) and an annual budget of $31 million. Responsible for development, coordination, and implementation of Department policy with regard to intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security matters. Advised the Attorney General and other Department leaders on such matters. Led the organization through numerous challenges, including 9/11 and its aftermath. Accomplishments include:

- Conducted robust and effective oversight of U.S. Intelligence Community activities



- Evaluated Departmental activities and existing and proposed foreign intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the FBI, NSA, and other Intelligence Community members to determine their consistency with intelligence law and policies
- Responsible for representing the United States on all matters before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court, including supervising all attorneys appearing before the court and the preparation of all FISA applications
- Supervised the Office's legislative activities, including appearing before congressional committees numerous times, and its response to oversight bodies (such as Congress, the Inspector General, and the 9/11 Commission)

Deputy Counsel for Intelligence Operations **April 1998-May 2001**
United States Department of Justice
Office of Intelligence Policy and Review, Washington, D.C.

Led Department's legal team responsible for preparation of all FISA applications; advised Department leadership on national security and related oversight matters; conducted oversight of Intelligence Community; extensive dealings with Congress.

Attorney Advisor **October 1996-April 1998**
United States Department of Justice
Office of Intelligence Policy and Review, Washington, D.C.

Line attorney position representing the United States before the FISA Court on numerous counterintelligence and international terrorism matters. Conducted oversight of the FBI and other U.S. Intelligence Community members.

Trial Attorney **November 1990-October 1996**
United States Department of Justice
Criminal Division, Fraud Section, Washington, D.C.

Line federal prosecutor handling numerous complex international fraud cases, including Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) violations, at grand jury, trial, and appeal stages.

Federal Judicial Law Clerk **June 1988-October 1990**
Honorable Bernard A. Friedman
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan

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AWARDS AND HONORS

- National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation for the Reauthorization of Section 702 of FISA (2018)
- Justice Department's Edmund J. Randolph Award for Outstanding Service (2007) (Justice Department's highest award)
- National Security Agency (NSA) Director's Distinguished Service Medal (2007)
- NSA's Intelligence Under Law Award (2007)
- U.S. Intelligence Community Award for Excellence in Counterterrorism (2006)
- Presidential Rank Meritorious Executive Award (2003)
- Attorney General's Honors Program (1990)

TEACHING AND FELLOWSHIPS

Lecturer on Law **2007-2009 and 2011-Present**
Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Visiting Fellow, Governance Program **May 2018-January 2019**
Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

Distinguished Visiting Fellow **May 2018-January 2019**
Lawfare Institute, Washington, D.C.

Fellow **January-May 2007**
Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

27. As general counsel of the FBI, Baker played a central role in making the case internally for an investigation of Donald Trump

FBI Took Michael Sussmann's Allegation of Trump-Russia Ties Seriously, F...

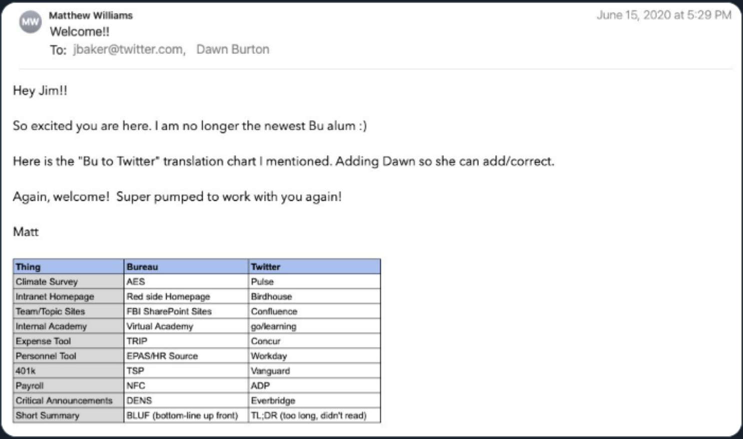
The 2016 claims from national-security lawyer Michael Sussmann alarmed the agency's most senior officials, the FBI's then-top lawyer testified at the criminal trial ...

https://www.wsj.com/articles/fbi-took-michael-sussmanns-allegation-of-trump-russia-...

28. Baker wasn't the only senior FBI exec. involved in the Trump investigation to go to Twitter.

Dawn Burton, the former dep. chief of staff to FBI head James Comey, who initiated the investigation of Trump, joined Twitter in 2019 as director of strategy.

29. As of 2020, there were so many former FBI employees — "Bu alumni" — working at Twitter that they had created their own private Slack channel and a crib sheet to onboard new FBI arrivals.



Matthew Williams

June 15, 2020 at 5:29 PM

Welcome!!

To: jbaker@twitter.com, Dawn Burton

Hey Jim!!

So excited you are here. I am no longer the newest Bu alum :)

Here is the "Bu to Twitter" translation chart I mentioned. Adding Dawn so she can add/correct.

Again, welcome! Super pumped to work with you again!

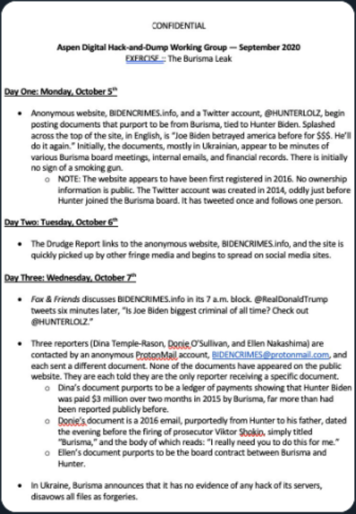
Matt

Thing	Bureau	Twitter
Climate Survey	AES	Pulse
Intranet Homepage	Red side Homepage	Birdhouse
Team/Topic Sites	FBI SharePoint Sites	Confluence
Internal Academy	Virtual Academy	go/learning
Expense Tool	TRIP	Concur
Personnel Tool	EPAS/HR Source	Workday
401k	TSP	Vanguard
Payroll	NFC	ADP
Critical Announcements	DENS	Everbridge
Short Summary	BLUF (bottom-line up front)	TL;DR (too long, didn't read)

30. Efforts continued to influence Twitter's Yoel Roth.

In Sept 2020, Roth participated in an Aspen Institute "tabletop exercise" on a potential "Hack-and-Dump" operation relating to Hunter Biden

The goal was to shape how the media covered it — and how social media carried it



CONFIDENTIAL

Aspen Digital Hack-and-Dump Working Group — September 2020

EXERCISE :: The Burisma Leak

Day One: Monday, October 5th

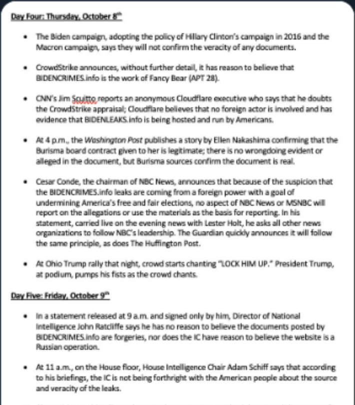
- Anonymous website, BIDENCRIMES.info, and a Twitter account, @HUNTERLOLZ, begin posting documents that purport to be from Burisma, tied to Hunter Biden. Splashed across the top of the site, in English, is "Joe Biden betrayed america before for $$$. He'll do it again." Initially, the documents, mostly in Ukrainian, appear to be minutes of various Burisma board meetings, internal emails, and financial records. There is initially no sign of a smoking gun.
    - NOTE: The website appears to have been first registered in 2016. No ownership information is public. The Twitter account was created in 2014, oddly just before Hunter joined the Burisma board. It has tweeted once and follows one person.

Day Two: Tuesday, October 6th

- The Drudge Report links to the anonymous website, BIDENCRIMES.info, and the site is quickly picked up by other fringe media and begins to spread on social media sites.

Day Three: Wednesday, October 7th

- *Fox & Friends* discusses BIDENCRIMES.info in its 7 a.m. block. @RealDonaldTrump tweets six minutes later, "Is Joe Biden biggest criminal of all time? Check out @HUNTERLOLZ."
- Three reporters (Dina Temple-Rason, Donie O'Sullivan, and Ellen Nakashima) are contacted by an anonymous ProtonMail account, BIDENCRIMES@protonmail.com, and each sent a different document. None of the documents have appeared on the public website. They are each told they are the only reporter receiving a specific document.
    - Dina's document purports to be a ledger of payments showing that Hunter Biden was paid $3 million over two months in 2015 by Burisma, far more than had been reported publicly before.
    - Donie's document is a 2016 email, purportedly from Hunter to his father, dated the evening before the firing of prosecutor Viktor Shokin, simply titled "Burisma," and the body of which reads: "I really need you to do this for me."
    - Ellen's document purports to be the board contract between Burisma and Hunter.
- In Ukraine, Burisma announces that it has no evidence of any hack of its servers, disavows all files as forgeries.

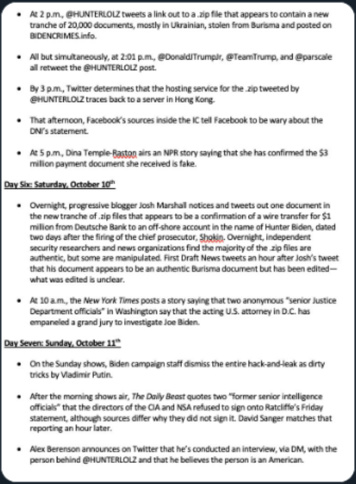


Day Four: Thursday, October 8th

- The Biden campaign, adopting the policy of Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2016 and the Macron campaign, says they will not confirm the veracity of any documents.
- CrowdStrike announces, without further detail, it has reason to believe that BIDENCRIMES.info is the work of Fancy Bear (APT 28).
- CNN's Jim Scuitto reports an anonymous Cloudflare executive who says that he doubts the CrowdStrike appraisal; Cloudflare believes that no foreign actor is involved and has evidence that BIDENLEAKS.info is being hosted and run by Americans.
- At 4 p.m., the *Washington Post* publishes a story by Ellen Nakashima confirming that the Burisma board contract given to her is legitimate; there is no wrongdoing evident or alleged in the document, but Burisma sources confirm the document is real.
- Cesar Conde, the chairman of NBC News, announces that because of the suspicion that the BIDENCRIMES.info leaks are coming from a foreign power with a goal of undermining America's free and fair elections, no aspect of NBC News or MSNBC will report on the allegations or use the materials as the basis for reporting. In his statement, carried live on the evening news with Lester Holt, he asks all other news organizations to follow NBC's leadership. The Guardian quickly announces it will follow the same principle, as does The Huffington Post.
- At Ohio Trump rally that night, crowd starts chanting "LOCK HIM UP." President Trump, at podium, pumps his fists as the crowd chants.

Day Five: Friday, October 9th

- In a statement released at 9 a.m. and signed only by him, Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe says he has no reason to believe the documents posted by BIDENCRIMES.info are forgeries, nor does the IC have reason to believe the website is a Russian operation.
- At 11 a.m., on the House floor, House Intelligence Chair Adam Schiff says that according to his briefings, the IC is not being forthright with the American people about the source and veracity of the leaks.
- Also at 11 a.m., Mandiant releases a short statement saying it has traced the source of BIDENLEAKS.info to infrastructure consistent with China's Ministry of State Security.



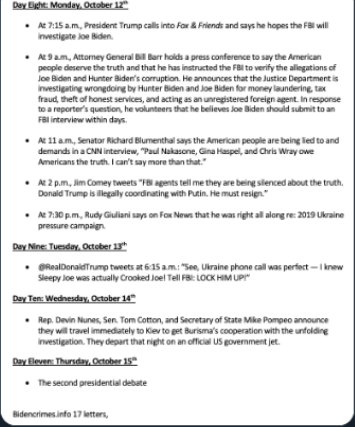
- At 2 p.m., @HUNTERLOLZ tweets a link out to a .zip file that appears to contain a new tranche of 20,000 documents, mostly in Ukrainian, stolen from Burisma and posted on BIDENCRIMES.info.
- All but simultaneously, at 2:01 p.m., @DonaldJTrumpJr, @TeamTrump, and @parscale all retweet the @HUNTERLOLZ post.
- By 3 p.m., Twitter determines that the hosting service for the .zip tweeted by @HUNTERLOLZ traces back to a server in Hong Kong.
- That afternoon, Facebook's sources inside the IC tell Facebook to be wary about the DNI's statement.
- At 5 p.m., Dina Temple-Raston airs an NPR story saying that she has confirmed the $3 million payment document she received is fake.

Day Six: Saturday, October 10th

- Overnight, progressive blogger Josh Marshall notices and tweets out one document in the new tranche of .zip files that appears to be a confirmation of a wire transfer for $1 million from Deutsche Bank to an off-shore account in the name of Hunter Biden, dated two days after the firing of the chief prosecutor, Shokin. Overnight, independent security researchers and news organizations find the majority of the .zip files are authentic, but some are manipulated. First Draft News tweets an hour after Josh's tweet that his document appears to be an authentic Burisma document but has been edited—what was edited is unclear.
- At 10 a.m., the *New York Times* posts a story saying that two anonymous "senior Justice Department officials" in Washington say that the acting U.S. attorney in D.C. has empaneled a grand jury to investigate Joe Biden.

Day Seven: Sunday, October 11th

- On the Sunday shows, Biden campaign staff dismiss the entire hack-and-leak as dirty tricks by Vladimir Putin.
- After the morning shows air, *The Daily Beast* quotes two "former senior intelligence officials" that the directors of the CIA and NSA refused to sign onto Ratcliffe's Friday statement, although sources differ why they did not sign it. David Sanger matches that reporting an hour later.
- Alex Berenson announces on Twitter that he's conducted an interview, via DM, with the person behind @HUNTERLOLZ and that he believes the person is an American.



Day Eight: Monday, October 12th

- At 7:15 a.m., President Trump calls into *Fox & Friends* and says he hopes the FBI will investigate Joe Biden.
- At 9 a.m., Attorney General Bill Barr holds a press conference to say the American people deserve the truth and that he has instructed the FBI to verify the allegations of Joe Biden and Hunter Biden's corruption. He announces that the Justice Department is investigating wrongdoing by Hunter Biden and Joe Biden for money laundering, tax fraud, theft of honest services, and acting as an unregistered foreign agent. In response to a reporter's question, he volunteers that he believes Joe Biden should submit to an FBI interview within days.
- At 11 a.m., Senator Richard Blumenthal says the American people are being lied to and demands in a CNN interview, "Paul Nakasone, Gina Haspel, and Chris Wray owe Americans the truth. I can't say more than that."
- At 2 p.m., Jim Comey tweets "FBI agents tell me they are being silenced about the truth. Donald Trump is illegally coordinating with Putin. He must resign."
- At 7:30 p.m., Rudy Giuliani says on Fox News that he was right all along re: 2019 Ukraine pressure campaign.

Day Nine: Tuesday, October 13th

- @RealDonaldTrump tweets at 6:15 a.m.: "See, Ukraine phone call was perfect — I knew Sleepy Joe was actually Crooked Joe! Tell FBI: LOCK HIM UP!"

Day Ten: Wednesday, October 14th

- Rep. Devin Nunes, Sen. Tom Cotton, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announce they will travel immediately to Kiev to get Burisma's cooperation with the unfolding investigation. They depart that night on an official US government jet.

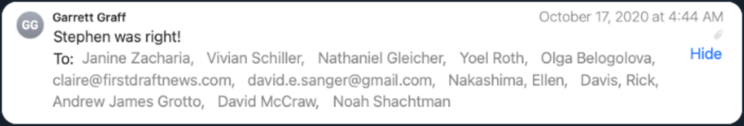
Day Eleven: Thursday, October 15th

- The second presidential debate

Bidencrimes.info 17 letters,

31. The organizer was Vivian Schiller, the fmr CEO of NPR, fmr head of news at Twitter; fmr Gen. mgr of NY Times; fmr Chief Digital Officer of NBC News

Attendees included Meta/FB's head of security policy and the top nat. sec. reporters for @nytimes @wapo and others



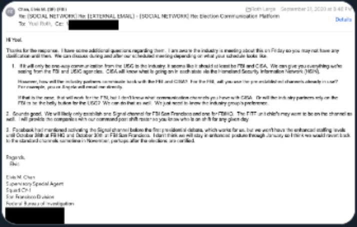
Garrett Graff October 17, 2020 at 4:44 AM

Stephen was right!

To: Janine Zacharia, Vivian Schiller, Nathaniel Gleicher, Yoel Roth, Olga Belogolova, claire@firstdraftnews.com, david.e.sanger@gmail.com, Nakashima, Ellen, Davis, Rick, Andrew James Grotto, David McCraw, Noah Shachtman

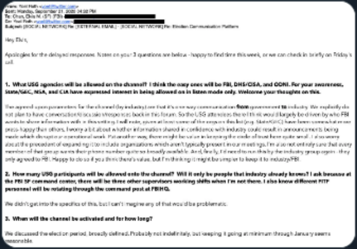
32. By mid-Sept, 2020, Chan & Roth had set up an encrypted messaging network so employees from FBI & Twitter could communicate.

They also agree to create a “virtual war room” for “all the [Internet] industry plus FBI and ODNI” [Office of the Director of National Intelligence].



[redacted]

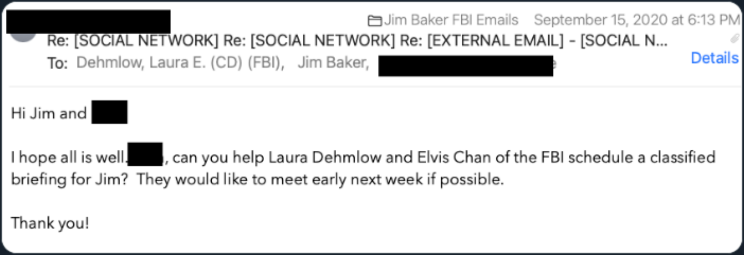
[redacted]



[redacted]

[redacted]

33. Then, on Sept 15, 2020 the FBI’s Laura Dehmlow, who heads up the Foreign Influence Task Force, and Elvis Chan, request to give a classified briefing for Jim Baker, without any other Twitter staff, such as Yoel Roth, present.



[redacted]

Jim Baker FBI Emails September 15, 2020 at 6:13 PM

Re: [SOCIAL NETWORK] Re: [SOCIAL NETWORK] Re: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - [SOCIAL N...

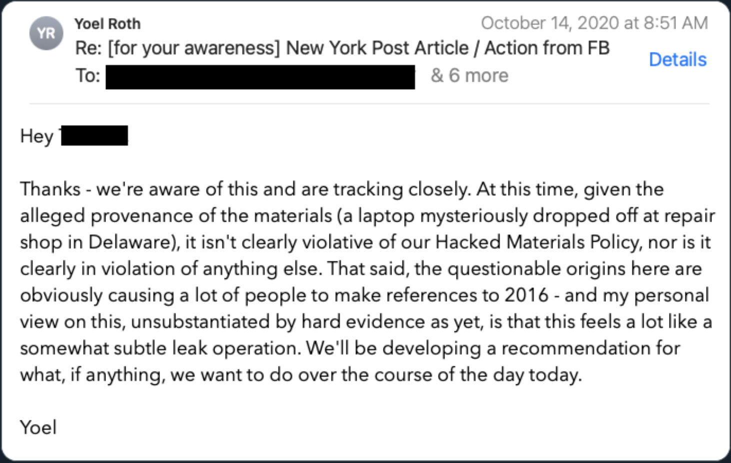
To: Dehmlow, Laura E. (CD) (FBI), Jim Baker, [redacted]

Hi Jim and [redacted]

I hope all is well [redacted], can you help Laura Dehmlow and Elvis Chan of the FBI schedule a classified briefing for Jim? They would like to meet early next week if possible.

Thank you!

34. On Oct 14, shortly after @nypost publishes its Hunter Biden laptop story, Roth says, “it isn’t clearly violative of our Hacked Materials Policy, nor is it clearly in violation of anything else," but adds, “this feels a lot like a somewhat subtle leak operation.”



Yoel Roth October 14, 2020 at 8:51 AM

Re: [for your awareness] New York Post Article / Action from FB

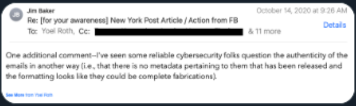
To: [redacted] & 6 more

Hey [redacted]

Thanks - we're aware of this and are tracking closely. At this time, given the alleged provenance of the materials (a laptop mysteriously dropped off at repair shop in Delaware), it isn't clearly violative of our Hacked Materials Policy, nor is it clearly in violation of anything else. That said, the questionable origins here are obviously causing a lot of people to make references to 2016 - and my personal view on this, unsubstantiated by hard evidence as yet, is that this feels a lot like a somewhat subtle leak operation. We'll be developing a recommendation for what, if anything, we want to do over the course of the day today.

Yoel

35. In response to Roth, Baker repeatedly insists that the Hunter Biden materials were either faked, hacked, or both, and a violation of Twitter policy. Baker does so over email, and in a Google doc, on October 14 and 15.

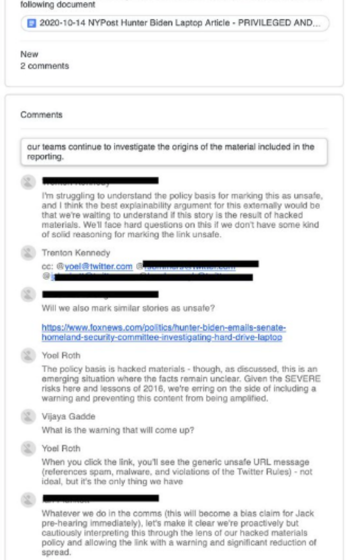


Jim Baker October 14, 2020 at 9:26 AM

Re: [for your awareness] New York Post Article / Action from FB

To: Yoel Roth, Cc: [redacted] & 11 more

One additional comment--I've seen some reliable cybersecurity folks question the authenticity of the emails in another way (i.e., that there is no metadata pertaining to them that has been released and the formatting looks like they could be complete fabrications).


Jim Baker[redacted], and 1 other added comments to the following document

2020-10-14 NYPost Hunter Biden Laptop Article - PRIVILEGED AND...

New
2 comments

Comments

our teams continue to investigate the origins of the material included in the reporting.

[redacted]
I'm struggling to understand the policy basis for marking this as unsafe, and I think the best explainability argument for this externally would be that we're waiting to understand if this story is the result of hacked materials. We'll face hard questions on this if we don't have some kind of solid reasoning for marking the link unsafe.

Trenton Kennedy
cc: @yoel@twitter.com @[redacted]

[redacted]
Will we also mark similar stories as unsafe?

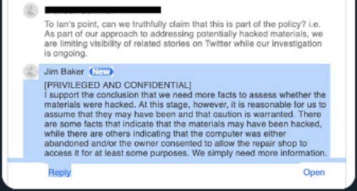
https://www.foxnews.com/politics/hunter-biden-emails-senate-homeland-security-committee-investigating-hard-drive-laptop

Yoel Roth
The policy basis is hacked materials - though, as discussed, this is an emerging situation where the facts remain unclear. Given the SEVERE risks here and lessons of 2016, we're erring on the side of including a warning and preventing this content from being amplified.

Vijaya Gadde
What is the warning that will come up?

Yoel Roth
When you click the link, you'll see the generic unsafe URL message (references spam, malware, and violations of the Twitter Rules) - not ideal, but it's the only thing we have

[redacted]
Whatever we do in the comms (this will become a bias claim for Jack pre-hearing immediately), let's make it clear we're proactively but cautiously interpreting this through the lens of our hacked materials policy and allowing the link with a warning and significant reduction of spread.

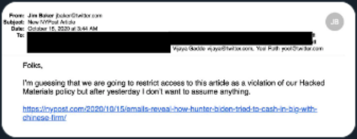


[redacted]

To Ian's point, can we truthfully claim that this is part of the policy? i.e. As part of our approach to addressing potentially hacked materials, we are limiting visibility of related stories on Twitter while our investigation is ongoing.

Jim Baker

[PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL]
I support the conclusion that we need more facts to assess whether the materials were hacked. At this stage, however, it is reasonable for us to assume that they may have been and that caution is warranted. There are some facts that indicate that the materials may have been hacked, while there are others indicating that the computer was either abandoned and/or the owner consented to allow the repair shop to access it for at least some purposes. We simply need more information.



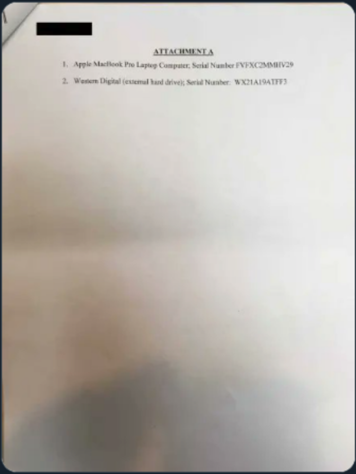
From: Jim Baker jbaker@twitter.com
Subject: New NYPost Article
Date: October 15, 2020 at 3:44 AM
To: [redacted] Vijaya Gadde vijaya@twitter.com, Yoel Roth yoel@twitter.com

Folks,

I'm guessing that we are going to restrict access to this article as a violation of our Hacked Materials policy but after yesterday I don't want to assume anything.

https://nypost.com/2020/10/15/emails-reveal-how-hunter-biden-tried-to-cash-in-big-with-chinese-firm/

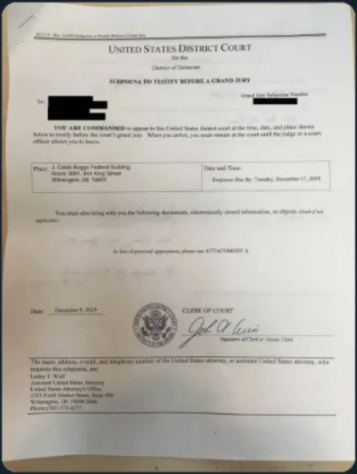
36. And yet it's inconceivable Baker believed the Hunter Biden emails were either fake or hacked. The @nypost had included a picture of the receipt signed by Hunter Biden, and an FBI subpoena showed that the agency had taken possession of the laptop in December 2019.



[redacted]

ATTACHMENT A

1. Apple MacBook Pro Laptop Computer; Serial Number FVFXC2MMHV29
2. Western Digital (external hard drive); Serial Number: WX21A19ATFF3



AO 110 (Rev. 06/09) Subpoena to Testify Before a Grand Jury

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
District of Delaware

SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY BEFORE A GRAND JURY

To: [redacted]

Grand Jury Subpoena Number [redacted]

YOU ARE COMMANDED to appear in this United States district court at the time, date, and place shown below to testify before the court's grand jury. When you arrive, you must remain at the court until the judge or a court officer allows you to leave.

Place: J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building Room 3001, 844 King Street Wilmington, DE 19801	Date and Time: Response Due By: Tuesday, December 17, 2019

You must also bring with you the following documents, electronically stored information, or objects *(blank if not applicable)*:

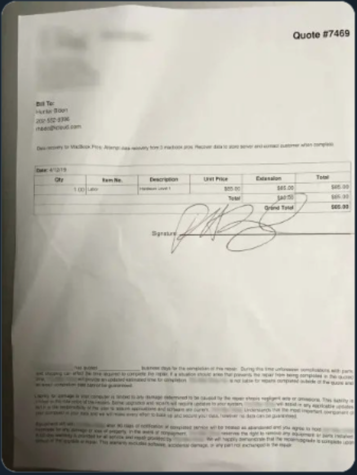
In lieu of personal appearance, please see ATTACHMENT A

Date: December 9, 2019

CLERK OF COURT

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

The name, address, e-mail, and telephone number of the United States attorney, or assistant United States attorney, who requests this subpoena, are:
Lesley F. Wolf
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
1313 North Market Street, Suite 400
Wilmington, DE 19899-2046
Phone:(302) 573-6277



[redacted]

Quote #7469

Bill To:
Hunter Biden
202-552-8396
rhbdc@icloud.com

Data recovery for MacBook Pros: Attempt data recovery from 3 macbook pros. Recover data to store server and contact customer when complete.

Date: 4/12/19

Qty	Item No.	Description	Unit Price	Extension	Total
1.00	Labor	Hardware Level 1	$85.00	$85.00	$85.00
			Total	$85.00	$85.00
				Grand Total	$85.00

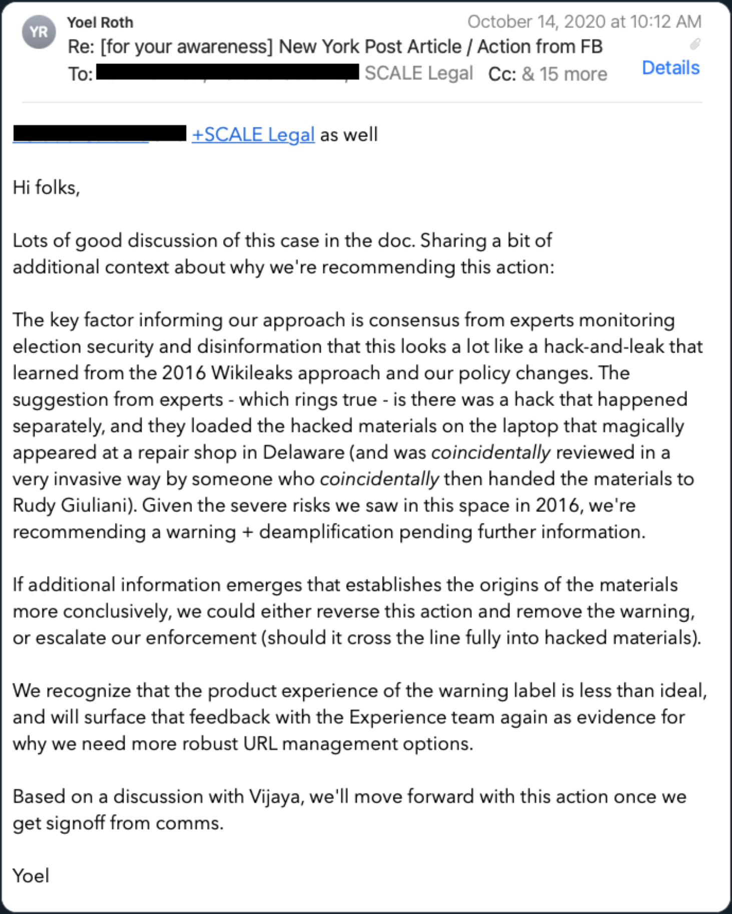
Signature

37. As for the FBI, it likely would have taken a few *hours* for it to confirm that the laptop had belonged to Hunter Biden. Indeed, it only took a few days for journalist @peterschweizer to prove it.

0:00 / 2:23
Peter.Schweizer

38. By 10 am, Twitter execs had bought into a wild hack-and-dump story

“The suggestion from experts - which rings true - is there was a hack that happened separately, and they loaded the hacked materials on the laptop that magically appeared at a repair shop in Delaware”



Yoel Roth October 14, 2020 at 10:12 AM

Re: [for your awareness] New York Post Article / Action from FB

To: [redacted] SCALE Legal Cc: & 15 more

[redacted] +SCALE Legal as well

Hi folks,

Lots of good discussion of this case in the doc. Sharing a bit of additional context about why we're recommending this action:

The key factor informing our approach is consensus from experts monitoring election security and disinformation that this looks a lot like a hack-and-leak that learned from the 2016 Wikileaks approach and our policy changes. The suggestion from experts - which rings true - is there was a hack that happened separately, and they loaded the hacked materials on the laptop that magically appeared at a repair shop in Delaware (and was *coincidentally* reviewed in a very invasive way by someone who *coincidentally* then handed the materials to Rudy Giuliani). Given the severe risks we saw in this space in 2016, we're recommending a warning + deamplification pending further information.

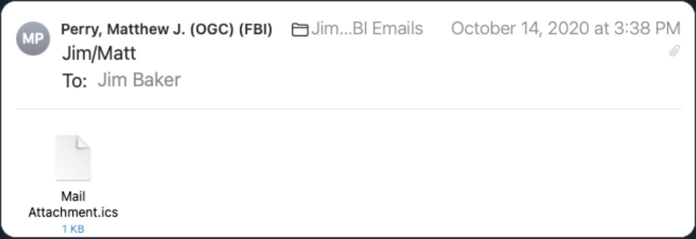
If additional information emerges that establishes the origins of the materials more conclusively, we could either reverse this action and remove the warning, or escalate our enforcement (should it cross the line fully into hacked materials).

We recognize that the product experience of the warning label is less than ideal, and will surface that feedback with the Experience team again as evidence for why we need more robust URL management options.

Based on a discussion with Vijaya, we'll move forward with this action once we get signoff from comms.

Yoel

39. At 3:38 pm that same day, October 14, Baker arranges a phone conversation with Matthew J. Perry in the Office of the General Counsel of the FBI



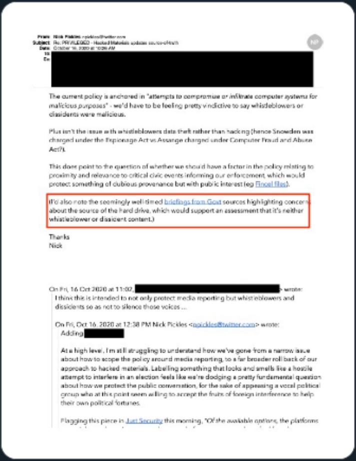
Perry, Matthew J. (OGC) (FBI) Jim...BI Emails October 14, 2020 at 3:38 PM

Jim/Matt

To: Jim Baker

40. The influence operation persuaded Twitter execs that the Hunter Biden laptop did *not* come from a whistleblower.

One linked to a Hill article, based on a WaPo article, from Oct 15, which falsely suggested that Giuliani's leak of the laptop had something to do with Russia.



From: Nick Pickles npickles@twitter.com
Subject: Re: PRIVILEGED - Hacked Materials updates source-of-truth
To:
Cc: [redacted]

The current policy is anchored in "attempts to compromise or *infiltrate computer systems for malicious purposes*" - we'd have to be feeling pretty vindictive to say whistleblowers or dissidents were malicious.

Plus isn't the issue with whistleblowers data theft rather than hacking (hence Snowden was charged under the Espionage Act vs Assange charged under Computer Fraud and Abuse Act?).

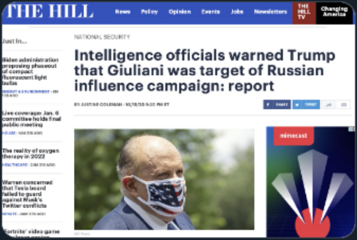
This does point to the question of whether we should have a factor in the policy relating to proximity and relevance to critical civic events informing our enforcement, which would protect something of dubious provenance but with public interest (eg Fincel files).

(I'd also note the seemingly well-timed briefings from Govt sources highlighting concerns about the source of the hard drive, which would support an assessment that it's neither whistleblower or dissident content.)

Thanks
Nick

On Fri, 16 Oct 2020 at 11:02, [redacted]> wrote:

> I think this is intended to not only protect media reporting but whistleblowers and dissidents so as not to silence those voices ...
>
> On Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 12:38 PM Nick Pickles <npickles@twitter.com> wrote:
>
>> Adding [redacted]
>>
>> At a high level, I'm still struggling to understand how we've gone from a narrow issue about how to scope the policy around media reporting, to a far broader roll back of our approach to hacked materials. Labelling something that looks and smells like a hostile attempt to interfere in an election feels like we're dodging a pretty fundamental question about how we protect the public conversation, for the sake of appeasing a vocal political group who at this point seem willing to accept the fruits of foreign interference to help their own political fortunes.
>>
>> Flagging this piece in Just Security this morning, "*Of the available options, the platforms*



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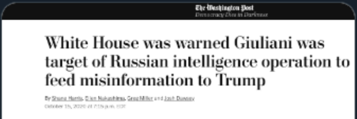
Opinion
Events
Jobs
Newsletters
THE HILL TV
Changing America
Just In...
Biden administration proposing phaseout of compact fluorescent light bulbs
Live coverage: Jan. 6 committee holds final public meeting
The reality of oxygen therapy in 2022
Warren concerned that Tesla board failed to guard against Musk's Twitter conflicts
Fortnite' video game
mimecast

NATIONAL SECURITY

Intelligence officials warned Trump that Giuliani was target of Russian influence campaign: report

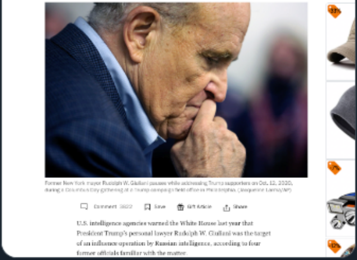
BY JUSTINE COLEMAN - 10/15/20 9:20 PM ET



The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

White House was warned Giuliani was target of Russian intelligence operation to feed misinformation to Trump

By Shane Harris, Ellen Nakashima, Greg Miller and Josh Dawsey



Former New York mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani pauses while addressing Trump supporters on Oct. 12, 2020, during a Columbus Day gathering at a Trump campaign field office in Philadelphia. (Jacqueline Larma/AP)

U.S. intelligence agencies warned the White House last year that President Trump's personal lawyer Rudolph W. Giuliani was the target of an influence operation by Russian intelligence, according to four former officials familiar with the matter.

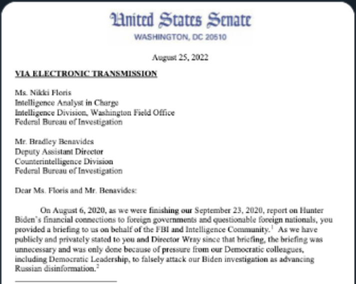
41. There is evidence that FBI agents have warned elected officials of foreign influence with the primary goal of leaking the information to the news media. This is a political dirty trick used to create the perception of impropriety.

42. In 2020, the FBI gave a briefing to Senator Grassley and Johnson, claiming evidence of "Russian interference" into their investigation of Hunter Biden.

The briefing angered the Senators, who say it was done to discredit their investigation.

grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/…

43. "The unnecessary FBI briefing provided the Democrats and liberal media the vehicle to spread their false narrative that our work advanced Russian disinformation."



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 25, 2022

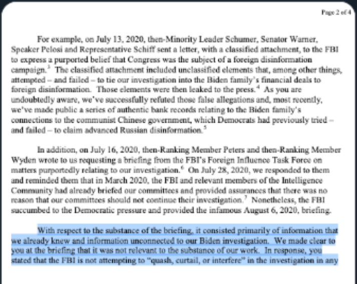
VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Ms. Nikki Floris
Intelligence Analyst in Charge
Intelligence Division, Washington Field Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Mr. Bradley Benavides
Deputy Assistant Director
Counterintelligence Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Ms. Floris and Mr. Benavides:

On August 6, 2020, as we were finishing our September 23, 2020, report on Hunter Biden's financial connections to foreign governments and questionable foreign nationals, you provided a briefing to us on behalf of the FBI and Intelligence Community.[1] As we have publicly and privately stated to you and Director Wray since that briefing, the briefing was unnecessary and was only done because of pressure from our Democratic colleagues, including Democratic Leadership, to falsely attack our Biden investigation as advancing Russian disinformation.[2]

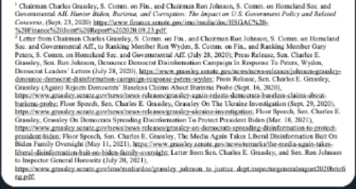


Page 2 of 4

For example, on July 13, 2020, then-Minority Leader Schumer, Senator Warner, Speaker Pelosi and Representative Schiff sent a letter, with a classified attachment, to the FBI to express a purported belief that Congress was the subject of a foreign disinformation campaign.[3] The classified attachment included unclassified elements that, among other things, attempted – and failed – to tie our investigation into the Biden family's financial deals to foreign disinformation. Those elements were then leaked to the press.[4] As you are undoubtedly aware, we've successfully refuted those false allegations and, most recently, we've made public a series of authentic bank records relating to the Biden family's connections to the communist Chinese government, which Democrats had previously tried – and failed – to claim advanced Russian disinformation.[5]

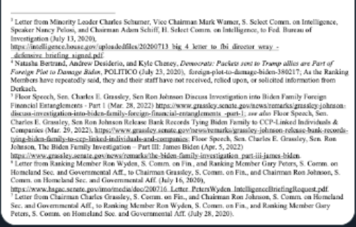
In addition, on July 16, 2020, then-Ranking Member Peters and then-Ranking Member Wyden wrote to us requesting a briefing from the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force on matters purportedly relating to our investigation.[6] On July 28, 2020, we responded to them and reminded them that in March 2020, the FBI and relevant members of the Intelligence Community had already briefed our committees and provided assurances that there was no reason that our committees should not continue their investigation.[7] Nonetheless, the FBI succumbed to the Democratic pressure and provided the infamous August 6, 2020, briefing.

With respect to the substance of the briefing, it consisted primarily of information that we already knew and information unconnected to our Biden investigation. We made clear to you at the briefing that it was not relevant to the substance of our work. In response, you stated that the FBI is not attempting to "quash, curtail, or interfere" in the investigation in any



[1] Chairman Charles Grassley, S. Comm. on Fin., and Chairman Ron Johnson, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff. *Hunter Biden, Burisma, and Corruption: The Impact on U.S. Government Policy and Related Concerns*, (Sept. 23, 2020) https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HSGAC%20-%20Finance%20Joint%20Report%202020.09.23.pdf.

[2] Letter from Chairman Charles Grassley, S. Comm. on Fin., and Chairman Ron Johnson, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff., to Ranking Member Ron Wyden, S. Comm. on Fin., and Ranking Member Gary Peters, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff. (July 28, 2020); Press Release, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Sen. Ron Johnson, Denounce Democrat Disinformation Campaign In Response To Peters, Wyden, Democrat Leaders' Letters (July 28, 2020), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/johnson-grassley-denounce-democrat-disinformation-campaign-response-peters-wyden; Press Release, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Grassley (Again) Rejects Democrats' Baseless Claims About Burisma Probe (Sept. 16, 2020), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-again-rejects-democrats-baseless-claims-about-burisma-probe; Floor Speech, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Grassley On The Ukraine Investigation (Sept. 29, 2020), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-ukraine-investigation; Floor Speech, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Grassley On Democrats Spreading Disinformation To Protect President Biden (Mar. 18, 2021), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-on-democrats-spreading-disinformation-to-protect-president-biden; Floor Speech, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, The Media Again Takes Liberal Disinformation Bait On Biden Family Oversight (May 11, 2021), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/the-media-again-takes-liberal-disinformation-bait-on-biden-family-oversight; Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, and Sen. Ron Johnson to Inspector General Horowitz (July 20, 2021), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_johnson_to_justice_dept.inspectorgeneralaugust2020briefing.pdf.



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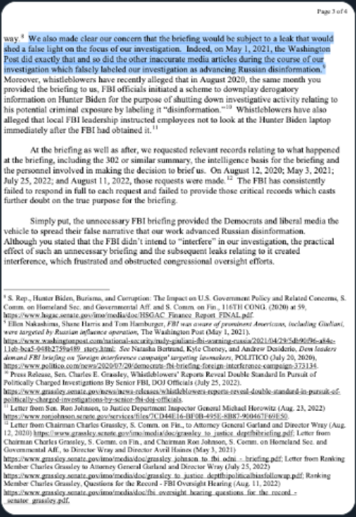
[3] Letter from Minority Leader Charles Schumer, Vice Chairman Mark Warner, S. Select Comm. on Intelligence, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Chairman Adam Schiff, H. Select Comm. on Intelligence, to Fed. Bureau of Investigation (July 13, 2020), https://intelligence.house.gov/uploadedfiles/20200713_big_4_letter_to_fbi_director_wray_-_defensive_briefing_signed.pdf.

[4] Natasha Bertrand, Andrew Desiderio, and Kyle Cheney, *Democrats: Packets sent to Trump allies are Part of Foreign Plot to Damage Biden*, POLITICO (July 23, 2020), foreign-plot-to-damage-biden-380217; As the Ranking Members have repeatedly said, they and their staff have not received, relied upon, or solicited information from Derkach.

[5] Floor Speech, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Sen Ron Johnson Discuss Investigation into Biden Family Foreign Financial Entanglements - Part 1 (Mar. 28, 2022) https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-johnson-discuss-investigation-into-biden-family-foreign-financial-entanglements_-part-1; *see also* Floor Speech, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Sen Ron Johnson Release Bank Records Tying Biden Family to CCP-Linked Individuals & Companies (Mar. 29, 2022), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/grassley-johnson-release-bank-records-tying-biden-family-to-ccp-linked-individuals-and-companies; Floor Speech, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Sen. Ron Johnson, The Biden Family Investigation – Part III: James Biden (Apr. 5, 2022) https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/remarks/the-biden-family-investigation_part-iii-james-biden.

[6] Letter from Ranking Member Ron Wyden, S. Comm. on Fin., and Ranking Member Gary Peters, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff., to Chairman Grassley, S. Comm. on Fin., and Chairman Ron Johnson, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff. (July 16, 2020), https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/200716_Letter_PetersWyden_IntelligenceBriefingRequest.pdf.

[7] Letter from Chairman Charles Grassley, S. Comm. on Fin., and Chairman Ron Johnson, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff., to Ranking Member Ron Wyden, S. Comm. on Fin., and Ranking Member Gary Peters, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff. (July 28, 2020).



way.[8] We also made clear our concern that the briefing would be subject to a leak that would shed a false light on the focus of our investigation. Indeed, on May 1, 2021, the Washington Post did exactly that and so did the other inaccurate media articles during the course of our investigation which falsely labeled our investigation as advancing Russian disinformation.[9] Moreover, whistleblowers have recently alleged that in August 2020, the same month you provided the briefing to us, FBI officials initiated a scheme to downplay derogatory information on Hunter Biden for the purpose of shutting down investigative activity relating to his potential criminal exposure by labeling it "disinformation."[10] Whistleblowers have also alleged that local FBI leadership instructed employees not to look at the Hunter Biden laptop immediately after the FBI had obtained it.[11]

At the briefing as well as after, we requested relevant records relating to what happened at the briefing, including the 302 or similar summary, the intelligence basis for the briefing and the personnel involved in making the decision to brief us. On August 12, 2020; May 3, 2021; July 25, 2022; and August 11, 2022, those requests were made.[12] The FBI has consistently failed to respond in full to each request and failed to provide those critical records which casts further doubt on the true purpose for the briefing.

Simply put, the unnecessary FBI briefing provided the Democrats and liberal media the vehicle to spread their false narrative that our work advanced Russian disinformation. Although you stated that the FBI didn't intend to "interfere" in our investigation, the practical effect of such an unnecessary briefing and the subsequent leaks relating to it created interference, which frustrated and obstructed congressional oversight efforts.

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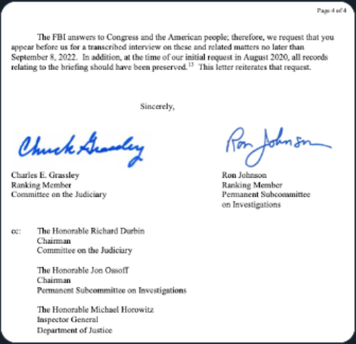
[8] S. Rep., Hunter Biden, Burisma, and Corruption: The Impact on U.S. Government Policy and Related Concerns, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff. and S. Comm. on Fin., 116TH CONG. (2020) at 59, https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HSGAC_Finance_Report_FINAL.pdf.

[9] Ellen Nakashima, Shane Harris and Tom Hamburger, *FBI was aware of prominent Americans, including Giuliani, were targeted by Russian influence operation*, The Washington Post (May 1, 2021). https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/rudy-giuliani-fbi-warning-russia/2021/04/29/5db90f96-a84c-11eb-bca5-048b2759a489_story.html; *See* Natasha Bertrand, Kyle Cheney, and Andrew Desiderio, *Dem leaders demand FBI briefing on 'foreign interference campaign' targeting lawmakers*, POLITICO (July 20, 2020), https://www.politico.com/news/2020/07/20/democrats-fbi-briefing-foreign-interference-campaign-373134.

[10] Press Release, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Whistleblowers' Reports Reveal Double Standard In Pursuit of Politically Charged Investigations By Senior FBI, DOJ Officials (July 25, 2022). https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/whistleblowers-reports-reveal-double-standard-in-pursuit-of-politically-charged-investigations-by-senior-fbi-doj-officials.

[11] Letter from Sen. Ron Johnson, to Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz (Aug. 23, 2022) https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/services/files/7CD44E16-BF0B-495E-8B87-900467F69E50.

[12] Letter from Chairman Charles Grassley, S. Comm. on Fin., to Attorney General Garland and Director Wray (Aug. 12, 2020) https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_justice_deptfbibriefing.pdf; Letter from Chairman Charles Grassley, S. Comm. on Fin., and Chairman Ron Johnson, S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff., to Director Wray and Director Avril Haines (May 3, 2021) https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_johnson_to_fbi_odni_-_briefing.pdf; Letter from Ranking Member Charles Grassley to Attorney General Garland and Director Wray (July 25, 2022) https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_justice_deptfbipoliticalbiasfollowup.pdf; Ranking Member Charles Grassley, Questions for the Record - FBI Oversight Hearing (Aug. 11, 2022) https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fbi_oversight_hearing_questions_for_the_record_-_senator_grassley.pdf.



The FBI answers to Congress and the American people; therefore, we request that you appear before us for a transcribed interview on these and related matters no later than September 8, 2022. In addition, at the time of our initial request in August 2020, all records relating to the briefing should have been preserved.[13] This letter reiterates that request.

Sincerely,

Chuck Grassley

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

Ron Johnson

Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee
on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Jon Ossoff
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

The Honorable Michael Horowitz
Inspector General
Department of Justice

44. Notably, then-FBI General Counsel Jim Baker was investigated *twice,* in 2017 and 2019, for leaking information to the news media.

"You're saying he's under criminal investigation? That's why you're not letting him answer?" Meadows asked.

"Yes"

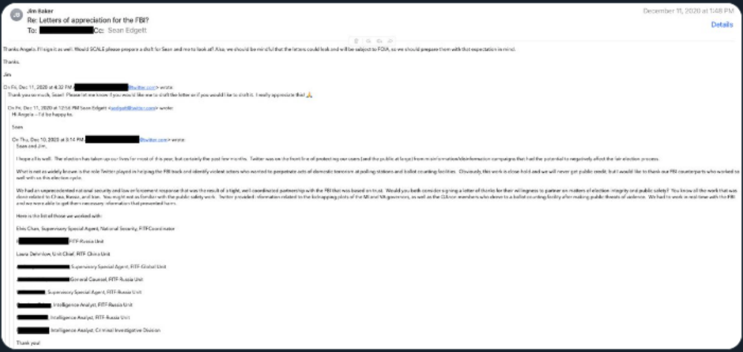
Ex-FBI general counsel faced criminal leak probe

The revelation's timing suggests that Republicans are seeking to undercut Baker's credibility following a bombshell report in the New York Times.

https://www.politico.com/story/2019/01/15/fbi-general-counsel-criminal-investigation…

45. In the end, the FBI's influence campaign aimed at executives at news media, Twitter, & other social media companies worked: they censored & discredited the Hunter Biden laptop story.

By Dec. 2020, Baker and his colleagues even sent a note of thanks to the FBI for its work.



Jim Baker
Re: Letters of appreciation for the FBI?
To: [redacted] Cc: Sean Edgett

December 11, 2020 at 1:48 PM

Thanks Angela. I'll sign it as well. Would SCALE please prepare a draft for Sean and me to look at? Also, we should be mindful that the letters could leak and will be subject to FOIA, so we should prepare them with that expectation in mind.

Thanks.

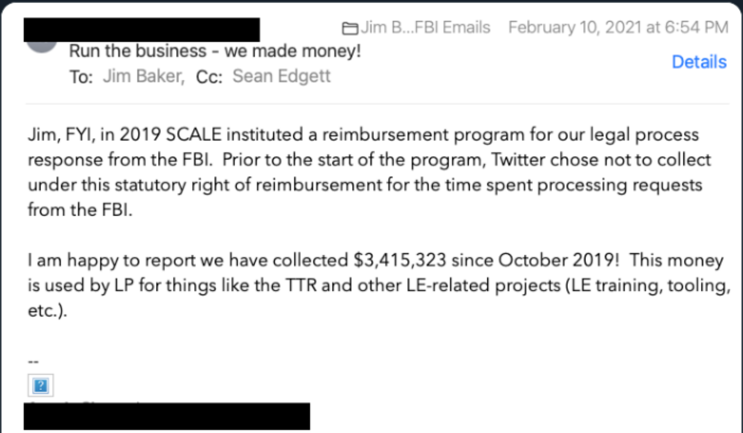
Jim

On Fri, Dec 11, 2020 at 4:32 PM <[redacted]@twitter.com> wrote:

> Thank you so much, Sean! Please let me know if you would like me to draft the letter or if you would like to draft it. I really appreciate this! 🙏
>
> On Fri, Dec 11, 2020 at 12:56 PM Sean Edgett <sedgett@twitter.com> wrote:
>
> > Hi Angela -- I'd be happy to.
> >
> > Sean
> >
> > On Thu, Dec 10, 2020 at 3:14 PM [redacted]@twitter.com> wrote:
> >
> > > Sean and Jim,
> > >
> > > I hope all is well. The election has taken up our lives for most of this year, but certainly the past few months. Twitter was on the front line of protecting our users (and the public at large) from misinformation/disinformation campaigns that had the potential to negatively affect the fair election process.
> > >
> > > What is not as widely known is the role Twitter played in helping the FBI track and identify violent actors who wanted to perpetrate acts of domestic terrorism at polling stations and ballot counting facilities. Obviously, this work is close hold and we will never get public credit, but I would like to thank our FBI counterparts who worked so well with us this election cycle.
> > >
> > > We had an unprecedented national security and law enforcement response that was the result of a tight, well coordinated partnership with the FBI that was based on trust. Would you both consider signing a letter of thanks for their willingness to partner on matters of election integrity and public safety? You know all the work that was done related to China, Russia, and Iran. You might not as familiar with the public safety work. Twitter provided information related to the kidnapping plots of the MI and VA governors, as well as the QAnon members who drove to a ballot counting facility after making public threats of violence. We had to work in real time with the FBI and we were able to get them necessary information that prevented harm.
> > >
> > > Here is the list of those we worked with:
> > >
> > > Elvis Chan, Supervisory Special Agent, National Security, FITF Coordinator
> > >
> > > [redacted] FITF-Russia Unit
> > >
> > > Laura Dehmlow, Unit Chief, FITF China Unit
> > >
> > > [redacted] Supervisory Special Agent, FITF-Global Unit
> > >
> > > [redacted] General Counsel, FITF-Russia Unit
> > >
> > > [redacted], Supervisory Special Agent, FITF-Russia Unit
> > >
> > > [redacted], Intelligence Analyst, FITF-Russia Unit
> > >
> > > [redacted], Intelligence Analyst, FITF-Russia Unit
> > >
> > > [redacted] Intelligence Analyst, Criminal Investigative Division
> > >
> > > Thank you!

46. The FBI’s influence campaign may have been helped by the fact that it was paying Twitter millions of dollars for its staff time.

“I am happy to report we have collected $3,415,323 since October 2019!” reports an associate of Jim Baker in early 2021.



[redacted]

February 10, 2021 at 6:54 PM

Run the business - we made money!
To: Jim Baker, Cc: Sean Edgett

Jim, FYI, in 2019 SCALE instituted a reimbursement program for our legal process response from the FBI. Prior to the start of the program, Twitter chose not to collect under this statutory right of reimbursement for the time spent processing requests from the FBI.

I am happy to report we have collected $3,415,323 since October 2019! This money is used by LP for things like the TTR and other LE-related projects (LE training, tooling, etc.).

--

[redacted]

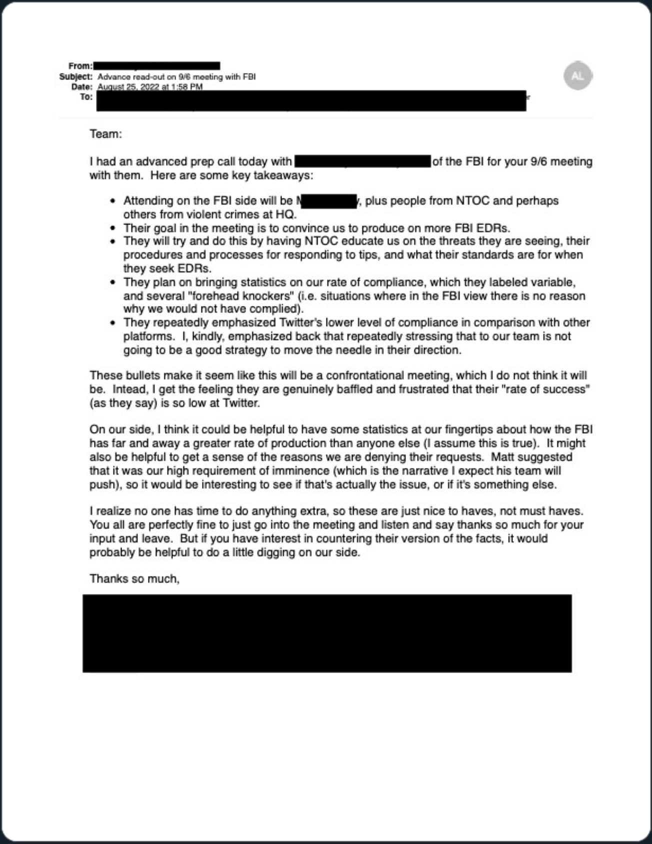
Safety, Content, & Law Enforcement (SCALE)

[redacted]

47. And the pressure from the FBI on social media platforms continues

In Aug 2022, Twitter execs prepared for a meeting with the FBI, whose goal was “to convince us to produce on more FBI EDRs"

EDRs are an “emergency disclosure request,” a warrantless search.



From: [redacted]
Subject: Advance read-out on 9/6 meeting with FBI
Date: August 25, 2022 at 1:58 PM
To: [redacted]

Team:

I had an advanced prep call today with [redacted] of the FBI for your 9/6 meeting with them. Here are some key takeaways:

- Attending on the FBI side will be [redacted], plus people from NTOC and perhaps others from violent crimes at HQ.
- Their goal in the meeting is to convince us to produce on more FBI EDRs.
- They will try and do this by having NTOC educate us on the threats they are seeing, their procedures and processes for responding to tips, and what their standards are for when they seek EDRs.
- They plan on bringing statistics on our rate of compliance, which they labeled variable, and several "forehead knockers" (i.e. situations where in the FBI view there is no reason why we would not have complied).
- They repeatedly emphasized Twitter's lower level of compliance in comparison with other platforms. I, kindly, emphasized back that repeatedly stressing that to our team is not going to be a good strategy to move the needle in their direction.

These bullets make it seem like this will be a confrontational meeting, which I do not think it will be. Intead, I get the feeling they are genuinely baffled and frustrated that their "rate of success" (as they say) is so low at Twitter.

On our side, I think it could be helpful to have some statistics at our fingertips about how the FBI has far and away a greater rate of production than anyone else (I assume this is true). It might also be helpful to get a sense of the reasons we are denying their requests. Matt suggested that it was our high requirement of imminence (which is the narrative I expect his team will push), so it would be interesting to see if that's actually the issue, or if it's something else.

I realize no one has time to do anything extra, so these are just nice to haves, not must haves. You all are perfectly fine to just go into the meeting and listen and say thanks so much for your input and leave. But if you have interest in countering their version of the facts, it would probably be helpful to do a little digging on our side.

Thanks so much,

[redacted]

In response to the Twitter Files revelation of high-level FBI agents at Twitter, @Jim_Jordan said, “I have concerns about whether the government was running a misinformation operation on We the People.”

Twitter's top ranks riddled with ex-FBI employees
Twitter's top ranks were riddled with ex-FBI agents and executives, stitching the company even closer to the federal agency now under fire for leaning on Twitter to…
https://nypost.com/2022/12/17/twitter-leadership-full-of-former-fbi-agents-linkedin-r…

Anyone who reads the Twitter Files, regardless of their political orientation, should share those concerns.

/END