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

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

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

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

Ranit Schmelzer
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Corporation for National & Community Service
Tel: 202.606.6615
Cell: 202.391.2050
rschmelzer@cns.gov

7/15/2009

From: Goren, Nicola
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 10:06 PM
To: 'Alan D. Solomont'; 'Steve Goldsmith'; 'etanenblatt@ [REDACTED]'; 'Laysha.Ward';
'hyepin@ [REDACTED]'; 'James (Jim) Palmer [REDACTED]'; 'gearan [REDACTED]';
'Julie F. Cummings'; 'Stan Soloway'
Subject: News about the IG

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to let you know that the President has decided to remove Inspector General Walpin from his position. Consistent with the Inspector General Act, this removal will take effect 30 days from tomorrow. The IG will be placed on paid leave during that time.

Kenneth Bach will be named as the Acting Inspector General in the transition. Ken served as an Investigator with the CNCS OIG from 1998 to 2003, and with the Department of the Interior OIG from 2003 to 2005. Ken rejoined the CNCS OIG in 2005, and has served as OIG's Chief Technology Officer (CTO) since then. In May 2008, he was named the Assistant Inspector General for Support, while continuing his role as CTO. In addition to his CTO duties, Ken oversees day-to-day operations of the OIG, including budgeting and finances, information technology, communications, and overall support of audits and investigations.

We look forward to working with Ken during this transition.

The White House is notifying the Hill. Below is a copy of a statement from CNCS that is being sent to select reporters.

Nicky

**Statement from Ranit Schmelzer
Director of Public Affairs, Corporation for National and Community Service**

Today, the President indicated that he intends to remove the Inspector General for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Board Chair, Alan Solomont, the Board's Vice Chair, Stephen Goldsmith, and Eric Tanenblatt, Chair of the Board's Management, Audit, and Governance Committee, fully support this decision and look forward to working with a newly appointed and confirmed Inspector General.

In a joint statement, Solomont and Goldsmith stated: "We strongly endorse the President's decision with respect to Inspector General Gerald Walpin. We look forward to working with a new Inspector General."

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

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

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

Hey Ranit:

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

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

Let me know if I can be helpful, Josh

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL: FOR BRIEFING PURPOSES ONLY

- Gerald Walpin has served, since January, 2007, as the Inspector General for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Prior to joining CNCS, Walpin spent 40 years with the firm Katten Muchin Rosenman and was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, where he served as Chief of Special Prosecutions.
- Walpin was flagged as a problem at the agency even during the transition process, when the Corporation's Acting CEO and staff complained that Walpin displayed excessively antagonistic behavior to agency grantees and espoused a "gotcha" mentality. More acute problems with Walpin have developed when on May 19, 2009, CNCS held a board meeting at which Walpin delivered a disastrous presentation, during which he seemed disoriented and unable to speak or answer questions for a period of time.
- The Chair of the Board, Alan Solomont, contacted our office immediately after the board meeting and thereafter forwarded several emails he received from other board members conveying concerns about Walpin. In those email messages, board members noted that Walpin's behavior at the board meeting was troubling and raised questions about Walpin's capacity to serve.
- Other issues with Walpin's conduct and performance involve his decision to telecommute from New York since January, contrary to the Board's wishes, and a style that has caused unnecessary conflict within the agency.
- Walpin recently sent a report to Congress regarding the settlement of an investigation involving Sacramento's mayor (who previously was employed by a charter school that received AmeriCorps funds). Walpin believes the settlement was "worthless." In connection with that same investigation (and before any report was sent to the Hill), the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California referred Walpin to the Council on Inspectors General because Walpin allegedly elected "to provide [the] office with selective information" and spoke with the press, inappropriately, during the pendency of the investigation.

Q&A, for background only

When will the removal take effect?

Consistent with the Inspector General Act, this removal will take effect 30 days from today, July 6.

Why is Mr. Walpin being removed?

The President has lost confidence in Mr. Walpin and wants to replace him with someone in whom he does have full confidence.

What specifically, were the issues?

We don't want to get into any detail, but there were some performance-based issues.

On the record quote:

Today, the President has notified Congress that he intends to remove the Inspector General for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Board Chair, Democrat Alan Solomont, the Board's Vice Chair, Republican Steve Goldsmith, and Eric Tanenblatt, Chair of the Board's Management, Audit, and Governance Committee, fully support this decision and look forward to working with a newly appointed and confirmed Inspector General.

For Background:

- Gerald Walpin has served, since January, 2007, as the Inspector General for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Prior to joining CNCS, Walpin spent 40 years with the firm Katten Muchin Rosenman and was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, where he served as Chief of Special Prosecutions.
- Walpin was flagged as a problem at the agency even during the transition process, when the Corporation's Acting CEO and staff complained that Walpin displayed excessively antagonistic behavior to agency grantees and espoused a "gotcha" mentality. More acute problems with Walpin have developed when on May 19, 2009, CNCS held a board meeting at which Walpin delivered a disastrous presentation, during which he seemed disoriented and unable to speak or answer questions for a period of time.
- The Chair of the Board, Alan Solomont, contacted our office immediately after the board meeting and thereafter forwarded several emails he received from other board members conveying concerns about Walpin. In those email messages, board members noted that Walpin's behavior at the board meeting was troubling and raised questions about Walpin's capacity to serve.
- Other issues with Walpin's conduct and performance involve his decision to telecommute from New York since January, contrary to the Board's wishes, and a style that has caused unnecessary conflict within the agency.
- Walpin recently sent a report to Congress regarding the settlement of an investigation involving Sacramento's mayor (who previously was employed by a charter school that received AmeriCorps funds). Walpin believes the settlement was "worthless." In connection with that same investigation (and before any report was sent to the Hill), the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California referred Walpin to the Council on Inspector Generals because he allegedly elected "to provide [the] office with selective information" and spoke with the press, inappropriately, during the pendency of the investigation.

Q&A, for background only

When will the removal take effect?

Consistent with the Inspector General Act, this removal will take effect 30 days from today, July 6.

Will Mr. Walpin remain the Inspector General until that time?

Yes, but Kenneth Bach, who currently serves as Assistant Inspector General for Support at the Corporation, will fill in until a new Inspector General can be nominated.

Who is Kenneth Bach?

Bach currently serves as one of the Assistant Inspectors General at the Corporation for National and Community Service and has years of relevant experience that will enable him to handle matters effectively until a new Inspector General can be nominated and confirmed.

Why is Mr. Walpin being removed?

The President has lost confidence in Mr. Walpin and wants to replace him with someone in whom he does have full confidence.

What specifically, were the issues?

We don't want to get into any detail, but there were some performance-based issues.

THE WHITE HOUSE

June 5, 2009

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
United States Capitol
H-232
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Notification pursuant to the Inspector General Act

Dear Madam Speaker:

This is to advise that I have exercised my power as President to remove from office the current appointee to the position of Inspector General for the Corporation for National and Community Service, effective thirty days from today. The removed appointee may be involved in investigations that would be aided by some continued association with his office. We will want to review these situations to consider asking for his continued participation on an appropriate basis.

It is extremely important that we uncover fraud, waste and mismanagement of federal funds, and that we promote the economy, effectiveness and efficiency of federal programs and operations. The Inspector General has a critical role in the achievement of these goals. As is the case with regard to all positions where I, as President, have the power of appointment by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, it is vital that I have the fullest confidence in the ability, integrity, and commitment of the appointees to the position of Inspector General.

I will be submitting to the Senate my nomination of an individual for this position who has my confidence and who meets the appropriate qualifications.

Sincerely,

Barak Obama

From: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 9:25 AM
To: Trinity, Frank
Subject: Fw: WH Docs

----- Original Message -----
From: Bach, Kenneth
To: Schmelzer, Ranit
Sent: Thu Jun 11 09:23:03 2009
Subject: RE: WH Docs

Confirmed, the documents were shredded.

From: Schmelzer, Ranit [mailto:RSchmelzer@cns.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 9:10 AM
To: Kenneth C. Bach
Subject: WH Docs

Ken -

The send two WH documents were sent in error. Can you please destroy them?
And can you confirm that you receive this email?

Thank you.

Ranit Schmelzer
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Corporation for National & Community Service
Tel: 202.606.6615
Cell: [REDACTED]
rschmelzer@cns.gov