

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2023

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Inspector General Horowitz:

Citizens United recently obtained and released 460 pages of heavily redacted records it received in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.¹ The Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (DOJ OIG) produced these records as a “partial response” to Citizens United’s FOIA request “seeking interview transcripts . . . generated as a result of investigative interviews . . . in the course of the [DOJ OIG’s] investigation entitled ‘Review of Four FISA Applications and Other Aspects of the FBI’s Crossfire Hurricane Investigation.’”² Due to massive redactions applied to the interview transcripts by a number of agencies, including the DOJ OIG, these records are impossible to review. We write to request the unredacted version of those records, which we understand include the following transcribed interviews and notes:

- Kathleen Kavalec; (Jul. 31, 2019 transcript and Jul. 31, 2019 DOJ OIG notes);
- Lisa Page (May 7, 2018 transcript and May 7, 2018 DOJ OIG notes);
- Loretta Lynch (Feb. 26, 2019 transcript and Feb. 26, 2019 DOJ OIG notes); and
- Nellie Ohr (Nov. 1, 2018 transcript and Nov. 1, 2018 DOJ OIG notes).

For years we have examined the FBI’s Crossfire Hurricane investigation as well as the DOJ OIG’s report on the matter. As Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator Johnson held a hearing on December 18, 2019—shortly after the DOJ OIG released its FISA report—to discuss your office’s findings.³ On the same day, Senator Johnson released a 12-page timeline providing important context to many of the DOJ OIG’s report’s key facts based on our ongoing investigation into the FBI’s conduct.⁴ Notably, the DOJ OIG report contained FBI official Bill Priestap’s statement that the FBI “didn’t have any

¹ Letter from Jacqueline Lightle, Government Information Specialist, Dep’t of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, to Jeremiah Morgan, Citizens United, Feb. 3, 2023, <http://www.citizensunited.org/latest-updates.aspx?article=13190>.

² *Id.*

³ S. Comm. On Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff., DOJ OIG FISA Report: Methodology, Scope, and Findings, Dec. 18, 2019, <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/doj-oig-fisa-report-methodology-scope-and-findings/>.

⁴ Abbreviated Timeline of Key Events Related to Crossfire Hurricane Investigation, S. Comm. On Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff., Dec. 18, 2019, <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/imo/media/doc/abbreviated%20timeline%20horowitz.pdf>.

indication whatsoever” of Russian influence of the anti-Trump report known as the Steele dossier.⁵ Our investigation uncovered redacted footnotes contained in the DOJ OIG’s FISA report that completely contradicted that statement.⁶ On December 3, 2020, Senator Johnson held another hearing examining abuse of executive branch power and used the Crossfire Hurricane investigation as a case study.⁷ Concurrently, we released a 31-page timeline on Crossfire Hurricane incorporating even more facts that we uncovered throughout our oversight.⁸

The records contained in the DOJ OIG’s February 3, 2023, FOIA production to Citizens United directly relate to our ongoing efforts to expose corruption within the FBI. It is also our job to oversee OIGs to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of operations. Therefore, we respectfully request that you produce the unredacted version of those records and provide the following information by no later than May 9, 2023:

1. We understand that the DOJ OIG “conducted over 170 interviews involving more than 100 witnesses” related to DOJ OIG’s report on Crossfire Hurricane.⁹
 - a. How many of those 170 interviews were transcribed?
 - b. Were interviews conducted that were not transcribed? If so, please explain why and provide a list of those interviews.
2. In preparation for its response to the FOIA request mentioned above, please list the agencies or entities that DOJ OIG shared the records with in connection to the FOIA request.
3. Has Special Counsel John Durham requested records or transcripts from the DOJ OIG? If so, has the DOJ OIG complied with Mr. Durham’s requests? Please explain in detail.

⁵ U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GEN., REVIEW OF FOUR FISA APPLICATIONS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE FBI’S CROSSFIRE HURRICANE INVESTIGATION 194 (2019), <https://www.justice.gov/storage/120919-examination.pdf> [hereinafter IG Report].

⁶ Press Release, FBI Ignored Early Warnings That Debunked Anti-Trump Dossier Was Russian Disinformation, Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. On Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff., and Sen. Charles Grassley, Chairman, S. Comm. on Fin., Apr. 10, 2020, <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/fbi-ignored-early-warnings-debunked-anti-trump-dossier-was-russian-disinformation>.

⁷ S. Comm. On Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff., Congressional Oversight in the Face of Executive Branch and Media Suppression: The Case Study of Crossfire Hurricane, Dec. 3, 2020, <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/congressional-oversight-in-the-face-of-executive-branch-and-media-suppression-the-case-study-of-crossfire-hurricane/>.

⁸ Timeline of Key Events Related to Crossfire Hurricane Investigation, Sen. Ron Johnson, Chairman, S. Comm. On Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff., and Sen. Charles Grassley, Chairman, S. Comm. on Fin., Dec. 3, 2020, [https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/CFH%20Timeline%20w%20Updates%2020201203%20\(FINAL\).pdf](https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/CFH%20Timeline%20w%20Updates%2020201203%20(FINAL).pdf).

⁹ IG Report at 11.

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Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Chairman
Committee on the Budget