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Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 7:12 PM
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Subject: Exit Strategy - I hope this is what you want. If not I can amend/change...
Attach: Exit Strategy.docx

Operation Fast and Furious Exit Strategy

Operation Fast and Furious is a large scale investigation with many competing priorities and or considerations; investigative priorities, prosecutorial strategy, and international considerations.

- Investigative priorities – It is the goal of every agent to thoroughly investigate this case to encompass the highest level targets possible and exhaust all investigative leads. We strive to dismantle the entire organization and identify all the different facets possible; the straw purchasers, the transporters, the facilitators, the organizers, the money source(s), and ultimately the Cartel connection receiving the firearms in the Republic of Mexico.
- Prosecutorial strategy – It is the goal of every prosecutor to have the best evidence available to charge, try and convict as many defendants as possible. This being the case they have a stake in building the strongest case with the best evidence which may ultimately be taken in front of a jury. Additionally a straw purchase prosecution requires different evidence and burden of proof than an international firearms trafficking conspiracy.
- International considerations – The Republic of Mexico has a right to be concerned with the number of firearms illegally entering their country from the United States. It is hard to express that arresting any one straw purchaser in and of itself will not solve the full spectrum of the problem. Meanwhile the straw purchasers in this case continue to purchase firearms almost daily.

In an effort to juggle these competing priorities we acknowledge there must be an end to every investigation. Our current end goal to bring this stage of the investigation/prosecution to a successful conclusion for the agents and attorneys working this investigation is to successfully intercept Manuel Celis-Acosta via a T-III audio intercept engaging in a firearms trafficking conspiracy with other individuals both currently identified and others yet to be identified above his level in the organization.

We acknowledge that obtaining a T-III is not the actual goal itself but an ends to a means in that Uriel Patino and other straw purchasers are the lowest rung on the preverbal criminal firearms trafficking organizational ladder. If we arrest Uriel Patino for the firearms he has straw purchased thus far we will only minimally impact the organization before Patino is replaced by another member of the organization. Thus without actual oral communication between Manuel Celis-Acosta directing the activities of Patino and others in the conspiracy we have circumstantial evidence. Every call that we have intercepted thus far where Manuel Celis-Acosta is mentioned re-enforces the fact that he is the “boss” of this organization and that others listen to him, defer/seek his approval, and are under his direction.