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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

April 29, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Pamela Bondi **Attorney General** Department of Justice

The Honorable Kash Patel Director Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Director Patel:

My office has obtained Biden administration emails regarding the investigation and later prosecution of Peter Navarro. These communications provide a behind-the-scenes snapshot of some of the actions taken by the FBI's Washington Field Office (WFO) to investigate Navarro for contempt of Congress and obstruction. The emails show that Special Agent (SA) Walter Giardina, Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Blaire Toleman, and Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Timothy Thibault, among others, played a role in the investigation and ultimate prosecution of Navarro.

I am making these emails public in the interest of transparency. The American people have a right to know as much as possible regarding the internal Biden Justice Department and FBI process to determine where to allocate taxpayer resources to investigate and prosecute former Trump officials. Moreover, the FBI officials involved in the Navarro case were also involved in the politically-infected cases against President Trump, to include Arctic Frost and Special Counsel Mueller's investigation. For example, SA Giardina was given an award for investigating President Trump as part of Mueller's team and displayed it in his office.



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An email thread from May 19, 2022, to May 20, 2022, with the subject line "Re: Contempt of Congress cases update" discusses the Justice Department's difference in approach to the contempt of Congress charges against former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Dan Scavino, and former Trade Advisor Peter Navarro.

Specifically, on May 19, 2022, SA Giardina emailed SSA Toleman noting that the Justice Department "would like to charge Navarro in the next two weeks": 1

From: Giardina, Walter B. (WF) (FBI) Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:50 PM To: Toleman, Blaire A. (WF) (FBI) Cc: D'Amico, Frank G. (WF) (FBI) Hart, Stephen R. (WF) (FBI) Samuel (WF) (FBI) Subject: Contempt of Congress cases update			
Blaire,			
I just spoke with DC USAO, after consultation with main Justice, they are not intending to prosecute Meadows or Scavino. This decision is based on their White House positions and prior DOJ opinions. Molly asked for you to call if you have any questions or concerns. We have been told to cease work on those case.			
They would like to charge Navarro in the next two weeks however. Here is what we need to accomplish:			
 locate him (Sam - can you assist with this?) get subpoena return from Verizon for his phone (subpoena served about 10 days ago) issue preservation letter to Apple prepare a search warrant for his phone and iCloud account conduct a knock and talk interview serve phone search warrant at conclusion of interview 			
Best regards,			
Walter			
Walter B. Giardina			
Special Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation			

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¹ See Exhibit A.

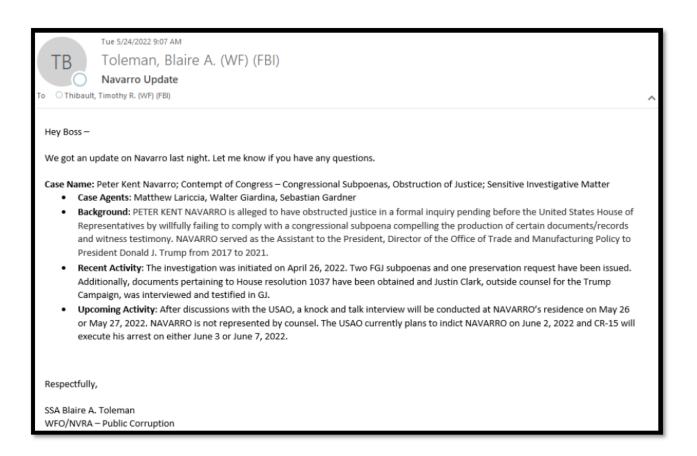
The next day, on May 20, 2022, SA Giardina emailed SSA Toleman with an update that the Justice Department would like to indict Navarro in a matter of days.² That email was then forwarded by SSA Blaire Toleman to ASAC Thibault who exclaimed: "Wow. Great"

F	Fri 5/20/2022 12:21 PM
TT	Thibault, Timothy R. (WF) (FBI)
	Re: Contempt of Congress cases update
To O Toleman, B	laire A. (WF) (FBI)
Washington Fi	gent in Charge eld Office u of Investigation
Office:	
Sent: Friday, N To: Thibault, T	n, Blaire A. (WF) (FBI) May 20, 2022 11:59:09 AM Timothy R. (WF) (FBI) Contempt of Congress cases update
Sent: Friday, N To: Toleman, E Cc: D'Amico, Fi (WF) (FBI)	Any 20, 2022 11:26:03 AM Blaire A. (WF) (FBI) rank G. (WF) (FBI) ; Hart, Stephen R. (WF) (FBI) Weinstein, Samuel (WF) (FBI) ontempt of Congress cases update Gardner, Sebastian Lariccia, Matthew U. (WF) (FBI)
Blaire,	
The DC USAO	would like Navarro indicted on June 2. We're working on the possibility of a search warrant as well.
Thanks, Walter	
Walter B. Giardi Special Agent Federal Bureau	

² See Exhibit A.

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On May 24, 2022, SSA Toleman sent an email with the subject line "Navarro Update" to ASAC Thibault. The email provided a case update with recent and upcoming activity, including plans to indict Navarro on June 2, 2022, followed by the WFO CR-15 unit executing his arrest on either June 3, 2022, or June 7, 2022.³



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³ See Exhibit B.

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On May 24, 2022, ASAC Thibault notified WFO leadership and FBI units on next steps in the matter of "US v Navarro for Contempt of Congress."

From: Thibault, Timothy R. (WF) (FBI) Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 10:12:52 AM To: D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI) Cc: Gallagher, Lira B. (WF) (FBI) Halliden, Dennis W. (WF) (FBI) Farnsworth, Ronald (CID) (FBI) Coyle, Thomas M. (CID) (FBI) Capodilupo, Lindsay (CID) (FBI) Subject: Contempt of Congress Update - Peter Navarro		
Sir,		
CR-15 SSA Toleman reported USAO-DC expects to seek an indictment in the matter of US v Navarro for Contempt of Congress as early as June 3, 2022. On or about May 26, 2022, WF CR-15 agents will attempt to interview Navarro, who is not represented.		
Case Name: Peter Kent Navarro; Contempt of Congress – Congressional Subpoenas, Obstruction of Justice; Sensitive Investigative Matter • Case Agents: Matthew Lariccia, Walter Giardina, Sebastian Gardner		
 Background: PETER KENT NAVARRO is alleged to have obstructed justice in a formal inquiry pending before the United States House of Representatives by willfully failing to comply with a congressional subpoena compelling the production of certain documents/records and witness testimony. NAVARRO served as the Assistant to the President, Director of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy to President Donald J. Trump from 2017 to 2021. 		
 Recent Activity: The investigation was initiated on April 26, 2022. Two FGJ subpoenas and one preservation request have been issued. Additionally, documents pertaining to House resolution 1037 have been obtained and Justin Clark, outside counsel for the Trump Campaign, was interviewed and testified in GJ. 		
 Upcoming Activity: After discussions with the USAO, a knock and talk interview will be conducted at NAVARRO's residence on May 26 or May 27, 2022. NAVARRO is not represented by counsel. The USAO currently plans to indict NAVARRO on June 2, 2022 and CR-15 will execute his arrest on either June 3 or June 7, 2022. Media attention is anticipated. 		
Thank you,		
Tim		

⁴ See Exhibit C.

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As a follow up, on May 26, 2022, ASAC Thibault notified Assistant Director in Charge (ADIC) for WFO Steven D'Antuono of an encounter with Navarro in connection with the pending case.⁵

Thu 5/26/2022 8	\$:55 AM		
Thibault,	, Timothy R. (WF) (FBI)		
Contempt of	of Congress - Peter Navarro		
To O D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI)		
Cc Adams, Jill P. (DO) (FBI); Shero, Samantha Tucker (WF) (FBI); Toleman, Blaire A. (WF) (FBI); Gallagher, Lira B. (WF) (FBI); Farnsworth, Ronald (CID) (FBI); Coyle, Thomas M. (CID) (FBI); Capodilupo, Lindsay (CID) (FBI)			
Sir, FYSA. This morning, CR-15 agents attempted to interview former WH official Peter Navarro in connection to the pending Contempt of Congress case. Navarro declined to be interviewed and accused the agents and the AG of harassment. Navarro filmed the encounter. Thanks,			
Timothy R. Thibault			
Assistant Special Agent in Charge			
Criminal Division - Branch II			

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⁵ See Exhibit D.

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On June 1, 2022, as the planned arrest date approached, Public Affairs Officer Samantha Tucker Shero provided a press plan for Navarro's arrest in an email to WFO leadership with the subject line "Contempt of Congress – Friday Arrest."

SS

Wed 6/1/2022 12:14 PM

Shero, Samantha Tucker (WF) (FBI)

Contempt of Congress - Friday Arrest

To O D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI); O Thibault, Timothy R. (WF) (FBI); O Toleman, Blaire A. (WF) (FBI)

Cc Gallagher, Lira B. (WF) (FBI)

Good afternoon all,

Lira and I spoke to the USAO DC PIO regarding Navarro. The press plan, as of today, is that once he is in custody on Friday, DC USAO will send the unsealed indictment and notice of his initial appearance to reporters. Sending that information out once he is arrested will hopefully keep media from waiting for him to show up out front. Following his IA, USAO will issue a press release.

Boss, DC is planning a press release similar to Bannon's, but without quotes. Are you okay with that approach? https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/stephen-k-bannon-indicted-contempt-congress Bannon's did not name an announcing official or have quotes from FBI; the release recognizes WFO as the investigating office.

Thanks, Sam

Samantha Shero Public Affairs Officer Washington Field Office Federal Bureau of Investigation

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⁶ See Exhibit E.

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In order to conduct my constitutional oversight responsibilities and to develop a complete understanding of all efforts within the Biden Justice Department and FBI to investigate and prosecute President Trump and his White House staff, provide all communications, including phone records and emails, between or among all DOJ and FBI personnel related to the contempt of Congress cases. As an initial search, please search ASAC Thibault, SSA Blaire Toleman, and SA Walter Giardina's communications, including text messages, for responsive records. The searches must include all classified and unclassified systems. I request that records be provided without any redactions and by no later than May 13, 2025.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley

Chairman

Committee on the Judiciary

Church Granley