

# C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

November 21, 2016

**By Facsimile: 202-514-1009**

Melanie Newman  
Director  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Re: Request for Expedition of FOIA Requests

Dear Ms. Newman:

Pursuant to Department of Justice (DOJ) regulations, 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(2), Campaign for Accountability (CfA) requests that you authorize the expedition of identical Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests CfA made today of the FBI, Criminal Division, and Executive Office for United States Attorneys. I have enclosed copies of these requests.

The three requests seek records related to any investigation of Jared Kushner conducted by the FBI, Criminal Division, and/or the U.S. Attorneys' Office for the District of New Jersey. In June 2004, Mr. Kushner along with his father, other family members, and associates and entities connected to his father's business interests entered into a conciliation agreement with the Federal Election Commission to resolve a pending enforcement action into violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971. Jared Kushner and the other respondents agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$508,900. Specifically as to Jared Kushner, the FEC found he had made campaign contributions in excess of the \$25,000 annual contribution the law imposes. One year later, Jared Kushner's father Charles was sentenced to a prison term of two years after pleading guilty to 18 counts of tax evasion, witness tampering, and – echoing the FEC charges against the Kushners -- making illegal campaign donations.

CfA seeks expedition because the subject matter of these requests is of widespread and exceptional media interest and the requested information involves possible questions about the government's integrity, which affect public confidence. Currently Mr. Kushner is married to President-elect Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka, and is widely reported to serve as one of Mr. Trump's closest advisors, a role expected to continue once Mr. Trump assumes the office of president. It also has been reported that the Trump transition team will seek to have Mr. Kushner cleared to attend the daily presidential briefings, during which some of our nation's most closely held secrets are discussed. Further, Mr. Kushner reportedly is seeking to join the new administration

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despite federal anti-nepotism laws that would bar such employment.<sup>1</sup> On a daily basis, the media has raised questions about the propriety of Mr. Kushner's role and relationship with Mr. Trump, and the requested information will bear directly on those questions. The need for expedition is especially urgent given the short window of time in which the transition team is operating.

CfA's primary purpose is to inform the public about the activities of government officials and those who influence public officials. Toward that end, CfA uses statutes like the FOIA to gather information the public needs to hold public officials accountable. The requests for which CfA seeks expedition will further those goals.

I certify the following is true and correct.

Sincerely,



Anne L. Weismann  
Executive Director

Encl.

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Julie Hirschfeld Davis and Maggie Haberman, Donald Trump's Son-in-Law, Jared Kushner, Tests Legal Path to White House Job, *New York Times*, Nov. 18, 2016, available at [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/18/us/politics/donald-trump-administration.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/18/us/politics/donald-trump-administration.html?_r=1).