

Ziegler Joseph A

From: Batdorf Michael T
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 10:48 AM
To: Ziegler Joseph A
Cc: Denning David M; Puglisi Christine A; Waldon Darrell J
Subject: RE: Sensitive Case Heads Up

Excellent. Thank you.



Mike Batdorf
Director, Field Operations
Southern Area



From: Ziegler Joseph A [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:42 AM
To: Batdorf Michael T [REDACTED]
Cc: Denning David M [REDACTED] Puglisi Christine A [REDACTED] Waldon Darrell J [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sensitive Case Heads Up

Hey Mike –

So Lesley responded back to me – the main AUSA. She made it clear that we haven't offered a plea, and if one was going to be offered, that we would obviously be in the loop. She doesn't even think that we are at a point that we could engage in that since no charges have been authorized. So I think we are a ways off from plea negotiations.

If I hear anything further from them, I will let you know. If you have any further questions, contact me anytime.

Joe

From: Batdorf Michael T [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Waldon Darrell J [REDACTED] Ziegler Joseph A [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sensitive Case Heads Up

Yeah. I think that's more accurate and in line with how this has been working. I do not want to "hide" or "impede" the regular working group Ops. I am good with it.



Mike Batdorf
Director, Field Operations
Southern Area



From: Waldon Darrell J [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 8:59 AM
To: Ziegler Joseph A [REDACTED] Batdorf Michael T
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sensitive Case Heads Up

With Joe's comments below in mind, can we say that we learned of a recent media inquiry where they were inquiring about the status of the investigation as a result of a witness tipping them off?

You deal with this more than I do, but that seems like normal operating for media and high profile investigations. I would guess that FBI and USAO will receive a similar call, if they haven't already.

Darrell J. Waldon
Acting Special Agent in Charge
Washington, D.C. Field Office



From: Ziegler Joseph A [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:52 AM
To: Batdorf Michael T [REDACTED] Waldon Darrell J
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sensitive Case Heads Up

Hey Mike –

OK – I sent the email to the prosecution team.

I just wanted to let you know that we start our weekly meetings with media inquiries from all of the agencies involved. Each partner discloses stuff like this so that no one on the team is caught off guard. I have no problem not disclosing this, but it puts me in an awkward position because I know that the attorneys are going to ask for more specific details on where this is coming from. I have no problem not disclosing this per your request, I just wanted you to know the context of stuff like this with the prosecution team.

If things change, please let me know.

Joe

From: Batdorf Michael T [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Ziegler Joseph A [REDACTED] Waldon Darrell J
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sensitive Case Heads Up

You can reach out to them about a potential plea deal. Please do not disclose that a) CNN called our Comms Director 2) that there was an inquiry, etc.

We can just ask if that has been part of the discussion.



Mike Batdorf
Director, Field Operations
Southern Area



From: Ziegler Joseph A [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 8:31 AM
To: Batdorf Michael T [REDACTED] Waldon Darrell J [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sensitive Case Heads Up

Hey Mike –

To my knowledge, I have not been told of or been made aware of a plea offer to Sportsman.

Do you care if I share this with my two AUSAs / DOJ-Tax attorneys (The Prosecution team)?

Joe

From: Batdorf Michael T [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:28 AM
To: Waldon Darrell J [REDACTED] Ziegler Joseph A [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Sensitive Case Heads Up

Joe. Good Morning.

Please see the Chief's questions below. Has there been a plea offer?



Mike Batdorf
Director, Field Operations
Southern Area



From: Lee James C [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 8:15 AM
To: Batdorf Michael T [REDACTED] >
Cc: Robnett James D [REDACTED] Cole Justin T
[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Sensitive Case Heads Up

Mike

Any updates on this? Specifically bullet 3 below as I am not certain I am aware of a potential plea offer?

James C. Lee
Chief, IRS Criminal Investigation
[REDACTED] - Desk
[REDACTED] - Cell



From: Cole Justin T <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Lee James C <[REDACTED]>; Robnett James D
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Sensitive Case Heads Up

Chief and Deputy Chief,

I took a call from a CNN producer yesterday who gives me a heads up on things he is working on and allows me the opportunity to comment. Yesterday he called me about Sportsman (he did not use that term obviously). He gave me the following tidbits:

- Producer is aware of a witness who was recently interviewed by our agents and FBI in Delaware. Witness told producer that he was under the impression that they were wrapping things up and just had a few basic questions to “put a bow on the investigation.”
- Producer has an email from Hunter saying he expected all of this “stuff” to go away when his dad becomes President.
- Producer said he is aware that a plea deal has been offered to Hunter but Hunter is not willing to accept it.

I reached out to Jonathan Larsen yesterday afternoon to let him know as well. I’m not sure of any kind of air date – if any – but wanted to pass on what he is aware of.

Thanks,
Justin

Justin T. Cole
Director, Office of Communication
IRS Criminal Investigation
1111 Constitution Ave., N.W, Room #2526
Washington, D.C. 20224

[REDACTED] – office
[REDACTED] – cell

