
From: Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) <Contractor>
To: Smith, Jessica A. (SMO)
Sent: 2/15/2011 1:42:03 PM
Subject: RE: Another heads up

Our office.

But it will get some national attention, potentially a lot. Conservative bloggers and commentators from all over the place are very interested. And this is the crime scene where one of the weapons found (not the murder weapon, which hasn't been found) was traced back to one of the ffls and to one of the straw buyers indicted a couple of weeks ago in our Fast and Furious case. Sen. Grassley has made an issue of that, alleging in a letter that ATF should have had some sort of foreknowledge of the purchase in question and prevented it. Main Justice pushed back on that as ATF was alerted to that specific purchase a few days after the fact. But it's all tied up in a highly politicized knot, so wanted to keep you abreast.

Robbie

From: Smith, Jessica A. (SMO)
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 11:35 AM
To: Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) <Contractor>
Subject: RE: Another heads up

I have not been following. Is the case being worked entirely out of your office or with Main Justice, as well?
Thanks, Jess

From: Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) <Contractor>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 1:28 PM
To: Smith, Jessica A.
Subject: Another heads up

Jessica,

I'm not sure how closely you've followed the ongoing investigation into the shooting death of BP Agent Brian Terry, but there will be some news breaking on that today and wanted to let you know about it. Originally when the shooting occurred, one suspect was wounded and taken into custody and reportedly three others were taken into custody nearby. In reality, the other three were determined not to have been involved (wrong place, wrong time) and there is still a manhunt on (in Mexico) for the other accomplices. We've never commented about the status of these other three (however it was reported accurately in one Arizona Republic article, anonymous source).

Later today, those three are going to plead to the immigration charges they were being held on (charged w felonies, plead to misdemeanors) and will be deported with time served. Media will have lots of wtf questions in regards to their connection or non-connection to the Terry case, and what's the status of the case now with only one suspect (not indicted, being held on felony immigration charges) in custody. In the early days of the investigation BP and Marshalls reported that we had 4 of the 5 suspects in custody, and we've never on the record corrected that, though it's not the case. We had a conference call with Border Patrol and FBI this morning to talk about a consistent message going forward, did some wordsmithing and here is our draft statement, which we plan to share with the other members of the team.

Please let me know if you have any comments or concerns and I'll share with Dennis right away.

Draft statement:

DP

DP