



**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**  
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20223

Freedom of Information Act Program  
Communications Center  
245 Murray Lane, SW, Building T-5  
Mail Stop 8205  
Washington, D.C. 20223

Date: January 12, 2023

Judicial Watch  
425 Third Street, SW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024  
Attn: William Marshall  
[bmarshall@judicialwatch.org](mailto:bmarshall@judicialwatch.org)

File Number: 20210537

Dear Requester:

This is a final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, originally received by the United States Secret Service (Secret Service) on March 25, 2021, for:

1. All records, including but not limited to reports, telephone logs, witness statements, and memoranda, related to the reported purchase, possession, and disposal of a firearm owned by Hunter Biden found in a Delaware dumpster circa October 2018.
2. All records of communications sent to and from USSS officials internally and with outside parties regarding the reported purchase, possession, and disposal of a firearm owned by Hunter Biden found in a Delaware dumpster circa October 2018 referenced in Bullet 1.

The time frame for the records sought is October 1, 2018 to the present [cut-off date: March, 29, 2021, date search began].

As we previously communicated, on April 2, 2021, the Secret Service, after completing a reasonable search for responsive records, originally made a final determination that no records responsive to your request could be located. However, a letter was sent to you on that date in error mistakenly indicating that the Secret Service located responsive records and that it was processing such records. On October 13, 2022, a final response “no records” letter was sent to you to convey the Secret’s Service determination regarding your request. Subsequently, you informed the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that you considered records related to the Secret

Service's response to media and other inquiries (excluding the processing of FOIA requests) to be responsive to the FOIA request; previously, the Secret Service did not consider such materials "related to" or "regarding" the subject matter of your request. An additional search followed.

After a detailed review of all potentially responsive records, 483 page(s) have been released and 4 page(s) have been withheld in their entirety. Exemptions under the FOIA Statute, Title 5 U.S.C. § 552, have been applied where deemed appropriate after considering the foreseeable harm standard outlined in the 2016 amendment to 5 U.S.C 552(a)(8)(A)(i) and DOJ guidance.

Enclosed are the documents responsive to your request, as well as a document that explains the exemptions in more detail. Withheld information is pursuant to the exemptions marked below.

***Section 552 (FOIA)***

<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (3) Statute:		
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (6)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (B)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (D)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (E)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (F)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (8)

The following checked item(s) also apply to your request:

☒ Fees: In the processing of this FOIA request, no fees are being assessed.  
☐ Other:

As you have already filed suit in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (Case No. 1:22-cv-02841) regarding the above referenced request, there is no further right to administrative appeal this decision outside your pending civil action.

If you need any further assistance, or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact Laurel Lum, Trial Attorney at DOJ, Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch, at (202) 305-8177 or [laurel.h.lum@usdoj.gov](mailto:laurel.h.lum@usdoj.gov).

Sincerely,



Kevin L. Tyrrell  
Freedom of Information Act Officer  
Office of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:

☒ FOIA and Privacy Act Exemption List

CC: Michael Bekesha via email at [mbekesha@judicialwatch.org](mailto:mbekesha@judicialwatch.org)  
Laurel Lum via email at [laurel.h.lum@usdoj.gov](mailto:laurel.h.lum@usdoj.gov)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) (PID)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 7:08:58 PM

---

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage-can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made>

**From:** (b) (6) (PID)  
**To:** (b) (6) (PID)  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2020 9:46:25 AM

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 7:08 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (PID)  
**Subject:**

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage-can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made>



**From:** (b) (6) (PID)  
**To:** (b) (6) (PID)  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2020 9:50:35 AM

---

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 30, 2020, at 9:46 AM, (b) (6) (PID)  
<(b) (6) usss.dhs.gov> wrote:

**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 7:08 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (PID) <(b) (6) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:**

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage-can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made>

**From:** (b) (6) (PID)  
**To:** (b) (6) (PID); (b) (6) (PID)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2020 9:55:34 AM

---

Oh dear.....

---

**From:** (b) (6) (PID)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2020 9:50 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) (PID) (b) (6) @usss.dhs.gov> (b) (6) (PID)  
(b) (6) @usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd:

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage-can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made>

**From:** (b) (6) (PID)  
**To:** (b) (6) (PID); (b) (6) (PID)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2020 9:56:00 AM

---

Maybe we were asked as a favor?

From: (b) (6) (PID)  
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 9:55 AM  
To: (b) (6) (PID); (b) (6) @usss.dhs.gov>; (b) (6) (PID); (b) (6) @usss.dhs.gov>  
Subject: RE:

It's kind of odd that we were involved in the missing gun investigation when neither Hunter or Joe were even receiving USSS protection at that time? Hmmm

(b) (6)  
Protective Intelligence Research Specialist  
United States Secret Service  
PID/Threat Assessment Desk  
202-406(b) (6) (d)  
202-(b) (6) (c)

From: (b) (6) (PID)  
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 9:50 AM  
To: (b) (6) (PID); (b) (6) @usss.dhs.gov<mailto:(b) (6) @usss.dhs.gov>>; (b) (6) (PID); (b) (6) @usss.dhs.gov<mailto:(b) (6) @usss.dhs.gov>>  
Subject: Fwd:

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage-can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made><[https://urldefense.us/v3/\\_https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage-can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made\\_\\_!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!X85oR2wofuZ3NDTZThgY1WJkxUkm9Ngp4wG6paqoFm8SMdbHMUOK4vGcq6GQ6idNDHcbbh\\_Y5C4\\$>](https://urldefense.us/v3/_https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage-can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made__!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!X85oR2wofuZ3NDTZThgY1WJkxUkm9Ngp4wG6paqoFm8SMdbHMUOK4vGcq6GQ6idNDHcbbh_Y5C4$>)>

**From:** [MICHAEL D AMBROSIO \(INV\)](#)  
**To:** [JAMES HENRY \(PHL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [STEVEN STANFORD \(INV\)](#); [DOUGLAS HENDERSON \(INV\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Article  
**Date:** Monday, November 2, 2020 12:36:00 PM

---

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "LEONZA NEWSOME III (DEP)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** November 2, 2020 at 11:51:04 AM EST  
**To:** "MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Article

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage-can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made>

Thanks,  
Leon

Leon Newsome  
Deputy Director

**From:** JAMES HENRY (PHL)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PPD)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Article  
**Date:** Monday, November 2, 2020 12:38:11 PM

---

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** November 2, 2020 at 12:36:00 PM EST  
**To:** "JAMES HENRY (PHL)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** "STEVEN STANFORD (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
"DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Article

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "LEONZA NEWSOME III (DEP)"  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** November 2, 2020 at 11:51:04 AM EST  
**To:** "MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV)"  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Article

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage-can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made>

Thanks,  
Leon

Leon Newsome  
Deputy Director

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL)  
**To:** JAMES HENRY (PHL)  
**Subject:** Re: Article  
**Date:** Monday, November 2, 2020 1:00:33 PM

---

Digging in now. There is more information but I don't have it yet.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 2, 2020, at 12:38, JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** November 2, 2020 at 12:36:00 PM EST  
**To:** "JAMES HENRY (PHL)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** "STEVEN STANFORD (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> "DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Article

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "LEONZA NEWSOME III (DEP)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** November 2, 2020 at 11:51:04 AM EST  
**To:** "MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Article

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage->

can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made

Thanks,  
Leon

Leon Newsome  
Deputy Director

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:07:15 AM

---

DRAFT

(b) (5)

Thoughts?

Sent from my iPhone  
ATSAIC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Communications Media Relations  
202- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Date:** February 24, 2021 at 9:58:29 AM EST  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@ussd.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi Secret Service media team,

I'm a reporter with Politico preparing a story related to an October 2018 incident in which the Delaware State Police investigated the disposal of a gun belonging to Hunter Biden by his then-girlfriend, Hallie Biden.

During the course of the Delaware State Police investigation, two Secret Service agents went to a gun shop in Wilmington and sought to take possession of the paperwork that Hunter Biden filled out to purchase the gun.

I'm wondering:

1. How did Secret Service agents become involved in this matter?
2. Did this matter fall under Secret Service jurisdiction -- and if so, how?
3. Did Secret Service agents take any other actions related to this matter?
4. Is there anything else you'd like to add?



Thanks. My deadline is close of business today.

Best,  
Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703- (b) (6)

Twitter: @SchreckReports

**From:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**To:** [CMRMediaTeam](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:08:05 AM

---

Team,

I will handle this for now.

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: [\(202\) 406-5708](#)

Direct: [\(202\) 406](#) (b) (6)

Cell: [\(202\)](#) (b) (6)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703- (b) (6)

Twitter: @ [SchreckReports](#)

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Cc:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:08:14 AM

---

This has come up before. Hang tight for now...

On Feb 24, 2021, at 10:07 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov> wrote:

DRAFT

(b) (5)

Thoughts?

Sent from my iPhone  
ATSAIC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Communications Media Relations  
202- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Date:** February 24, 2021 at 9:58:29 AM EST  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703- (b) (6)

Twitter: [@SchreckReports](#)

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Cc:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:09:16 AM

---

Roget thank you

Sent from my iPhone  
ATSAIC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Communications Media Relations  
202- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

On Feb 24, 2021, at 10:08 AM, (b) (6) (CMR)  
<(b) (6) usss.dhs.gov> wrote:

This has come up before. Hang tight for now...

On Feb 24, 2021, at 10:07 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov> wrote:

DRAFT

(b) (5)

Thoughts?

Sent from my iPhone  
ATSAIC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Communications Media Relations  
202- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ben Schreckinger  
<(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Date:** February 24, 2021 at 9:58:29 AM EST  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
<USSSMediaInquiry@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline  
re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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Best,  
Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703-(b) (6)

Twitter: @SchreckReports

**From:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**To:** [\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\), \(PPD\)](#)  
**Cc:** [JAMES HENRY \(PHL\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:53:52 AM

---

/Jim,


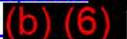
Good morning. FYSA. We are attempting to garner more information from the reporter on the specifics of the allegation. We will be sure and circulate any statement we provide prior to releasing.

I'm in the office today and available to discuss on the phone if you like.

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service



Main: [\(202\) 406-5708](#)  
Direct: [\(202\) 406-](#)  
Cell: [\(202\)](#)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703- (b) (6)

Twitter: @SchreckReports

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:09:03 AM

---

Thank you

---

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

DRAFT//PREDECISIONAL

(b) (5)

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:58 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

\*\*Draft\*\*

Thoughts?

Ben,

(b) (5)

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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I'm a reporter with Politico preparing a story related to an October 2018 incident in which the Delaware State Police investigated the disposal of a gun belonging to Hunter Biden by his then-girlfriend, Hallie Biden.

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Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

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Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703- (b) (6)

Twitter: @SchreckReports

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 12:10:00 PM

---

Sounds good

Thanks

---

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 12:10 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

PREDECISIONAL

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

\*\*DRAFT\*\*

Thoughts?

Ben,

(b) (5)

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>

USSS-0022

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:15 AM

**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Sure thing. Agents visited StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun there. The FBI also had some involvement in the investigation.

I hope that helps

--Ben

Ben Schreckinger

National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) @Politico.com

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703-(b) (6)

Twitter: @SchreckReports

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:10 AM

**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6)@politico.com>

**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

Thank you for your inquiry and we understand you are working on a deadline.

Can you please provide more information or documentation?

Some additional context would be helpful as we look to run this down.

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@ussd.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi Secret Service media team,

I'm a reporter with Politico preparing a story related to an October 2018 incident in which the Delaware State Police investigated the disposal of a gun belonging to Hunter Biden by his then-girlfriend, Hallie Biden.

During the course of the Delaware State Police investigation, two Secret Service agents went to a gun shop in Wilmington and sought to take possession of the paperwork that Hunter Biden filled out to purchase the gun.

I'm wondering:

1. How did Secret Service agents become involved in this matter?
2. Did this matter fall under Secret Service jurisdiction -- and if so, how?
3. Did Secret Service agents take any other actions related to this matter?
4. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Thanks. My deadline is close of business today.

Best,  
Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) Politico.com  
Cell/Signal: (b) (6)  
Office: 703 (b) (6)  
Twitter: @SchreckReports

All e-mail to/from this account is subject to official review and is for official use only. Action may be taken in response to any inappropriate use of the Secret Service's e-mail system. This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, law enforcement sensitive, or subject to other disclosure

limitations. Such information is loaned to you and should not be further disseminated without the permission of the Secret Service. If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep, use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Subject:** Wilmington Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:36:00 PM

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Thoughts?

**DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

**ISSUE:**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was “disposed” of by his then girlfriend, Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

**INTERNAL BACKGROUND:**

This story was initially reported by The Blaze in October 2020. A FOIA request was completed at the time, that resulted in no records being found. The RAIC of the Wilmington Resident Office reported that all agents in his office denied any involvement. The Politico reporter refused to provide any details on the source of the information or that he was in possession of any official document, where we were identified. The statement has been drafted to address any implication that anyone from the service was involved in this incident.

(b) (5)

**DRAFT FOR RELEASE:**

Statement from the U.S. Secret Service

US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.



**From:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: Wilmington Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:02:00 PM

---

Great! Two quick things – (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

I also (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Looks good to go from here!

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:36 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Wilmington Inquiry

Thoughts?

## **DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

### **ISSUE:**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was “disposed” of by his then girlfriend, Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

### **INTERNAL BACKGROUND:**

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### **DRAFT FOR RELEASE:**

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Subject:** Wilmington Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:06:00 PM

---

**DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

**ISSUE:**

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**DRAFT FOR RELEASE:**

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

**From:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**To:** [LEONZA NEWSOME III \(DEP\)](#); [GEORGE MULLIGAN \(COO\)](#)  
**Cc:** [BRIAN EBERT \(DIR\)](#); [JEFFREY ADAMS \(IND\)](#); [KIMBERLY CHEATLE \(OPO\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT RE WILMINGTON  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:13:54 PM

---

Gentlemen,  
For your awareness. We will be notifying DHS and WH Comms of our statement as well.  
v/r,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: [\(202\) 406-5708](#)  
Direct: [\(202\) 406-](#)(b) (6)  
Cell: [\(202\)](#)(b) (6)

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:17 PM  
**To:** KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) RONALD ROWE JR (OPO)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>; JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(CMR) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT RE WILMINGTON

OPA/INV,  
For your review and concurrence.

**DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

**ISSUE:**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was "disposed" of by his then girlfriend, Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

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time, that resulted in no records being found. The RAIC of the Wilmington Resident Office reported that all agents in his office denied any involvement. The Politico reporter refused to provide any details on the source of the information or that he was in possession of any official document, where we were identified. The statement has been drafted to address any implication that anyone from the service was involved in this incident.

**DRAFT FOR RELEASE:**

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

Thanks,  
Cathy  
Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)



**From:** [DOUGLAS HENDERSON \(INV\)](#)  
**To:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#); [KIMBERLY CHEATLE \(OPO\)](#); [RONALD ROWE JR \(OPO\)](#); [MICHAEL D AMBROSIO \(INV\)](#)  
**Cc:** [JAMES HENRY \(PHL\)](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL); [JEFFREY ADAMS \(CMR\)](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT RE WILMINGTON  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:34:00 PM

---

I spoke with SAIC Henry & INV concurs with this release

D. Christopher Henderson  
Deputy Assistant Director – Office of Investigations  
United States Secret Service  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
202- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) – USA Mobile

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:17 PM  
**To:** KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> RONALD ROWE JR (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>; JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT RE WILMINGTON

OPA/INV,  
For your review and concurrence.

**DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

**ISSUE:**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was “disposed” of by his then girlfriend, Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

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**DRAFT FOR RELEASE:**

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

Thanks,  
Cathy  
Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR); (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR); CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:38:51 PM

---

Also – which reporter?

---

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:36 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>; MILHOAN CATHERINE L <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry

Hi ladies! Offering up for your awareness that the below is circulating with our front office now, and we will be offering sometime shortly before 4pm.

(b) (6)

### **DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

#### **ISSUE:**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was “disposed” of by his then girlfriend, Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

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Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to

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**From:** [Psaki, Jen R. EOP/WHO](#)  
**To:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#); [Bedingfield, Kate J. EOP/WHO](#)  
**Cc:** [DAVID CHO \(PPD\)](#); [DARRYL VOLPICELLI \(PPD\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: USSS + Media Query  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:43:25 PM

---

Thank you so much for passing along

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:41 PM  
**To:** Bedingfield, Kate J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)> @who.eop.gov>; Psaki, Jen R. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)> @who.eop.gov>  
**Cc:** CHO, DAVID J. CIV USSS <(b) (6)> @uss.s.dhs.gov>; Volpicelli, Darryl S. CIV USSS <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** USSS + Media Query

Kate/Jen,

**Good afternoon. For your awareness. We will be releasing the statement at 4 p.m.**

**ISSUE:**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was "disposed" of by Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

**INTERNAL BACKGROUND:**

This story was initially reported by The Blaze in October 2020. A FOIA request was completed at the time, that resulted in no USSS records being found. The Politico reporter refused to provide any details on the source of the information or that he was in possession of any official document identifying the USSS.

**STATEMENT:**

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: [\(202\) 406-5708](tel:(202)406-5708)

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)  
Cell: (202) (b) (6)

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**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6); (b) (6) (CMR) (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:51:08 PM

---

(b) (6),

For your awareness....as part of our standard ops here at the USSS...WH Comms also has awareness of the query and our anticipated response.

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)  
Cell: (202) (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@hq.dhs.gov>; CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry

Thanks. May we see a draft before it goes? Will need to flag.

---

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:36 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** KOPEK STEVEN T <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@hq.dhs.gov>; MILHOAN CATHERINE L <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry

Hi ladies! Offering up for your awareness that the below is circulating with our front office now, and we will be offering sometime shortly before 4pm.

(b) (6)

**DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

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**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV); KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO); RONALD ROWE JR (IGL); MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV)  
**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PPD); JEFFREY ADAMS (IND); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT RE WILMINGTON  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:53:21 PM

---

Thanks all. DHS OPA and WH Comms are all tracking as well.

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)  
Cell: (202) (b) (6)

---

**From:** DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:34 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)> KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> RONALD ROWE JR (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>; JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT RE WILMINGTON

I spoke with SAIC Henry & INV concurs with this release

D. Christopher Henderson  
Deputy Assistant Director – Office of Investigations  
United States Secret Service  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
202- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) – USA Mobile

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:17 PM  
**To:** KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> RONALD ROWE JR (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>; JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT RE WILMINGTON

OPA/INV,  
For your review and concurrence.

**DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

**ISSUE:**

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Thanks,  
Cathy  
Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: Wilmington Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:54:11 PM

---

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

This is cleared for release. Please provide the statement to the reporter.

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)  
Cell: (202) (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:07 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Wilmington Inquiry

**DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

**ISSUE:**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was "disposed" of by his then girlfriend, Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

**INTERNAL BACKGROUND:**

This story was initially reported by The Blaze in October 2020. A FOIA request was completed at the time, that resulted in no records being found. The RAIC of the Wilmington Resident Office reported that all agents in his office denied any involvement. The Politico reporter refused to provide any details on the source of the information or that he was in possession of any official document, where we were identified. The statement has been drafted to address any implication that anyone from the service was involved in this incident.

**DRAFT FOR RELEASE:**

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.



**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:05:46 PM

---

Ben,

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi Secret Service media team,

I'm a reporter with Politico preparing a story related to an October 2018 incident in which the Delaware State Police investigated the disposal of a gun belonging to Hunter Biden by his then-girlfriend, Hallie Biden.

During the course of the Delaware State Police investigation, two Secret Service agents went to a gun shop in Wilmington and sought to take possession of the paperwork that Hunter Biden filled out to purchase the gun.

I'm wondering:

1. How did Secret Service agents become involved in this matter?
2. Did this matter fall under Secret Service jurisdiction -- and if so, how?
3. Did Secret Service agents take any other actions related to this matter?
4. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Thanks. My deadline is close of business today.

Best,  
Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703- (b) (6)

Twitter: @ [SchreckReports](#)

**From:** [Ben Schreckinger](#)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Cc:** [CMRMediaTeam](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:16:47 PM

---

Thanks for this

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 24, 2021, at 4:05 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov> wrote:

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6)@politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi Secret Service media team,

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Best,  
Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)  
Cell/Signal: (b) (6)  
Office: 703-(b) (6)  
Twitter: [@SchreckReports](#)

All e-mail to/from this account is subject to official review and is for official use only. Action may be taken in response to any inappropriate use of the Secret Service's e-mail system. This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, law enforcement sensitive, or subject to other disclosure limitations. Such information is loaned to you and should not be further disseminated without the permission of the Secret Service. If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep, use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Cc:** (b) (6); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR); CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:27:30 PM

---

10-4. Thanks!

---

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:39 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) @hq.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) @hq.dhs.gov>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>; MILHOAN CATHERINE L <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Re: FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry

Sure - I don't expect it to change at all from the below but will definitely note any changes if they arise.

On Feb 24, 2021, at 3:37 PM, (b) (6) <(b) (6) @hq.dhs.gov> wrote:

Thanks. May we see a draft before it goes? Will need to flag.

---

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:36 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) @hq.dhs.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6) @hq.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>; MILHOAN CATHERINE L <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry

Hi ladies! Offering up for your awareness that the below is circulating with our front office now, and we will be offering sometime shortly before 4pm.

Justine

### **DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

#### **ISSUE:**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was "disposed" of by his then

girlfriend, Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

**INTERNAL BACKGROUND:**

This story was initially reported by The Blaze in October 2020. A FOIA request was completed at the time, that resulted in no records being found. The RAIC of the Wilmington Resident Office reported that all agents in his office denied any involvement. The Politico reporter refused to provide any details on the source of the information or that he was in possession of any official document, where we were identified. The statement has been drafted to address any implication that anyone from the service was involved in this incident.

**DRAFT FOR RELEASE:**

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:  
US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

All e-mail to/from this account is subject to official review and is for official use only. Action may be taken in response to any inappropriate use of the Secret Service's e-mail system. This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, law enforcement sensitive, or subject to other disclosure limitations. Such information is loaned to you and should not be further disseminated without the permission of the Secret Service. If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep,

use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:33:11 PM

---

Ben,

To reiterate, the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Just to clarify: Did Secret Service agents ever visit StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply and request records related to Hunter Biden?

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) Politico.com  
Cell/Signal: (b) (6)  
Office: 703-(b) (6)  
Twitter: @SchreckReports

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:05 PM  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:



US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident

Thank you

(b) (6)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) [politico.com](mailto:politico.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM

**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <[USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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Best,

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Ben Schreckinger

National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](mailto:Politico.com)

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR); (b) (6); (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:42:32 PM

---

Thank you

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:51 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @hq.dhs.gov; (b) (6) <(b) (6)> usss.dhs.gov; (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @hq.dhs.gov  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov  
**Subject:** RE: FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry

(b) (6),

For your awareness....as part of our standard ops here at the USSS...WH Comms also has awareness of the query and our anticipated response.

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)  
Cell: (202) (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @hq.dhs.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6)> usss.dhs.gov; (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @hq.dhs.gov  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov; CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry

Thanks. May we see a draft before it goes? Will need to flag.

---

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6)> usss.dhs.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:36 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @hq.dhs.gov; (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @hq.dhs.gov  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov; MILHOAN CATHERINE L

(b) (6)

**Subject:** FYSA: Wilmington Inquiry

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(b) (6)

**DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

**ISSUE:**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was “disposed” of by his then girlfriend, Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

**INTERNAL BACKGROUND:**

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**DRAFT FOR RELEASE:**

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

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Just wanted to provide for awareness. Jen Psaki and Kate Bedingfield were notified by our CMR on the below inquiry. Our response is also stated.

Please advise if you have any questions.

Respectfully

David

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:41 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) @who.eop.gov; (b) (6) @who.eop.gov  
**Cc:** DAVID CHO (PPD) ; DARRYL VOLPICELLI (PPD)  
**Subject:** USSS + Media Query

**Kate/Jen,**

**Good afternoon. For your awareness. We will be releasing the statement at 4 p.m.**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was “disposed” of by Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

This story was initially reported by The Blaze in October 2020. A FOIA request was completed at the time, that resulted in no USSS records being found. The Politico reporter refused to provide any details on the source of the information or that he was in possession of any official document identifying the USSS.

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

USSS-0056

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)

**From:** [LEONZA NEWSOME III \(DEP\)](#)  
**To:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#); [GEORGE MULLIGAN \(COO\)](#)  
**Cc:** [BRIAN EBERT \(DIR\)](#); [JEFFREY ADAMS \(CMR\)](#); [KIMBERLY CHEATLE \(OPO\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT RE WILMINGTON  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 6:38:00 PM

---

Received - thanks

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:14 PM  
**To:** LEONZA NEWSOME III (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> GEORGE MULLIGAN (COO) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** BRIAN EBERT (DIR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** FW: DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT RE WILMINGTON

Gentlemen,  
For your awareness. We will be notifying DHS and WH Comms of our statement as well.  
v/r,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: [\(202\) 406-5708](#)  
Direct: [\(202\) 406-](#)(b) (6)  
Cell: [\(202\)](#)(b) (6)

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:17 PM  
**To:** KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> RONALD ROWE JR (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> [usss.dhs.gov](#); JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> [usss.dhs.gov](#)  
**Subject:** DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT RE WILMINGTON

OPA/INV,  
For your review and concurrence.

**DRAFT//PREDEISIONAL//DRAFT**

USSS-0058



**ISSUE:**

A reporter with Politico has asked us to comment on a story he is preparing that claims that in 2018, a gun belonging to Hunter Biden was “disposed” of by his then girlfriend, Hallie Biden. During the course of the investigation, by the Delaware State Police, someone claimed that two U.S Secret Service agents went to the gun store, where the gun had been purchased and asked to take possession of the paperwork Hunter had filled out to purchase a gun.

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**DRAFT FOR RELEASE:**

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

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Thanks,  
Cathy  
Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)

**From:** [Ben Schreckinger](#)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Cc:** [CMRMediaTeam](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:44:31 AM

---

Hi (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

I hope you had a great weekend. I just wanted to follow up with another couple of questions:

Did Secret Service agents in Delaware do any work related to President Biden in the period between when his status as a protectee expired after his vice presidency and when it resumed during his most recent presidential campaign?

For example, during this period, were Secret Service agents ever in touch with the Delaware State Police to arrange police details for Biden?

Thanks

--Ben

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)  
Cell/Signal: (b) (6)  
Office: 703-(b) (6)  
Twitter: [@SchreckReports](#)

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:33 PM  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6)@politico.com>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

To reiterate, the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Just to clarify: Did Secret Service agents ever visit StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply and request records related to Hunter Biden?

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) Politico.com  
Cell/Signal: (b) (6)  
Office: 703 (b) (6)  
Twitter: @SchreckReports

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:05 PM  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

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Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM

**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <[USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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4. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Thanks. My deadline is close of business today.

Best,

Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger

National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703-(b) (6)

Twitter: @SchreckReports

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:02:32 PM

---

Draft predecisional

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thoughts

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

I hope you had a great weekend. I just wanted to follow up with another couple of questions:

Did Secret Service agents in Delaware do any work related to President Biden in the period between when his status as a protectee expired after his vice presidency and when it resumed during his most recent presidential campaign?

For example, during this period, were Secret Service agents ever in touch with the Delaware State Police to arrange police details for Biden?

Thanks

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Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:33 PM

**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6)@politico.com>

**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

To reiterate, the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6)@politico.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:21 PM

**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Just to clarify: Did Secret Service agents ever visit StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply and request records related to Hunter Biden?

Ben Schreckinger

National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6)@Politico.com

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703-(b) (6)

Twitter: @SchreckReports

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:05 PM

**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6)@politico.com>

**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM

**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi Secret Service media team,

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**From:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:12:54 PM

---

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) in my opinion (b) (5)

I would say: “(b) (5)  
(b) (5) .”

On Mar 2, 2021, at 12:02 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov> wrote:

Draft predecisional

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thoughts

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**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:44 AM  
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**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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Thank you

(b) (6)

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

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Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:05 PM

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**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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(b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:18:28 PM

---

DRAFT

(b) (5) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (5)  
(b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone  
ATSAIC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Communications Media Relations  
202- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

On Mar 2, 2021, at 12:02 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov> wrote:

Draft predecisional

(b) (5)  
(b) (5)

Thoughts

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**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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Ben,

To reiterate, the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:21 PM  
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**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

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National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:22:11 PM

---

I will reach out to the RAIC to confirm

Thank you

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:18 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>; CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Draft predecisional

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Please forward the query to the RAIC and ask him to call you to discuss. (b) (5)

(b) (5)  
(b) (5)  
(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)  
Cell: (202) (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:03 PM  
**To:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Draft predecisional

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thoughts

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
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National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL)  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:56:00 PM

---

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Can you give me a call on the below questions

202 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Thanks

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
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Ben,

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident

Thank you

(b) (6) (C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM

**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi Secret Service media team,

I'm a reporter with Politico preparing a story related to an October 2018 incident in which the Delaware State Police investigated the disposal of a gun belonging to Hunter Biden by his then-girlfriend, Hallie Biden.

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Thanks. My deadline is close of business today.

Best,

Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger



National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703- (b) (6)

Twitter: @ [SchreckReports](#)

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:45:55 PM

---

I'll give you a call in about an hour.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 2, 2021, at 12:56, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov> wrote:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Can you give me a call on the below questions

202 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Thanks

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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I hope you had a great weekend. I just wanted to follow up with another couple of questions:

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For example, during this period, were Secret Service agents ever in touch with the Delaware State Police to arrange police details for Biden?

Thanks

--Ben

Ben Schreckinger  
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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:33 PM  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6)@politico.com>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Just to clarify: Did Secret Service agents ever visit StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply and request records related to Hunter Biden?

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)

Office: 703- (b) (6)  
Twitter: @SchreckReports

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL)  
**To:** JAMES HENRY (PHL)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:17:43 PM

---

FYSA.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Date:** March 2, 2021 at 12:56:57 EST  
**To:** "(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Can you give me a call on the below questions

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Thanks

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** CMRMEDIAteam  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:18:28 PM

---

Draft predecisional

Ben,

(b) (5)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:05 PM  
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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR); CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:38:00 PM

---

(b) (5)

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:18 PM  
**To:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Draft predecisional

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(b) (5)

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[REDACTED] [Politico.com](#)

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**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:54:05 PM

---

Draft

Holding on this query.

Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406-5966  
Cell: (202) 591-6923

On Mar 2, 2021, at 3:18 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov> wrote:

Draft predecisional

Ben,

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**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <[CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Just to clarify: Did Secret Service agents ever visit StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply and request records related to Hunter Biden?

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [Politico.com](mailto:Politico.com)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office: 703 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Twitter: @SchreckReports

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [usss.dhs.gov](mailto:usss.dhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:05 PM

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**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <[CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM

**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <[USSSMediaInquiry@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:USSSMediaInquiry@usss.dhs.gov)>

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Best,  
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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 1:40:27 PM

---

**Draft**

Ben,

We have no additional information to provide for this request

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 12:55 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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If you all want to weigh in on this this, please get back to me by the end of the day today

--Ben

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

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Office: 703- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Twitter: @SchreckReports

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>



**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <[CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi [REDACTED]

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Did Secret Service agents in Delaware do any work related to President Biden in the period between when his status as a protectee expired after his vice presidency and when it resumed during his most recent presidential campaign?

For example, during this period, were Secret Service agents ever in touch with the Delaware State Police to arrange police details for Biden?

Thanks

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National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

[REDACTED] [Politico.com](https://www.politico.com)

Cell/Signal: [REDACTED]

Office: 703 [REDACTED]

Twitter: [@SchreckReports](https://twitter.com/SchreckReports)

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (CMR) <[\[REDACTED\]@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:[REDACTED]@usss.dhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:33 PM

**To:** Ben Schreckinger <[\[REDACTED\]@politico.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@politico.com)>

**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <[CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**Cc:** CMRMEDIAteam <CMRMEDIAteam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
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**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com>  
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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>



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**From:** [Ben Schreckinger](#)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 2:19:55 PM

---

Got it. Thanks

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

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Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 2:14 PM  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

We have no additional information to provide for this request

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com>  
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**From:** [FARON PARAMORE \(DEP\)](#)  
**To:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Politico Story  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:03:42 AM

---

White House

Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

Protection agency denies any involvement in a 2018 firearms incident involving the president's son and daughter-in-law.

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular



customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store. Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

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**From:** [FARON PARAMORE \(DEP\)](#)  
**To:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(IGL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#); [FARON PARAMORE \(DEP\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Politico Story  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:13:01 AM

---

Jeremy, please see Politico story below.

Please speak with Cathy, in case you get any inquiries from the Hill.

Faron

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "FARON PARAMORE (DEP)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** March 25, 2021 at 7:03:42 AM EDT  
**To:** "CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)" <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Politico Story

White House

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Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

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Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare. Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver. Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to

people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

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While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case.

Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November. The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

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Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic

presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.”

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (VPD); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:57:26 AM

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**Politico:** [Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun](#)

Tara Palmerei and Ben Schreckinger | March 25, 2021 4:30 AM EDT

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when



he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

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After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected

POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."



**From:** [BENJAMIN KRAMER \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(IGL\)](#); [cafmg](#); [cafdetail](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:04:02 AM

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## Article in Politico...

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Confirming this is comment we can relay if inquires are made from Hill counterparts or if anything further needs to be discussed (?).

Ben

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**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:57:17 AM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) ((b) (6), (b) (7)(C)) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) ((b) (6), (b) (7)(C))@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) (b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

**Politico:** [Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun](#)

Tara Palmerei and Ben Schreckinger | March 25, 2021 4:30 AM EDT

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Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

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Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (DPD)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (DPD)  
**Subject:** Fwd: USSS News Briefing (3-25-21)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:09:08 AM  
**Attachments:** [USSS News Briefing \(3-25-21\).docx](#)  
[USSS News Briefing \(3-25-21\).pdf](#)  
[USSS News Analysis \(3-25-21\).pdf](#)

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Check out last article under Protection section. First time I'm hearing that story, you?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** March 25, 2021 at 7:10:12 AM EDT  
**To:** dirstaff <dirstaff@uss.s.dhs.gov>, CMR-clips-list <CMR-clips-list@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: USSS News Briefing (3-25-21)

Good morning,

Please reference the attached USSS Daily News Brief for March 25, 2021.

This message is the property of the United States Secret Service and may contain information that is law enforcement sensitive, privileged, or subject to other disclosure limitations. Release or distribution of this message or its contents in any form may be prohibited by federal or state laws, including 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), (b)(7)(C), and (b)(7)(E). If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep, use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.

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**From:** USSS Daily - TechMIS <uss.s@techmis.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:40 AM  
**To:** noreply@techmis.com  
**Subject:** USSS News Briefing (3-25-21)

# SECRET SERVICE NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the United States Secret Service  
By TechMIS

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**TO: Secret Service**  
**DATE: Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:00 AM ET**

### **Investigations**

[\[KY\] Elizabethtown Man Sentenced To Federal Prison After Being Caught During Sting Operation \(United States Department of Justice\)](#)

[\[KY\] Elizabethtown man sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for enticing minor for sex \(WDRB\)](#)

[\[GA\] Former medical practice employees sentenced for theft \(Statesboro Herald\)](#)

[\[GA\] Statesboro women sentenced for stealing thousands from pediatric practice \(WSAV\)](#)

[\[FL\] Credit Card Skimming Device Found On Gas Pump At 7-Eleven On Corner Of Le Chalet Blvd And Military Trail In Boynton Beach \(Published Reporter\)](#)

[\[MS\] Biloxi PD asking for help in identifying suspect \(Picayune Item\)](#)

[\[IL\] Police: Shoppers attempt to use counterfeit bills at Lake Zurich grocery store in separate incidents \(Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune\)](#)

[\[TX\] Louisiana Woman Guilty in \\$4.8 Million Elder Fraud Scheme \(Orange Leader\)](#)

[\[TX\] Louisiana woman pleads guilty to taking over \\$4.85 million from elderly Bullard resident \(Tyler Morning Telegraph\)](#)

[\[OK\] Chickasha Police Investigate After Man Unknowingly Pays With Counterfeit Bill At Gas Station \(News 9\)](#)

[\[Philippines\] Police collar traders of fake dollars in Isabela \(The Manila Times\)](#)

### **Protection**

[Biden's dogs back at White House after ruff start \(AP\)](#)

[First Dogs Return To White House After Major Biden Causes Minor Injury \(NPR\)](#)

[First dogs Major and Champ return to White House after nipping incident \(NBC News\)](#)

[\[DE\] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun \(Politico\)](#)

### **Network TV News Coverage**

[\[DC\] Champ & Major Back at White House \(Fox Morning News at 6\)](#)

[\[OK\] Counterfeit Money Used \(News 9 First at Four\)](#)

## **Headlines**

[The Washington Post](#)

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[House of Representatives](#)

## **Investigations**

### **[KY] Elizabethtown Man Sentenced To Federal Prison After Being Caught During Sting Operation (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/24/2021 4:00 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

Travis Puckett, 23, originally of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, previously pled guilty before United States District Judge Rebecca Grady Jennings for attempted online enticement of a minor, announced Acting United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett. Today, Judge Jennings sentenced Puckett to 10 years in prison followed by a 15-year term of Supervised Release. There is no parole in the federal system. Puckett will be required to register as a sex offender.

“Mr. Puckett will serve a 10-year federal prison sentence followed by 15 years of supervision as a result of the outstanding work of AUSA Lawless and our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners,” stated Acting U.S. Attorney Bennett. “Our children and communities are safer because of their tireless effort in identifying, charging, and prosecuting those who engage in this egregious criminal conduct.”

According to the Plea Agreement, on October 6, 2019, a Detective with the Louisville Metro Police Department took part in an undercover investigation on

the Internet. The Detective posed as a 14-year-old girl on a social media app. At approximately 6:00 p.m. that evening, a person using the profile of a 22-year-old, white male, from Elizabethtown, and identified as "Travis," sent the undercover profile a message. "Travis," later identified as Puckett, initially stated he thought the undercover officer was the police and then stated that he wished the undercover officer was 18. Puckett texted, "your cute and all just don't want any charges."

Puckett requested that the undercover detective prove he wasn't the police and provided a Snapchat username for further communication. The undercover detective communicated with Puckett via Snapchat and sent several non-pornographic pictures of an undercover female officer, all the while maintaining the age of 14. The two stopped communicating at approximately 11:30 p.m. that evening, as the undercover advised that "her" parents were home and they could talk the next day. The next day, around noon, Puckett initiated contact with the undercover. Puckett asked what the undercover was doing that evening around 8:00 p.m. Puckett asked to get together and directed the conversation towards sex. At approximately 10:30 p.m. that evening, Puckett arrived at the agreed upon location and was arrested. When he arrived, he had a cellular telephone and condoms.

During a post-Miranda interview, Puckett admitted he was the person who had been communicating with a 14-year-old girl, beginning on the social media app "Skout." He admitted telling her he wanted to engage in sexual activities. During the interview, Puckett wrote an apology letter to the undercover persona. In it, he stated he was sorry and that he felt terrible for disrespecting her.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The joint investigation was conducted by the United States Secret Service, Kentucky Office of the Attorney General, Kentucky State Police, and Louisville Metro Police Department.

**[KY] Elizabethtown man sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for enticing minor for sex (WDRB)**

[WDRB](#) [3/24/2021 4:24 PM, Staff, 57K, Positive, Secondary]

An Elizabethtown man will serve 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to enticing a minor for sex.

Travis Puckett, 23, admitted to trying to meet up with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl for sex. It was a Louisville Metro Police detective, and Puckett was arrested at their agreed upon meeting place with condoms on him, according to authorities.

Puckett will be required to register as a sex offender and will also serve 15 years of supervision after 10 years behind bars.

"Our children and communities are safer because of their tireless effort in identifying, charging, and prosecuting those who engage in this egregious criminal conduct," acting United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett said in



news release.

Puckett reached out to the undercover investigator in October 2019 on the social media app "Skout," according to the news release.

"'Travis,' later identified as Puckett, initially stated he thought the undercover officer was the police and then stated that he wished the undercover officer was 18," the release says. "Puckett texted, 'your cute and all just don't want any charges.'"

Puckett then reportedly asked the undercover detective to prove they weren't police and gave them a Snapchat username to communicate further.

The next day, police said Puckett contacted the detective and "asked to get together and directed the conversation towards sex." They planned to meet later that night, when police took Puckett into custody.

LMPD conducted the investigation in conjuncture with United States Secret Service, Kentucky State Police and the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General.

#### **[GA] Former medical practice employees sentenced for theft (Statesboro Herald)**

[Statesboro Herald](#) [3/24/2021 7:27 PM, Staff, 5K, Positive, Secondary]

Two former employees of a Statesboro pediatrics practice have been sentenced to federal prison for stealing money from the business.

Kristen Hart, 37, and Alisa Brown, 44, both of Statesboro, each pled guilty to a charge of Theft or Embezzlement in Connection with Health Care, said David H. Estes, acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge J. Randal Hall sentenced Hart to 16 months in prison and ordered her to pay \$115,550.69 in restitution, and U.S. District Court Judge R. Stan Baker sentenced Brown to 21 months in federal prison and ordered her to pay \$239,626.86 in restitution and a fine of \$1,000. Each must serve three years of supervised release after completion of their prison term, and there is no parole in the federal system.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a significant challenge for small businesses, including health care practices," said Acting U.S. Attorney Estes. "It's much more difficult when seemingly trustworthy employees treat their jobs as a license to steal."

As described in court documents and testimony, Hart and Brown were employees of Bulloch Pediatrics Group, which is located in the Statesboro Market District, behind East Georgia Regional Medical Center. Each used a variety of methods to steal from their employer.

Hart, the office manager, began to make personal purchases on the office's bank cards in 2015 and eventually spent tens of thousands of dollars at various

businesses, including Amazon.

Brown, a nurse manager who began to steal from her employer in 2013, and Hart also both purchased thousands of dollars in postal money orders which they would then convert to their own use without their employer's knowledge or consent.

When the thefts were uncovered in 2020, both employees were terminated and prosecuted.

"As this case highlights, the United States Postal Inspection Service will assist its law enforcement partners and help bring individuals to justice who misuse the United States Postal Service or its services to steal from victim businesses or individuals," said Juan Vargas, acting inspector in charge of the Miami Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service-Miami Division.

"Greed is not good," said U.S. Secret Service Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Steven Baisel. "Those who chase its allure, particularly at the expense of those who trust them, will most often find themselves trapped. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to bring them to justice."

The U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigated the case, which was prosecuted on behalf of the United States by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia.

**[GA] Statesboro women sentenced for stealing thousands from pediatric practice (WSAV)**

[WSAV](#) [3/24/2021 1:45 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

Two Statesboro women will spend over a year in prison and repay thousands of dollars for stealing from a pediatrics practice where they were employed.

According to David Estes, acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, Kristen Hart, 37, and Alisa Brown, 44, both of Statesboro, pleaded guilty to theft or embezzlement in connection with health care.

Hart and Brown were employees of Bulloch Pediatrics Group and used a variety of methods to steal from their employer, said Estes, citing court documents and testimony. Hart was the office manager and Brown, a nurse manager.

It was revealed in court that Brown began stealing from her employer in 2013. In 2015, Hart began making personal purchases on the office's bank card, spending tens of thousands of dollars at various businesses. Both purchased thousands of dollars in postal money orders, which they would then convert to their own use.

The thefts were uncovered in 2020 and investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

"Greed is not good," said U.S. Secret Service Atlanta Special Agent in Charge

Steven Baisel. "Those who chase its allure, particularly at the expense of those who trust them, will most often find themselves trapped. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to bring them to justice."

Hart has been sentenced to 16 months in prison and must pay \$115,550.69 in restitution. Brown will spend 21 months behind bars and pay \$239,626.86 in restitution and a fine of \$1,000.

Both must serve three years of supervised release after they complete their prison terms.

**[FL] Credit Card Skimming Device Found On Gas Pump At 7-Eleven On Corner Of Le Chalet Blvd And Military Trail In Boynton Beach (Published Reporter)**

[Published Reporter](#) [3/24/2021 12:45 PM, Joe Mcdermott, Neutral, Secondary] On Wednesday, March 24, 2021, prior to 10:45 am, a credit card skimming device was found on a gas pump at the 7-Eleven located in the 4900 block of Le Chalet Boulevard in Boynton Beach. The location sits at the corner of Le Chalet Boulevard and South Military Trail. According to detectives, the skimmer was located on Pump #11. It is unknown how long the skimmer was connected to the gas pumps.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office believes that anyone who purchased gasoline from this 7-Eleven station may be the victim of a crime. and are advising consumers who may have been at the location for fuel and used a credit or debit card to check their accounts and report any unauthorized charges to the appropriate bank or credit card companies.

This is the second time a device was found at this location as in September 2019 a device was located at which point authorities believed it had been there for at least a week or more.

Credit card skimming is a process where crooks use a small device to steal credit card information during a legitimate credit or debit card transaction. Thieves use the stolen data to make fraudulent charges either online or with a counterfeit credit card.

**[MS] Biloxi PD asking for help in identifying suspect (Picayune Item)**

[Picayune Item](#) [3/24/2021 9:58 AM, Staff, 2K, Neutral, Secondary] The Biloxi Police Department is requesting your assistance in helping to identify a person for questioning who allegedly was in possession of a counterfeit \$100.00 dollar bill. He reportedly exchanged the counterfeit bill for correct currency/ change, from another customer. The reported incident took place in the 2400 block of Beach Blvd. The incident took place on March 21, 2021 at about 6am. The alleged suspect entered the front passenger side door of a white in color, 4 door newer model sedan.

**[IL] Police: Shoppers attempt to use counterfeit bills at Lake Zurich grocery store in separate incidents (Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune)**

[Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune](#) [3/24/2021 1:18 PM, Staff, 1785K, Neutral, Secondary]

Someone attempted to purchase a \$15 Uber gift card with a counterfeit \$100 bill at Mariano's, 1350 E. Route 22, March 10. The customer left the store without completing the purchase.

Someone attempted to purchase a \$15 Apple gift card with a counterfeit \$100 bill at Mariano's, 1350 E. Route 22, March 7. The customer left the store without completing the purchase.

**[TX] Louisiana Woman Guilty in \$4.8 Million Elder Fraud Scheme (Orange Leader)**

[Orange Leader](#) [3/24/2021 9:14 PM, Dawn Burleigh, 1K, Positive, Secondary]

A Shreveport, Louisiana woman has pleaded guilty for her role in an elder fraud scheme in the Eastern District of Texas, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei.

Monica Ruiz, 45, pleaded guilty to wire fraud today before U.S. Magistrate Judge John D. Love.

"Schemes that target elderly victims are particularly troubling," said Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei. "Ruiz manipulated a vulnerable victim, exploited his trust, and stole much of his hard-earned life savings. Protecting senior citizens from exploitation has been, and will remain, a priority in the Eastern District."

According to information presented in court, Ruiz enlisted a variety of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises in a scheme to defraud an elderly victim from Bullard, Texas. Among the various misrepresentations Ruiz made in order to obtain money from the victim were the following:

That Ruiz had been in a coma;

That Ruiz had brain surgery;

That Ruiz was falsely arrested and imprisoned;

That Ruiz had bribed a judge and prosecutor;

That Ruiz's son died in a car accident in Pennsylvania;

That Ruiz was in a car accident;

That Ruiz had a kidney transplant;

That Ruiz's daughter was committed to a mental institution;

That Ruiz was incarcerated; and

That Ruiz's grandmother died.

At times, Ruiz impersonated other people in communications with the victim. At other times, she created and used false personas in communications with the victim. Over the course of her scheme, Ruiz obtained more than \$4.85 million from the victim.

A federal grand jury returned an indictment charging Ruiz with federal violations on Nov. 19, 2020. Under federal statutes, Ruiz faces up to 20 years in federal prison. The maximum statutory sentence prescribed by Congress is provided here for information purposes, as the sentencing will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

In October 2017, the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (EAPPA) was signed into law. The EAPPA's purpose is to increase the federal government's focus on preventing elder abuse and exploitation. Subsequently, the Department of Justice launched the Elder Justice Initiative (EJI). Through the EJI, the Department has participated in hundreds of criminal and civil enforcement actions involving misconduct that targeted vulnerable seniors. In March of last year, the Department announced the largest elder fraud enforcement action in American history, charging more than 400 defendants in a nationwide sweep. The Department has likewise conducted hundreds of trainings and outreach sessions across the country. The EJI website contains useful information, including educational resources about prevalent financial scams so you can guard against them.

In August of 2020, the Eastern District of Texas announced its own initiative, in partnership with law enforcement and private financial institutions, to identify and prosecute transnational elder fraud. This EDTX initiative is designed to combat these criminal organization, both foreign and domestic, as well their networks of associates and money mules who launder the stolen funds.

If you or someone you know is age 60 or older and has been a victim of financial fraud, help is standing by at the National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311). This U.S. Department of Justice hotline, managed by the Office for Victims of Crime, is staffed by experienced professionals who provide personalized support to callers by assessing the needs of the victim, and identifying relevant next steps. Case managers will identify appropriate reporting agencies, provide information to callers to assist them in reporting, connect callers directly with appropriate agencies, and provide resources and referrals, on a case-by-case basis. Reporting is the first step. Reporting can help authorities identify those who commit fraud and reporting certain financial losses due to fraud as soon as possible can increase the likelihood of recovering losses. The hotline is staffed 7 days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time. English, Spanish, and other languages are available.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Secret Service with the assistance of the Tyler Police Department and the Louisiana State Police – Gaming Enforcement Division and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney

Nathaniel C. Kummerfeld.

**[TX] Louisiana woman pleads guilty to taking over \$4.85 million from elderly Bullard resident (Tyler Morning Telegraph)**

[Tyler Morning Telegraph](#) [3/24/2021 11:00 PM, Zak Wellerman, 21K, Positive, Secondary]

A Louisiana woman pleaded guilty Wednesday to conducting a scheme that took over \$4.85 million from an elderly Bullard resident.

Monica Ruiz, 45, of Shreveport, entered her guilty plea to wire fraud in federal court. She faces up to 20 years in prison.

The court information states Ruiz said she had been in a coma, had brain surgery, was falsely arrested and imprisoned, was in a car accident, had a kidney transplant and bribed a judge and prosecutor.

She is also accused of saying her son died in a car accident in Pennsylvania, her daughter was committed to a mental institution and her grandmother died.

Ruiz is also accused of impersonating other people when communicating with the victim and creating false personas.

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating the case with help from the Tyler Police Department and the Louisiana State Police — Gaming Enforcement Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathaniel C. Kummerfeld is serving as the prosecutor.

**[OK] Chickasha Police Investigate After Man Unknowingly Pays With Counterfeit Bill At Gas Station (News 9)**

[News 9](#) [3/24/2021 6:11 PM, Hunter McKee, 46K, Neutral, Secondary]

A man was stopped at a Chickasha convenient store after trying to purchase gas and food, not realizing he was using counterfeit money. Police said it happened at the Chickasha Travel Plaza.

The man tried paying with a \$10 bill, but the store's cashier noticed there was something off about the money. She used a counterfeit detection pen on the bill, to determine it was fake.

"The manager of course contacted the customer who was totally cooperative," said Lt. Scott Weaver, with the Chickasha Police Department. "Was not even aware that by his account, had any money that wasn't real."

Police were then called to investigate. According to the report, the customer paid for the gas and food with other money and waited for police to get there.

During the conversation, officers asked him where he got the money from? The customer told authorities from a Valero gas station in Anadarko. Weaver then contacted them.

"A lot of the times when you talk to a convenient store or another business,

they're not even aware that has happened," said Weaver. "Especially with smaller bills."

Police said sometimes counterfeit money like this can originate from other countries.

"They have foreign writing on them," said Weaves. "That's supposed to make them look different where the bill is not mistaken for actual currency."

The bill was eventually turned over and logged for evidence. Police said it's still uncertain exactly where the money came from.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

**[Philippines] Police collar traders of fake dollars in Isabela (The Manila Times)**

[The Manila Times](#) [3/24/2021 12:00 PM, Vince Jacob A. Visaya, Positive, Secondary]

Eight people were arrested for selling counterfeit US dollars, other foreign notes and bank certificates in a joint police operation in Barangay 3 San Mateo on March 23.

BGen. Crizaldo Nieves, Cagayan Valley regional police director, said the arrested were identified as group leader Menerva Roan, 53, of Angono, Rizal; Fe Borromeo, 67, of San Mateo, Rizal; Michelle Quitalib, 63, Monette Baronia, 41, and Pilar Castilleja, of Cauayan City; Rowena De Guzman, 53, of Maria Aurora, Aurora Province; Aji Marquez, 25, of Roxas, Isabela; and Jay Mark Bredico of San Agustin, Isabela.

Police said operatives were tipped off by villagers, prompting the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Isabela, Tumauni police, special operations team and intelligence members to hatch the entrapment operation.

The group has agreed to sell the counterfeit money for P2 million, alleging that the notes are all original and legal.

Seized were five uncut sheets of \$100-bills worth \$14,000; a golden US bill worth \$1 million; two \$100 US dollar bank notes and two other US bank notes; 60 pieces of Zimbabwean bank notes of various denominations; 100 pieces of Iraqi dinars of various denominations; 23 pieces of Vietnam Dong banknotes; 45 various bank notes from Malaysia, China, Yugoslavia, Brazil and other countries; and 12 pieces of HSBC bank deposit certificates worth P57-trillion each; seven caliber .45 handguns; and a Starex van (POD-656) registered to Norma Estavillo of Naguilian, Isabela.

The arrested people were brought to CIDG-Isabela and charged for illegal possession of false treasury or bank notes and other instruments of credit, and firearms.

## **Protection**



## **Biden's dogs back at White House after ruff start (AP)**

[AP](#) [3/24/2021 6:34 PM, Josh Boak, Neutral, Secondary]

President Joe Biden's dogs — Champ and Major — are roaming the White House again, after having been sent to Delaware when Major, the younger dog, injured a Secret Service agent.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at the Wednesday briefing that the dogs met the Bidens last weekend at Camp David in Maryland and came back to Washington on Sunday.

The dogs had been in the Biden's home state of Delaware, where Major received some additional training after having been startled by a Secret Service agent who received a minor injury from the fracas. One of the two German shepherds waited on the balcony of the White House on Tuesday evening as Marine One landed on the South Lawn, having ferried the president back from a speech in Columbus, Ohio.

"The dogs will come and go and it will not be uncommon for them to head back to Delaware on occasion as the president and first lady often do as well," Psaki said.

## **First Dogs Return To White House After Major Biden Causes Minor Injury (NPR)**

[NPR](#) [3/24/2021 1:51 PM, Rachel Treisman, Neutral, Secondary]

First dogs Champ and Major Biden are back in Washington, D.C., after spending part of the month in Delaware, where Major underwent remedial training after causing a "minor injury" at the White House.

Michael LaRosa, spokesman for first lady Jill Biden, confirmed to NPR on Wednesday morning that the dogs are at the White House, but did not specify when they returned. One of the family's two German shepherds can be seen on an Executive Residence balcony in a photo snapped by Reuters correspondent Jeff Mason on Monday night.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Wednesday that Champ and Major joined the first family at Camp David over the weekend, and returned to the White House on Sunday. She said it "will not be uncommon" for the dogs — and their owners — to go back and forth to Delaware.

The news comes a week after President Biden defended Major in an interview with ABC's Good Morning America, calling the 3-year-old a "sweet dog" who was just startled by an unfamiliar person in his new home.

"You turn a corner, and there's two people you don't know at all," Biden said. "And he moves to protect."

He added that Major "did not bite someone and penetrate the skin."

Psaki said earlier this month that Major "reacted in a way that resulted in a



minor injury" to the unnamed individual, with NBC News reporting that he nipped the hand of a Secret Service agent.

She said that both dogs had been sent to the Bidens' home in Wilmington, Del., as part of a previously planned visit while the first lady was traveling.

"He was going home," President Biden said last week. "I didn't banish him to home. Jill was gonna be away for four days. I was gonna be away for two so we took him home."

Major got some remedial training while he was there, according to Biden, who stressed that the rescue dog is still adjusting to his new environment.

The Bidens fostered and then adopted Major from the Delaware Humane Association — where his litter of six puppies was dropped off in poor condition after ingesting an unknown toxic substance — in 2018. According to the shelter, Biden was looking for a companion for Champ, who is now 12 years old.

Major is, famously, the first dog to go from a shelter to the White House — a historic journey that now also includes a brief detour to the dog house.

### **First dogs Major and Champ return to White House after nipping incident (NBC News)**

[NBC News](#) [3/24/2021 2:12 PM, Kelly O'Donnell, Kristen Welker and Dareh Gregorian, 4745K, Neutral, Primary]  
Major Biden is officially out of the doghouse.

The younger of the Bidens' two German shepherds and fellow first canine Champ are back at the White House two weeks after Major nipped a Secret Service agent.

The two were sent to the Bidens' Delaware home following the incident this month, but they are now back roaming the White House grounds, Jill Biden's press secretary, Michael LaRosa, confirmed.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the pair returned on Sunday after spending the weekend with the first family at Camp David.

"The dogs will come and go, and it will not be uncommon for them to head back to Delaware on occasion, as the president and first lady often do as well," Psaki said.

At the time of the nipping incident, Psaki said the first pups' trip to Wilmington had been pre-planned because Jill Biden was traveling.

She said the nipping happened when Major "was surprised by an unfamiliar person and reacted in a way that resulted in a minor injury to the individual."

Major, who is the first shelter dog to live in the White House, received some

extra training while in Delaware to help him acclimate to his new surroundings, LaRosa said.

President Joe Biden told ABC News this month that he still thought 3-year-old Major was a good boy.

"I didn't banish him to home," Biden said. "Jill was going to be away for four days. I was going to be away for two so we took him home."

"Major did not bite someone and penetrate the skin," he added. The president also suggested that he and Major were having trouble adjusting to the large number of personnel around the White House.

"You turn a corner, and there's two people you don't know at all," Biden said. "And he moves to protect. But he's a sweet dog."

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspensions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's

owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

## Network TV News Coverage

### **[DC] Champ & Major Back at White House (Fox Morning News at 6)**

[\(B\) Fox Morning News at 6](#) [3/24/2021 6:32 AM, Staff]

President Biden's dogs are back at the White House after Major bit a Secret Service member's hand. The dogs were moved to Delaware after the incident for retraining. The president said Major was being protective when it happened because the dog did not know the agents at the White House.

### **[OK] Counterfeit Money Used (News 9 First at Four)**

[\(B\) News 9 First at Four](#) [3/24/2021 5:32 PM, Hunter McKee]

A man was stopped at a Chickasha convenience store trying to use counterfeit money. Police say the man had no idea it was counterfeit. The man said he got the fake \$10 bill from a Valero gas station in Anadarko.

## Headlines

### The Washington Post

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden taps Harris to handle border crisis](#)

[Rachel Levine, historic transgender nominee, confirmed as assistant health secretary](#)

[A push for gun control is pledged once more in wake of Boulder shooting](#)

[Biden faces a flurry of new challenges ahead of first White House news conference](#)

[Supreme Court struggles with when police may enter home for safety checks or suicide threats](#)

[North Korea fires more missiles](#)

### The New York Times

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Democrats Begin Push for Biggest Expansion of Voting Since 1960s](#)

[Suez Canal Blocked After Giant Container Ship Gets Stuck](#)

[After 4th Vote in 2 Years, Israelis Wonder: When Will the Political Morass End?](#)

[‘I Will Die Protecting My Country’: In Myanmar, a New Resistance Rises](#)

### The Wall Street Journal

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Kamala Harris to Head Administration Effort to Stanch Migrant Surge](#)

[Senate Lawmakers Spar Over Voting Rights Bill](#)

[Democrats Weigh Increases in Corporate, Personal Income-Tax Rates](#)

[Men Looking for Work Drive Surge in Illegal Crossings at the U.S. Border](#)

[Suez Canal Is Blocked by Container Ship Causing Huge Traffic Jam](#)

### ABC News

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Major severe weather outbreak expected in South, tornadoes possible](#)

[Biden administration allows access to border facility -- but not ones over capacity](#)

[Yellen sees room for US to borrow, opens door to tax hike](#)

### CBS News

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Kamala Harris to lead efforts to stem migration at southern border](#)

[White House mulls executive action amid gun reform resistance](#)

[New evidence shows extremist groups coordinated Capitol siege](#)

### CNN

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[‘Shame, shame, shame’: Schumer and McConnell spar over federal voting rights legislation](#)

[Biden to highlight gains and face tough scrutiny in first formal news conference](#)

[North Korea fires two ground-based ballistic missiles, South Korea says](#)

## **Fox News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden still hasn't held a news conference, 63 days and counting](#)  
[Arizona's Ducey calls Harris the 'worst possible choice' to fix border](#)  
[North Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles into Sea of Japan, US official confirms](#)

## **NBC News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Storm-battered South prepares for possible second tornado outbreak in a week](#)  
[AstraZeneca says its vaccine shows 76 percent efficacy after questions arise about 'outdated information'](#)  
[North Korea launched two ballistic missiles, U.S., Japanese officials say](#)

## **Washington Schedule**

### **President**

[The White House](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

9:30 AM The President receives the President's Daily Brief

10:00 AM In-Town Pool Call Time

1:15 PM The President holds a formal press conference

3:45 PM The President meets virtually with the European Council during its summit

### **Vice President**

[The White House](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

See source link. Schedule not yet available.

### **Senate**

[Senate](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

9:30 AM SD-G50 Armed Services

Hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program.

9:30 AM SR-301 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Hearings to examine Child Nutrition Reauthorization, focusing on healthy meals and healthy futures.

9:30 AM WEBEX Finance

Hearings to examine how U.S. international tax policy impacts American workers, jobs, and investment.

9:45 AM SD-366 Energy and Natural Resources

Hearings to examine the latest developments in the nuclear energy sector, focusing on ways to maintain and expand the use of nuclear energy in the

United States and abroad.

10:00 AM SD-106 Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S.632, to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, S.169, to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and the nominations of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

10:00 AM SD-430 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Hearings to examine our COVID-19 response, focusing on improving health equity and outcomes by addressing health disparities.

10:00 AM VTC Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy  
Hearings to examine the U.S. response to the coup in Burma.

10:00 AM WEBEX Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Hearings to examine the American Rescue Plan, focusing on shots in arms and money in pockets.

10:15 AM SD-342/VTC Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Hearings to examine the nomination of Deanne Bennett Criswell, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

11:00 AM SH-216 Budget

Hearings to examine the tax code, focusing on making the wealthiest people and largest corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

## **House of Representatives**

[House of Representatives](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

11:00 AM Virtual

Business Meeting: Modernization Cohort Listening Session

Host: Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

11:00 AM

Hearing: Leading by Action: The Fierce Urgency for Diversity and Inclusion in the Foreign Policy Workforce

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

11:00 AM 2167 Rayburn HOB

Hearing: The Administrations Priorities for Transportation Infrastructure.

Host: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure



12:00 PM

Hearing: Disinformation Nation: Social Media's Role in Promoting Extremism and Misinformation

Host: Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

12:00 PM Cisco WebEx

Hearing: Virtual Hearing - Ending Exploitation: How the Financial System Can Work to Dismantle the Business of Human Trafficking

Host: Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy

12:00 PM Washington

Hearing: A Hearing to Review the State of Black Farmers in the U.S.

Host: Committee on Agriculture

12:00 PM

Hearing: Remote Hearing on Rooting Out Fraud in Small Business Relief Programs

Host: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis

1:00 PM Remote Longworth HOB

Hearing: Examining Private Equity's Expanded Role in the U.S. Health Care System

Host: Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight

1:00 PM

Hearing: Building Technologies Research for a Sustainable Future

Host: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy

1:00 PM

Hearing: The Effects of COVID-19 on Arts and Humanities Organizations

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

1:00 PM via Zoom

Hearing: Lessons Learned: Charting the Path to Educational Equity Post-COVID-19

Host: Committee on Education Labor, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education

1:00 PM CiscoWebEx

Markup: Markup of Various Measures

Host: Committee on Foreign Affairs

2:00 PM 2141 Rayburn HOB

Hearing: The Importance of a Diverse Federal Judiciary

Host: Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet

2:00 PM

Hearing: Restoring Faith by Building Trust: VAs First 100 Days."

Host: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

2:30 PM

Hearing: Creating Equitable Communities through Transportation and Housing

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and House and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

**{End of Report}**



# SECRET SERVICE NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the United States Secret Service

By TechMIS

[www.TechMIS.com](http://www.TechMIS.com)

[Mobile User Copy](#)

**TO: Secret Service**

**DATE: Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:00 AM ET**

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## Investigations

### **[KY] Elizabethtown Man Sentenced To Federal Prison After Being Caught During Sting Operation (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/24/2021 4:00 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]  
Travis Puckett, 23, originally of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, previously pled guilty before United States District Judge Rebecca Grady Jennings for attempted online enticement of a minor, announced Acting United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett. Today, Judge Jennings sentenced Puckett to 10 years in prison followed by a 15-year term of Supervised Release. There is no parole in the federal system. Puckett will be required to register as a sex offender.

"Mr. Puckett will serve a 10-year federal prison sentence followed by 15 years of supervision as a result of the outstanding work of AUSA Lawless and our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners," stated Acting U.S. Attorney Bennett. "Our children and communities are safer because of their tireless effort in identifying, charging, and prosecuting those who engage in this egregious criminal conduct."

According to the Plea Agreement, on October 6, 2019, a Detective with the Louisville Metro Police Department took part in an undercover investigation on the Internet. The Detective posed as a 14-year-old girl on a social media app. At approximately 6:00 p.m. that evening, a person using the profile of a 22-year-old, white male, from Elizabethtown, and identified as "Travis," sent the undercover profile a message. "Travis," later identified as Puckett, initially stated he thought the undercover officer was the police and then stated that he wished the undercover officer was 18. Puckett texted, "your cute and all just don't want any charges."

Puckett requested that the undercover detective prove he wasn't the police and provided a Snapchat username for further communication. The undercover detective communicated with Puckett via Snapchat and sent several non-pornographic pictures of an undercover female officer, all the while maintaining the age of 14. The two stopped communicating at approximately 11:30 p.m. that evening, as the undercover advised that "her" parents were

home and they could talk the next day. The next day, around noon, Puckett initiated contact with the undercover. Puckett asked what the undercover was doing that evening around 8:00 p.m. Puckett asked to get together and directed the conversation towards sex. At approximately 10:30 p.m. that evening, Puckett arrived at the agreed upon location and was arrested. When he arrived, he had a cellular telephone and condoms.

During a post-Miranda interview, Puckett admitted he was the person who had been communicating with a 14-year-old girl, beginning on the social media app "Skout." He admitted telling her he wanted to engage in sexual activities. During the interview, Puckett wrote an apology letter to the undercover persona. In it, he stated he was sorry and that he felt terrible for disrespecting her.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The joint investigation was conducted by the United States Secret Service, Kentucky Office of the Attorney General, Kentucky State Police, and Louisville Metro Police Department.

**[KY] Elizabethtown man sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for enticing minor for sex (WDRB)**

[WDRB](#) [3/24/2021 4:24 PM, Staff, 57K, Positive, Secondary]

An Elizabethtown man will serve 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to enticing a minor for sex.

Travis Puckett, 23, admitted to trying to meet up with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl for sex. It was a Louisville Metro Police detective, and Puckett was arrested at their agreed upon meeting place with condoms on him, according to authorities.

Puckett will be required to register as a sex offender and will also serve 15 years of supervision after 10 years behind bars.

"Our children and communities are safer because of their tireless effort in identifying, charging, and prosecuting those who engage in this egregious criminal conduct," acting United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett said in news release.

Puckett reached out to the undercover investigator in October 2019 on the social media app "Skout," according to the news release.

"'Travis,' later identified as Puckett, initially stated he thought the undercover officer was the police and then stated that he wished the undercover officer was 18," the release says. "Puckett texted, 'your cute and all just don't want any charges.'"

Puckett then reportedly asked the undercover detective to prove they weren't police and gave them a Snapchat username to communicate further.

The next day, police said Puckett contacted the detective and "asked to get together and directed the conversation towards sex." They planned to meet later that night, when police took Puckett into custody.

LMPD conducted the investigation in conjuncture with United States Secret Service, Kentucky State Police and the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General.

**[GA] Former medical practice employees sentenced for theft (Statesboro Herald)**  
[Statesboro Herald](#) [3/24/2021 7:27 PM, Staff, 5K, Positive, Secondary]

Two former employees of a Statesboro pediatrics practice have been sentenced to federal prison for stealing money from the business.

Kristen Hart, 37, and Alisa Brown, 44, both of Statesboro, each pled guilty to a charge of Theft or Embezzlement in Connection with Health Care, said David H. Estes, acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge J. Randal Hall sentenced Hart to 16 months in prison and ordered her to pay \$115,550.69 in restitution, and U.S. District Court Judge R. Stan Baker sentenced Brown to 21 months in federal prison and ordered her to pay \$239,626.86 in restitution and a fine of \$1,000. Each must serve three years of supervised release after completion of their prison term, and there is no parole in the federal system.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a significant challenge for small businesses, including health care practices," said Acting U.S. Attorney Estes. "It's much more difficult when seemingly trustworthy employees treat their jobs as a license to steal."

As described in court documents and testimony, Hart and Brown were employees of Bulloch Pediatrics Group, which is located in the Statesboro Market District, behind East Georgia Regional Medical Center. Each used a variety of methods to steal from their employer.

Hart, the office manager, began to make personal purchases on the office's bank cards in 2015 and eventually spent tens of thousands of dollars at various businesses, including Amazon.

Brown, a nurse manager who began to steal from her employer in 2013, and Hart also both purchased thousands of dollars in postal money orders which they would then convert to their own use without their employer's knowledge or consent.

When the thefts were uncovered in 2020, both employees were terminated and prosecuted.

"As this case highlights, the United States Postal Inspection Service will assist its law enforcement partners and help bring individuals to justice who misuse the United States Postal Service or its services to steal from victim businesses or individuals," said Juan Vargas, acting inspector in charge of the Miami Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service-Miami Division.

"Greed is not good," said U.S. Secret Service Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Steven Baisel. "Those who chase its allure, particularly at the expense of those who trust them, will most often find themselves trapped. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to bring them to justice."

The U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigated the case, which was prosecuted on behalf of the United States by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia.

**[GA] Statesboro women sentenced for stealing thousands from pediatric practice (WSAV)**

[WSAV](#) [3/24/2021 1:45 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

Two Statesboro women will spend over a year in prison and repay thousands of dollars for stealing from a pediatrics practice where they were employed.

According to David Estes, acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, Kristen Hart, 37, and Alisa Brown, 44, both of Statesboro, pleaded guilty to theft or embezzlement in connection with health care.

Hart and Brown were employees of Bulloch Pediatrics Group and used a variety of methods to steal from their employer, said Estes, citing court documents and testimony. Hart was the office manager and Brown, a nurse manager.

It was revealed in court that Brown began stealing from her employer in 2013. In 2015, Hart began making personal purchases on the office's bank card, spending tens of thousands of dollars at various businesses. Both purchased thousands of dollars in postal money orders, which they would then convert to their own use.

The thefts were uncovered in 2020 and investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

"Greed is not good," said U.S. Secret Service Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Steven Baisel. "Those who chase its allure, particularly at the expense of those who trust them, will most often find themselves trapped. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to bring them to justice."

Hart has been sentenced to 16 months in prison and must pay \$115,550.69 in restitution. Brown will spend 21 months behind bars and pay \$239,626.86 in restitution and a fine of \$1,000.

Both must serve three years of supervised release after they complete their prison terms.

**[FL] Credit Card Skimming Device Found On Gas Pump At 7-Eleven On Corner Of Le Chalet Blvd And Military Trail In Boynton Beach (Published Reporter)**

[Published Reporter](#) [3/24/2021 12:45 PM, Joe Mcdermott, Neutral, Secondary]

On Wednesday, March 24, 2021, prior to 10:45 am, a credit card skimming device was found on a gas pump at the 7-Eleven located in the 4900 block of Le Chalet Boulevard in Boynton Beach. The location sits at the corner of Le Chalet Boulevard and South Military Trail. According to detectives, the skimmer was located on Pump #11. It is unknown how long the skimmer was connected to the gas pumps.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office believes that anyone who purchased gasoline from this 7-Eleven station may be the victim of a crime. and are advising consumers who may have been at the location for fuel and used a credit or debit card to check their accounts and report any unauthorized charges to the appropriate bank or credit card companies.

This is the second time a device was found at this location as in September 2019 a device was located at which point authorities believed it had been there for at least a week or more.



Credit card skimming is a process where crooks use a small device to steal credit card information during a legitimate credit or debit card transaction. Thieves use the stolen data to make fraudulent charges either online or with a counterfeit credit card.

**[MS] Biloxi PD asking for help in identifying suspect (Picayune Item)**

[Picayune Item](#) [3/24/2021 9:58 AM, Staff, 2K, Neutral, Secondary]

The Biloxi Police Department is requesting your assistance in helping to identify a person for questioning who allegedly was in possession of a counterfeit \$100.00 dollar bill. He reportedly exchanged the counterfeit bill for correct currency/ change, from another customer. The reported incident took place in the 2400 block of Beach Blvd. The incident took place on March 21, 2021 at about 6am. The alleged suspect entered the front passenger side door of a white in color, 4 door newer model sedan.

**[IL] Police: Shoppers attempt to use counterfeit bills at Lake Zurich grocery store in separate incidents (Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune)**

[Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune](#) [3/24/2021 1:18 PM, Staff, 1785K, Neutral, Secondary]

Someone attempted to purchase a \$15 Uber gift card with a counterfeit \$100 bill at Mariano's, 1350 E. Route 22, March 10. The customer left the store without completing the purchase.

Someone attempted to purchase a \$15 Apple gift card with a counterfeit \$100 bill at Mariano's, 1350 E. Route 22, March 7. The customer left the store without completing the purchase.

**[TX] Louisiana Woman Guilty in \$4.8 Million Elder Fraud Scheme (Orange Leader)**

[Orange Leader](#) [3/24/2021 9:14 PM, Dawn Burleigh, 1K, Positive, Secondary]

A Shreveport, Louisiana woman has pleaded guilty for her role in an elder fraud scheme in the Eastern District of Texas, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei.

Monica Ruiz, 45, pleaded guilty to wire fraud today before U.S. Magistrate Judge John D. Love.

"Schemes that target elderly victims are particularly troubling," said Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei. "Ruiz manipulated a vulnerable victim, exploited his trust, and stole much of his hard-earned life savings. Protecting senior citizens from exploitation has been, and will remain, a priority in the Eastern District."

According to information presented in court, Ruiz enlisted a variety of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises in a scheme to defraud an elderly victim from Bullard, Texas. Among the various misrepresentations Ruiz made in order to obtain money from the victim were the following:

That Ruiz had been in a coma;

That Ruiz had brain surgery;

That Ruiz was falsely arrested and imprisoned;



That Ruiz had bribed a judge and prosecutor;

That Ruiz's son died in a car accident in Pennsylvania;

That Ruiz was in a car accident;

That Ruiz had a kidney transplant;

That Ruiz's daughter was committed to a mental institution;

That Ruiz was incarcerated; and

That Ruiz's grandmother died.

At times, Ruiz impersonated other people in communications with the victim. At other times, she created and used false personas in communications with the victim. Over the course of her scheme, Ruiz obtained more than \$4.85 million from the victim.

A federal grand jury returned an indictment charging Ruiz with federal violations on Nov. 19, 2020. Under federal statutes, Ruiz faces up to 20 years in federal prison. The maximum statutory sentence prescribed by Congress is provided here for information purposes, as the sentencing will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

In October 2017, the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (EAPPA) was signed into law. The EAPPA's purpose is to increase the federal government's focus on preventing elder abuse and exploitation. Subsequently, the Department of Justice launched the Elder Justice Initiative (EJI). Through the EJI, the Department has participated in hundreds of criminal and civil enforcement actions involving misconduct that targeted vulnerable seniors. In March of last year, the Department announced the largest elder fraud enforcement action in American history, charging more than 400 defendants in a nationwide sweep. The Department has likewise conducted hundreds of trainings and outreach sessions across the country. The EJI website contains useful information, including educational resources about prevalent financial scams so you can guard against them.

In August of 2020, the Eastern District of Texas announced its own initiative, in partnership with law enforcement and private financial institutions, to identify and prosecute transnational elder fraud. This EDTX initiative is designed to combat these criminal organization, both foreign and domestic, as well their networks of associates and money mules who launder the stolen funds.

If you or someone you know is age 60 or older and has been a victim of financial fraud, help is standing by at the National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311). This U.S. Department of Justice hotline, managed by the Office for Victims of Crime, is staffed by experienced professionals who provide personalized support to callers by assessing the needs of the victim, and identifying relevant next steps. Case managers will identify appropriate reporting agencies, provide information to callers to assist them in reporting, connect callers directly with appropriate agencies, and provide resources and

referrals, on a case-by-case basis. Reporting is the first step. Reporting can help authorities identify those who commit fraud and reporting certain financial losses due to fraud as soon as possible can increase the likelihood of recovering losses. The hotline is staffed 7 days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time. English, Spanish, and other languages are available.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Secret Service with the assistance of the Tyler Police Department and the Louisiana State Police – Gaming Enforcement Division and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathaniel C. Kummerfeld.

**[TX] Louisiana woman pleads guilty to taking over \$4.85 million from elderly Bullard resident (Tyler Morning Telegraph)**

[Tyler Morning Telegraph](#) [3/24/2021 11:00 PM, Zak Wellerman, 21K, Positive, Secondary]

A Louisiana woman pleaded guilty Wednesday to conducting a scheme that took over \$4.85 million from an elderly Bullard resident.

Monica Ruiz, 45, of Shreveport, entered her guilty plea to wire fraud in federal court. She faces up to 20 years in prison.

The court information states Ruiz said she had been in a coma, had brain surgery, was falsely arrested and imprisoned, was in a car accident, had a kidney transplant and bribed a judge and prosecutor.

She is also accused of saying her son died in a car accident in Pennsylvania, her daughter was committed to a mental institution and her grandmother died.

Ruiz is also accused of impersonating other people when communicating with the victim and creating false personas.

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating the case with help from the Tyler Police Department and the Louisiana State Police — Gaming Enforcement Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathaniel C. Kummerfeld is serving as the prosecutor.

**[OK] Chickasha Police Investigate After Man Unknowingly Pays With Counterfeit Bill At Gas Station (News 9)**

[News 9](#) [3/24/2021 6:11 PM, Hunter McKee, 46K, Neutral, Secondary]

A man was stopped at a Chickasha convenient store after trying to purchase gas and food, not realizing he was using counterfeit money. Police said it happened at the Chickasha Travel Plaza.

The man tried paying with a \$10 bill, but the store's cashier noticed there was something off about the money. She used a counterfeit detection pen on the bill, to determine it was fake.

"The manager of course contacted the customer who was totally cooperative," said Lt. Scott Weaver, with the Chickasha Police Department. "Was not even aware that by his account, had any money that wasn't real."

Police were then called to investigate. According to the report, the customer paid for the gas and food with other money and waited for police to get there.

During the conversation, officers asked him where he got the money from? The customer told authorities from a Valero gas station in Anadarko. Weaver then contacted them.

"A lot of the times when you talk to a convenient store or another business, they're not even aware that has happened," said Weaver. "Especially with smaller bills."

Police said sometimes counterfeit money like this can originate from other countries.

"They have foreign writing on them," said Weaves. "That's supposed to make them look different where the bill is not mistaken for actual currency."

The bill was eventually turned over and logged for evidence. Police said it's still uncertain exactly where the money came from.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

### **[Philippines] Police collar traders of fake dollars in Isabela (The Manila Times)**

[The Manila Times](#) [3/24/2021 12:00 PM, Vince Jacob A. Visaya, Positive, Secondary]

Eight people were arrested for selling counterfeit US dollars, other foreign notes and bank certificates in a joint police operation in Barangay 3 San Mateo on March 23.

BGen. Crizaldo Nieves, Cagayan Valley regional police director, said the arrested were identified as group leader Menerva Roan, 53, of Angono, Rizal; Fe Borromeo, 67, of San Mateo, Rizal; Michelle Quitlib, 63, Monette Baronía, 41, and Pilar Castilleja, of Cauayan City; Rowena De Guzman, 53, of Maria Aurora, Aurora Province; Aji Marquez, 25, of Roxas, Isabela; and Jay Mark Bredico of San Agustin, Isabela.

Police said operatives were tipped off by villagers, prompting the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Isabela, Tumauni police, special operations team and intelligence members to hatch the entrapment operation.

The group has agreed to sell the counterfeit money for P2 million, alleging that the notes are all original and legal.

Seized were five uncut sheets of \$100-bills worth \$14,000; a golden US bill worth \$1 million; two \$100 US dollar bank notes and two other US bank notes; 60 pieces of Zimbabwean bank notes of various denominations; 100 pieces of Iraqi dinars of various denominations; 23 pieces of Vietnam Dong banknotes; 45 various bank notes from Malaysia, China, Yugoslavia, Brazil and other countries; and 12 pieces of HSBC bank deposit certificates worth P57-trillion each; seven caliber .45 handguns; and a Starex van (POD-656) registered to Norma Estavillo of Naguilan, Isabela.

The arrested people were brought to CIDG-Isabela and charged for illegal possession of false treasury or bank notes and other instruments of credit, and firearms.

## **Protection**

### **Biden's dogs back at White House after ruff start (AP)**

[AP](#) [3/24/2021 6:34 PM, Josh Boak, Neutral, Secondary]

President Joe Biden's dogs — Champ and Major — are roaming the White House again, after having been sent to Delaware when Major, the younger dog, injured a Secret Service agent.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at the Wednesday briefing that the dogs met the Bidens last weekend at Camp David in Maryland and came back to Washington on Sunday.

The dogs had been in the Biden's home state of Delaware, where Major received some additional training after having been startled by a Secret Service agent who received a minor injury from the fracas. One of the two German shepherds waited on the balcony of the White House on Tuesday evening as Marine One landed on the South Lawn, having ferried the president back from a speech in Columbus, Ohio.

"The dogs will come and go and it will not be uncommon for them to head back to Delaware on occasion as the president and first lady often do as well," Psaki said.

### **First Dogs Return To White House After Major Biden Causes Minor Injury (NPR)**

[NPR](#) [3/24/2021 1:51 PM, Rachel Treisman, Neutral, Secondary]

First dogs Champ and Major Biden are back in Washington, D.C., after spending part of the month in Delaware, where Major underwent remedial training after causing a "minor injury" at the White House.

Michael LaRosa, spokesman for first lady Jill Biden, confirmed to NPR on Wednesday morning that the dogs are at the White House, but did not specify when they returned. One of the family's two German shepherds can be seen on an Executive Residence balcony in a photo snapped by Reuters correspondent Jeff Mason on Monday night.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Wednesday that Champ and Major joined the first family at Camp David over the weekend, and returned to the White House on Sunday. She said it "will not be uncommon" for the dogs — and their owners — to go back and forth to Delaware.

The news comes a week after President Biden defended Major in an interview with ABC's Good Morning America, calling the 3-year-old a "sweet dog" who was just startled by an unfamiliar person in his new home.

"You turn a corner, and there's two people you don't know at all," Biden said. "And he moves to protect."

He added that Major "did not bite someone and penetrate the skin."

Psaki said earlier this month that Major "reacted in a way that resulted in a minor injury" to the unnamed individual, with NBC News reporting that he nipped the hand of a Secret Service agent.

She said that both dogs had been sent to the Bidens' home in Wilmington, Del., as part of a previously planned visit while the first lady was traveling.

"He was going home," President Biden said last week. "I didn't banish him to home. Jill was gonna be away for four days. I was gonna be away for two so we took him home."

Major got some remedial training while he was there, according to Biden, who stressed that the rescue dog is still adjusting to his new environment.

The Bidens fostered and then adopted Major from the Delaware Humane Association — where his litter of six puppies was dropped off in poor condition after ingesting an unknown toxic substance — in 2018. According to the shelter, Biden was looking for a companion for Champ, who is now 12 years old.

Major is, famously, the first dog to go from a shelter to the White House — a historic journey that now also includes a brief detour to the dog house.

**First dogs Major and Champ return to White House after nipping incident (NBC News)**

[NBC News](#) [3/24/2021 2:12 PM, Kelly O'Donnell, Kristen Welker and Dareh Gregorian, 4745K, Neutral, Primary]

Major Biden is officially out of the doghouse.

The younger of the Bidens' two German shepherds and fellow first canine Champ are back at the White House two weeks after Major nipped a Secret Service agent.

The two were sent to the Bidens' Delaware home following the incident this month, but they are now back roaming the White House grounds, Jill Biden's press secretary, Michael LaRosa, confirmed.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the pair returned on Sunday after spending the weekend with the first family at Camp David.

"The dogs will come and go, and it will not be uncommon for them to head back to Delaware on occasion, as the president and first lady often do as well," Psaki said.

At the time of the nipping incident, Psaki said the first pups' trip to Wilmington had been pre-planned because Jill Biden was traveling.

She said the nipping happened when Major "was surprised by an unfamiliar person and reacted in a way that resulted in a minor injury to the individual."

Major, who is the first shelter dog to live in the White House, received some extra training while in Delaware to help him acclimate to his new surroundings, LaRosa said.

President Joe Biden told ABC News this month that he still thought 3-year-old Major was a good boy.

"I didn't banish him to home," Biden said. "Jill was going to be away for four days. I was going to be away for two so we took him home."

"Major did not bite someone and penetrate the skin," he added. The president also suggested that he and Major were having trouble adjusting to the large number of personnel around the White House.

"You turn a corner, and there's two people you don't know at all," Biden said. "And he moves to protect. But he's a sweet dog."

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative



would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded “no” to a question on the transaction record that asks, “Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?” Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden’s administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter’s pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified “suspicions she had,” according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen’s Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store’s general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. “We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could,” Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was

questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to



any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.”

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden’s Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.”

## Network TV News Coverage

### **[DC] Champ & Major Back at White House (Fox Morning News at 6)**

[\(B\) Fox Morning News at 6](#) [3/24/2021 6:32 AM, Staff]

President Biden’s dogs are back at the White House after Major bit a Secret Service member’s hand. The dogs were moved to Delaware after the incident for retraining. The president said Major was being protective when it happened because the dog did not know the agents at the White House.

### **[OK] Counterfeit Money Used (News 9 First at Four)**

[\(B\) News 9 First at Four](#) [3/24/2021 5:32 PM, Hunter McKee]

A man was stopped at a Chickasha convenience store trying to use counterfeit money. Police say the man had no idea it was counterfeit. The man said he got the fake \$10 bill from a Valero gas station in Anadarko.

## Headlines

### **The Washington Post**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden taps Harris to handle border crisis](#)

[Rachel Levine, historic transgender nominee, confirmed as assistant health secretary](#)

[A push for gun control is pledged once more in wake of Boulder shooting](#)

[Biden faces a flurry of new challenges ahead of first White House news conference](#)

[Supreme Court struggles with when police may enter home for safety checks or suicide threats](#)

[North Korea fires more missiles](#)

### **The New York Times**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Democrats Begin Push for Biggest Expansion of Voting Since 1960s](#)

[Suez Canal Blocked After Giant Container Ship Gets Stuck](#)

[After 4th Vote in 2 Years, Israelis Wonder: When Will the Political Morass End?](#)

[‘I Will Die Protecting My Country’: In Myanmar, a New Resistance Rises](#)

### **The Wall Street Journal**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Kamala Harris to Head Administration Effort to Stanch Migrant Surge](#)  
[Senate Lawmakers Spar Over Voting Rights Bill](#)  
[Democrats Weigh Increases in Corporate, Personal Income-Tax Rates](#)  
[Men Looking for Work Drive Surge in Illegal Crossings at the U.S. Border](#)  
[Suez Canal Is Blocked by Container Ship Causing Huge Traffic Jam](#)

### **ABC News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Major severe weather outbreak expected in South, tornadoes possible](#)  
[Biden administration allows access to border facility -- but not ones over capacity](#)  
[Yellen sees room for US to borrow, opens door to tax hike](#)

### **CBS News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Kamala Harris to lead efforts to stem migration at southern border](#)  
[White House mulls executive action amid gun reform resistance](#)  
[New evidence shows extremist groups coordinated Capitol siege](#)

### **CNN**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Shame, shame, shame': Schumer and McConnell spar over federal voting rights legislation](#)  
[Biden to highlight gains and face tough scrutiny in first formal news conference](#)  
[North Korea fires two ground-based ballistic missiles, South Korea says](#)

### **Fox News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden still hasn't held a news conference, 63 days and counting](#)  
[Arizona's Ducey calls Harris the 'worst possible choice' to fix border](#)  
[North Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles into Sea of Japan, US official confirms](#)

### **NBC News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Storm-battered South prepares for possible second tornado outbreak in a week](#)  
[AstraZeneca says its vaccine shows 76 percent efficacy after questions arise about 'outdated information'](#)  
[North Korea launched two ballistic missiles, U.S., Japanese officials say](#)

## **Washington Schedule**

### **President**

[The White House](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

9:30 AM The President receives the President's Daily Brief

10:00 AM In-Town Pool Call Time

1:15 PM The President holds a formal press conference

3:45 PM The President meets virtually with the European Council during its summit

**Vice President**

[The White House](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

See source link. Schedule not yet available.

**Senate**

[Senate](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

9:30 AM SD-G50 Armed Services

Hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program.

9:30 AM SR-301 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Hearings to examine Child Nutrition Reauthorization, focusing on healthy meals and healthy futures.

9:30 AM WEBEX Finance

Hearings to examine how U.S. international tax policy impacts American workers, jobs, and investment.

9:45 AM SD-366 Energy and Natural Resources

Hearings to examine the latest developments in the nuclear energy sector, focusing on ways to maintain and expand the use of nuclear energy in the United States and abroad.

10:00 AM SD-106 Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S.632, to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, S.169, to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and the nominations of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

10:00 AM SD-430 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Hearings to examine our COVID-19 response, focusing on improving health equity and outcomes by addressing health disparities.

10:00 AM VTC Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Hearings to examine the U.S. response to the coup in Burma.

10:00 AM WEBEX Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Hearings to examine the American Rescue Plan, focusing on shots in arms and money in pockets.

10:15 AM SD-342/VTC Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Hearings to examine the nomination of Deanne Bennett Criswell, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

11:00 AM SH-216 Budget

Hearings to examine the tax code, focusing on making the wealthiest people and largest corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

## **House of Representatives**

[House of Representatives](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

11:00 AM Virtual

Business Meeting: Modernization Cohort Listening Session

Host: Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

11:00 AM

Hearing: Leading by Action: The Fierce Urgency for Diversity and Inclusion in the Foreign Policy Workforce

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

11:00 AM 2167 Rayburn HOB

Hearing: The Administrations Priorities for Transportation Infrastructure.

Host: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

12:00 PM

Hearing: Disinformation Nation: Social Media's Role in Promoting Extremism and Misinformation

Host: Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

12:00 PM Cisco WebEx

Hearing: Virtual Hearing - Ending Exploitation: How the Financial System Can Work to Dismantle the Business of Human Trafficking

Host: Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy

12:00 PM Washington

Hearing: A Hearing to Review the State of Black Farmers in the U.S.

Host: Committee on Agriculture

12:00 PM

Hearing: Remote Hearing on Rooting Out Fraud in Small Business Relief Programs

Host: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis

1:00 PM Remote Longworth HOB

Hearing: Examining Private Equity's Expanded Role in the U.S. Health Care System

Host: Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight

1:00 PM

Hearing: Building Technologies Research for a Sustainable Future

Host: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy

1:00 PM

Hearing: The Effects of COVID-19 on Arts and Humanities Organizations

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

1:00 PM via Zoom

Hearing: Lessons Learned: Charting the Path to Educational Equity Post-COVID-19

Host: Committee on Education Labor, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education

1:00 PM CiscoWebEx

Markup: Markup of Various Measures

Host: Committee on Foreign Affairs

2:00 PM 2141 Rayburn HOB

Hearing: The Importance of a Diverse Federal Judiciary

Host: Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet

2:00 PM

Hearing: Restoring Faith by Building Trust: VAs First 100 Days."

Host: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

2:30 PM

Hearing: Creating Equitable Communities through Transportation and Housing

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and House and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

**{End of Report}**

**From:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** [FARON PARAMORE \(DEP\)](#)  
**Cc:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Politico Story  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:11:43 AM

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Copy sir. We are tracking and have not received any inquiries as of yet.

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**From:** FARON PARAMORE (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:13 AM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)> FARON PARAMORE (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Politico Story

Jeremy, please see Politico story below.

Please speak with Cathy, in case you get any inquiries from the Hill.

Faron

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "FARON PARAMORE (DEP)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** March 25, 2021 at 7:03:42 AM EDT  
**To:** "CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)" <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Politico Story

White House

Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun Protection agency denies any involvement in a 2018 firearms incident involving the president's son and daughter-in-law.

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.



The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement. Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden. The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare. Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver. Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case.

Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November. The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges



against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: “U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.”

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden’s Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.”

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (LNG)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:14:18 AM

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Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

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Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** [BENJAMIN KRAMER \(VPD\)](#)  
**Cc:** [ROBERT NOVY \(IGL\)](#); [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:17:09 AM

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Yes, the comment as provided in the article is our response to any inquiries.

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**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:04 AM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> cafhq <cafhq@uss.s.dhs.gov>;  
cafdetail <cafdetail@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

#### Article in Politico...

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Confirming this is comment we can relay if inquiries are made from Hill counterparts or if anything further needs to be discussed (?).

Ben

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**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:57:17 AM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

#### Politico: [Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun](#)

Tara Palmerei and Ben Schreckinger | March 25, 2021 4:30 AM EDT

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of

the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive



for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, proolly illegal," according to the report.

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When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

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**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL)  
**To:** [cafhq; cafdetail](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:20:52 AM

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All,

The (below) highlighted comment is for use in response to any inquires...

Ben

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**From:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:17 AM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

Yes, the comment as provided in the article is our response to any inquiries.

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**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:04 AM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> cafhq <[cafhq@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:cafhq@usss.dhs.gov)>; cafdetail <[cafdetail@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:cafdetail@usss.dhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

Article in Politico...

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(b) (6)

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**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) [hq.dhs.gov](mailto:hq.dhs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:57:17 AM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [usss.dhs.gov](mailto:usss.dhs.gov)>

Cc: (b) (6) <(b) (6) [hq.dhs.gov](mailto:hq.dhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

**Politico: [Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun](#)**

Tara Palmerei and Ben Schreckinger | March 25, 2021 4:30 AM EDT

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But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (BAL)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PPD); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (BAL)  
**Subject:** [DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:35:39 AM

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**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**  
[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]  
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**From:** [FARON PARAMORE \(DEP\)](#)  
**To:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(IGL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Politico Story  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:36:33 AM

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Roger. Please keep me posted throughout the day if Ben, Mike et al receive any inquiries.

Thanks.

Faron

On Mar 25, 2021, at 8:11 AM, JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> wrote:

Copy sir. We are tracking and have not received any inquiries as of yet.

---

**From:** FARON PARAMORE (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:13 AM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)> FARON PARAMORE (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Politico Story

Jeremy, please see Politico story below.

Please speak with Cathy, in case you get any inquiries from the Hill.

Faron

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "FARON PARAMORE (DEP)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** March 25, 2021 at 7:03:42 AM EDT  
**To:** "CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)" <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Politico Story

White House

Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

Protection agency denies any involvement in a 2018 firearms incident involving the president's son and daughter-in-law.

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took

Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period. Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any



depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report.

When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store.

Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report. At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad,"

according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

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morning — in your inbox.

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV); DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV); KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO)  
**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PPD); JEFFREY ADAMS (IND)  
**Subject:** Politico article  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:04:24 AM

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**INV/OPO,**

For your awareness...the article is total BS as we all know. Leadership is aware and I will let you know if CMR receives any queries.

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)



**From:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** [BENJAMIN KRAMER \(IGL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [ROBERT NOVY \(IGL\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Politico Story  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:26:49 AM

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**From:** FARON PARAMORE (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:37 AM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Re: Politico Story

Roger. Please keep me posted throughout the day if Ben, Mike et al receive any inquiries.

Thanks.

Faron

On Mar 25, 2021, at 8:11 AM, JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> wrote:

Copy sir. We are tracking and have not received any inquiries as of yet.

---

**From:** FARON PARAMORE (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:13 AM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)> FARON PARAMORE (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Politico Story

Jeremy, please see Politico story below.

Please speak with Cathy, in case you get any inquiries from the Hill.

Faron

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "FARON PARAMORE (DEP)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** March 25, 2021 at 7:03:42 AM EDT  
**To:** "CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)" <(b) (6)>

## **Subject: Politico Story**

White House

Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

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On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

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But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

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But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery.

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL)  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL)  
**Subject:** RE: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:52:00 AM

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It's a small world. The ATF spokesperson mentioned in the article, Andre Miller, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:21 AM  
**To:** cafhq <cafhq@usss.dhs.gov>; cafdetail <cafdetail@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

All,

The (below) highlighted comment is for use in response to any inquires...

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:17 AM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
<(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** RE: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

Yes, the comment as provided in the article is our response to any inquiries.

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**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:04 AM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> cafhq <cafhq@usss.dhs.gov>;  
cafdetail <cafdetail@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

Article in Politico...

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Confirming this is comment we can relay if inquires are made from Hill counterparts or if anything further needs to be discussed (?).

Ben

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**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) [hq.dhs.gov](mailto:hq.dhs.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:57:17 AM

**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:uss.s.dhs.gov)>

**Cc:** (b) (6) <(b) (6) [hq.dhs.gov](mailto:hq.dhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

**Politico:** [Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun](#)

Tara Palmerei and Ben Schreckinger | March 25, 2021 4:30 AM EDT

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Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

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When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect

the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

**From:** (b) (6)  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (VPD)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (IGL)  
**Subject:** RE: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 11:32:43 AM

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Thanks, Ben.

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**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:25 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>; CASWELL MICHAEL S <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

Thanks (b) (6)

If inquiries are received from offices on the Hill the statement in the article applies: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Ben

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**From:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:57 AM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) <(b) (6)@hq.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Politico: Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun

**Politico:** [Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun](#)

Tara Palmerei and Ben Schreckinger | March 25, 2021 4:30 AM EDT

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

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An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

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**From:** [JAMES HENRY \(PHL\)](#)  
**To:** [phl-all](#)  
**Subject:** Politico article/media inquiries  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:05:38 PM

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Good afternoon,

For your awareness, I just wanted to share the below article which was published by Politico today. Should you receive any national or local media inquiries regarding this story, please direct them to the Office of Communications and Media Relations email at [ussmediainquiry@uss.dhs.gov](mailto:ussmediainquiry@uss.dhs.gov). Please follow up with an email to me and ASACs (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for our awareness.

Thank you,

**James M. Henry**  
**Special Agent in Charge**  
**U.S. Secret Service**  
**Philadelphia Field Office**  
**215** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

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The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

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When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

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Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PIT)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PPD)  
**Subject:** Re: Politico article/media inquiries  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:14:01 PM

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LOL!!!

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:06:56 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PIT) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Politico article/media inquiries

You have your ear to the ground today (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)! First the email, then the “breaking” news haha.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "JAMES HENRY (PHL)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** March 25, 2021 at 12:05:15 PM EDT  
**To:** phl-all <phl-all@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Politico article/media inquiries

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An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)

**From:** [Ben Schreckinger](#)  
**To:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mike Zapler](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:54:52 PM

---

Hi Cathy,

Thanks for reaching out. We included the statement you all provided us to that effect. We also had our own reporting.

I know you all declined previously to provide any information about whether the Secret Service had any informal involvement in Joe Biden's security or that of his relatives during this period, but please let us know if that changes, as we'd be interested to understand more about that.

--Ben

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office: 703- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Twitter: @SchreckReports

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:49 PM  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) politico.com>  
**Cc:** Mike Zapler (b) (6) @politico.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Mike,

Looks like Ben is out of the office. Can you please give me a call?

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications

U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)

**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:18 PM

**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) politico.com' <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) politico.com>

**Cc:** (b) (6) @politico.com' (b) (6) @politico.com>

**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Ben,

Please give me a call to discuss. We clearly, on more than one occasion, told you that the Secret Service had no involvement in this incident.

Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan

Director of Communications

U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:33 PM

**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) politico.com>

**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

To reiterate, the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

Thank you



(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** CMRMEDIAteam <CMRMEDIAteam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Just to clarify: Did Secret Service agents ever visit StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply and request records related to Hunter Biden?

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@Politico.com  
Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Office: 703 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Twitter: @SchreckReports

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:05 PM  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com>  
**Cc:** CMRMEDIAteam <CMRMEDIAteam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi Secret Service media team,

I'm a reporter with Politico preparing a story related to an October 2018 incident in which the Delaware State Police investigated the disposal of a gun belonging to Hunter Biden by his then-girlfriend, Hallie Biden.

During the course of the Delaware State Police investigation, two Secret Service agents went to a gun shop in Wilmington and sought to take possession of the paperwork that Hunter Biden filled out to purchase the gun.

I'm wondering:

1. How did Secret Service agents become involved in this matter?
2. Did this matter fall under Secret Service jurisdiction -- and if so, how?
3. Did Secret Service agents take any other actions related to this matter?
4. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Thanks. My deadline is close of business today.

Best,  
Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [Politico.com](https://www.politico.com)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office: 703- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Twitter: [@SchreckReports](https://twitter.com/SchreckReports)

All e-mail to/from this account is subject to official review and is for official use only. Action may be taken in response to any inappropriate use of the Secret Service's e-mail system. This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, law enforcement sensitive, or subject to other disclosure limitations. Such information is loaned to you and should not be further disseminated without the permission of the Secret Service. If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep, use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.



**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** [Jordan Williams](#)  
**Cc:** [CMRMediaTeam](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Comment Re: Hunter Biden Missing Gun Incident  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:50:00 PM

---

Jordan,

We have nothing further to offer

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**From:** Jordan Williams (b) (6) @thehill.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:23 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Media Comment Re: Hunter Biden Missing Gun Incident

Thanks! (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) One more question that I forgot to ask on the phone. Even if this happened within a period where Biden or his family had protections, would the Secret Service be allowed to get involved in this incident in the way that Politico alleges it did given that Delaware Police were reportedly involved?

On Thu, Mar 25, 2021 at 2:12 PM (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov> wrote:

Jordan,

The Secret Service had no involvement in this incident

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**From:** Jordan Williams <(b) (6) @thehill.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 1:07 PM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <[USSSMediaInquiry@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:USSSMediaInquiry@usss.dhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Media Comment Re: Hunter Biden Missing Gun Incident

Hello,

My name is Jordan Williams and I am a reporter for The Hill. I am seeing a Politico report indicating that the Secret Service had to get involved in a missing gun incident involving Hunter Biden in 2018, and I wanted to know if Secret Service had any comment on this?

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/25/sources-secret-service-inserted-itself-into-case-of-hunter-bidens-gun-477879>

--

**Jordan Williams**

Breaking News Reporter, The Hill

(b) (6) [@thehill.com](#)

(C) (b) (6)

@JordanNichelleW

All e-mail to/from this account is subject to official review and is for official use only. Action may be taken in response to any inappropriate use of the Secret Service's e-mail system. This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, law enforcement sensitive, or subject to other disclosure limitations. Such information is loaned to you and should not be further disseminated without the permission of the Secret Service. If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep, use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.

--

**Jordan Williams**

Breaking News Reporter, The Hill

(b) (6) [@thehill.com](#)

(C) (b) (6)

@JordanNichelleW

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR); CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** RE: Media Comment Re: Hunter Biden Missing Gun Incident  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:56:29 PM

---

Let her know we can't answer a hypothetical. The fact is that neither were protectees at this time.

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)  
Cell: (202) (b) (6)

---

**From:** JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:48 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>; CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Media Comment Re: Hunter Biden Missing Gun Incident

We can't answer hypotheticals. We can either not reply or, we have nothing further to offer.

This message is the property of the United States Secret Service and may contain information that is law enforcement sensitive, privileged, or subject to other disclosure limitations. Release or distribution of this message or its contents in any form may be prohibited by federal or state laws, including 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), (b)(7)(C), and (b)(7)(E). If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep, use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:43 PM  
**To:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Media Comment Re: Hunter Biden Missing Gun Incident

Draft

Any ideas how to handle the 2<sup>nd</sup> question?

**From:** Jordan Williams (b) (6) @thehill.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:23 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Media Comment Re: Hunter Biden Missing Gun Incident

Thanks! [REDACTED] One more question that I forgot to ask on the phone. Even if this happened within a period where Biden or his family had protections, would the Secret Service be allowed to get involved in this incident in the way that Politico alleges it did given that Delaware Police were reportedly involved?

On Thu, Mar 25, 2021 at 2:12 PM [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <[REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov> wrote:

Jordan,

The Secret Service had no involvement in this incident

Thank you

[REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**From:** Jordan Williams [REDACTED] (b) (6) @thehill.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 1:07 PM

**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Media Comment Re: Hunter Biden Missing Gun Incident

Hello,

My name is Jordan Williams and I am a reporter for The Hill. I am seeing a Politico report indicating that the Secret Service had to get involved in a missing gun incident involving Hunter Biden in 2018, and I wanted to know if Secret Service had any comment on this?

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/25/sources-secret-service-inserted-itself-into-case-of-hunter-bidens-gun-477879>

--

**Jordan Williams**

Breaking News Reporter, The Hill

[REDACTED] (b) (6) @thehill.com

(C) [REDACTED] (b) (6)

@JordanNichelleW

All e-mail to/from this account is subject to official review and is for official use only. Action may be taken in response to any inappropriate use of the Secret Service's e-mail system. This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, law enforcement sensitive, or subject to other disclosure limitations. Such information is loaned to you and should not be further disseminated without the permission of the Secret Service. If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep, use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.

--

**Jordan Williams**

Breaking News Reporter, The Hill

(b) (6) [@thehill.com](mailto:(b) (6)@thehill.com)

(C) (b) (6)

@JordanNichelleW



**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**Subject:** FW: Politico article/media inquiries  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:19:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [Politico.jpg](#)

---

Hey boss.....should I reply to this message, and let them know I received an email from the reporter last month (see attached).

---

**From:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:05 PM  
**To:** phl-all <phl-all@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Politico article/media inquiries

Good afternoon,

For your awareness, I just wanted to share the below article which was published by Politico today. Should you receive any national or local media inquiries regarding this story, please direct them to the Office of Communications and Media Relations email at [usssmediainquiry@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:usssmediainquiry@usss.dhs.gov). Please follow up with an email to me and ASACs (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for our awareness.

Thank you,

**James M. Henry**  
**Special Agent in Charge**  
**U.S. Secret Service**  
**Philadelphia Field Office**  
215 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the

two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife,



Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: [\(202\)](#) **(b) (6)**



**Ben Schreckinger**

6:09 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >

## Hi from a Politico reporter

Hi [REDACTED],

I'm a reporter with Politico in Washington working on some Secret Service-related reporting having to do with an October 2018 incident in Delaware.

Any chance we could hop on the phone tonight or tomorrow to chat?

Thanks for your help

Best,  
Ben Schreckinger

(b) (6)

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6) @Politico.com

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**To:** JAMES HENRY (PHL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (RTC)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**Subject:** RE: Politico article/media inquiries  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:48:58 PM  
**Attachments:** Politico.jpg

---

Sirs.....please see attached. This message was sent to my personal email address on February 25, 2021. I had no idea how this guy knew my email address, or what incident he was referencing from October 2018. I never responded to the message, and deleted it from my in-box.

After reading the article below and noting the date and author's name, I suppose this is what he wanted to discuss.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:05 PM  
**To:** phl-all <phl-all@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Politico article/media inquiries

Good afternoon,

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Thank you,

**James M. Henry**  
**Special Agent in Charge**  
**U.S. Secret Service**  
**Philadelphia Field Office**  
215 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**  
[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store

where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

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POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

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An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)



**Ben Schreckinger**

6:09 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) >

## Hi from a Politico reporter

Hi (b) (6), (b) (7)(C),

I'm a reporter with Politico in Washington working on some Secret Service-related reporting having to do with an October 2018 incident in Delaware.

Any chance we could hop on the phone tonight or tomorrow to chat?

Thanks for your help

Best,

Ben Schreckinger

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Ben Schreckinger

National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@Politico.com

Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**From:** JAMES HENRY (PHL)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (RTC)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**Subject:** RE: Politico article/media inquiries  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:54:35 PM

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That's interesting. Thanks (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:49 PM  
**To:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL) <jeff.hyre@uss.s.dhs.gov>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Politico article/media inquiries

Sirs.....please see attached. This message was sent to my personal email address on February 25, 2021. I had no idea how this guy knew my email address, or what incident he was referencing from October 2018. I never responded to the message, and deleted it from my in-box.

After reading the article below and noting the date and author's name, I suppose this is what he wanted to discuss.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:05 PM  
**To:** phl-all <phl-all@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Politico article/media inquiries

Good afternoon,

For your awareness, I just wanted to share the below article which was published by Politico today. Should you receive any national or local media inquiries regarding this story, please direct them to the Office of Communications and Media Relations email at [ussmediainquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:ussmediainquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov). Please follow up with an email to me and ASAICs (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for our awareness.

Thank you,

**James M. Henry**  
**Special Agent in Charge**  
**U.S. Secret Service**  
**Philadelphia Field Office**  
215 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded “no” to a question on the transaction record that asks, “Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?” Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden’s administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter’s pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified “suspicions she had,” according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen’s Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store’s general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. “We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could,” Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store’s loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.



At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

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While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

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Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

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Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

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Direct: [\(202\) 406-5966](tel:(202)406-5966)  
Cell: [\(202\) 591-6923](tel:(202)591-6923)

**From:** [JAMES HENRY \(PHL\)](#)  
**To:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**Cc:** [DOUGLAS HENDERSON \(INV\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Politico article  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:04:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [Email.pdf](#)

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Cathy,

For awareness, SA [\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\)](#) a senior PHL agent, received the attached email to his personal email address on 2/25/21. He provided the email to me today after seeing the Politico article. SA [\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\)](#) advised he has no idea how this reporter knew who he was, did not know the incident he was referring to, or how he obtained his personal email. He deleted the email and did not respond

Jim

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <[\(b\) \(6\)](#)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:04 AM  
**To:** MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <[\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\)](#)> DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) <[\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\)](#)> KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO) <[\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\)](#)>  
**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <[\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\)](#)> [\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\)](#) (WIL) <[\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\)](#)> usss.dhs.gov>; JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <[\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\)](#)>  
**Subject:** Politico article

INV/OPO,

For your awareness...the article is total BS as we all know. Leadership is aware and I will let you know if CMR receives any queries.

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[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

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Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406-<sup>(b) (6)</sup>  
Cell: (202) <sup>(b) (6)</sup>

**Ben Schreckinger**

6:09 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) &gt;

## Hi from a Politico reporter

Hi (b) (6), (b) (7)(C),

I'm a reporter with Politico in Washington working on some Secret Service-related reporting having to do with an October 2018 incident in Delaware.

Any chance we could hop on the phone tonight or tomorrow to chat?

Thanks for your help

Best,  
Ben Schreckinger

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@Politico.com

Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



**From:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**To:** [JAMES HENRY \(PHL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [DOUGLAS HENDERSON \(INV\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Politico article  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 5:27:45 PM

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Jim,

Please call me.

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: [\(202\) 406-5708](#)

Direct: [\(202\) 406-](#)(b) (6)

Cell: [\(202\)](#)(b) (6)

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**From:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:05 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** RE: Politico article

Cathy,

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**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:04 AM  
**To:** MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> [uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:uss.s.dhs.gov); JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Politico article

INV/OPO,

For your awareness...the article is total BS as we all know. Leadership is aware and I will let you know if CMR receives any queries.

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is

unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with

the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, proolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

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**From:** [THOMAS HUSE \(LEG\)](#)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (LEG); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (LEG)  
**Subject:** FW: USSS News Briefing (3-25-21) [NO RUSH]  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:14:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [USSS News Briefing \(3-25-21\).docx](#)  
[USSS News Briefing \(3-25-21\).pdf](#)  
[USSS News Analysis \(3-25-21\).pdf](#)

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Gents:

See the last article regarding DE listed under the "Protection" header below. (b) (5)

(b) (5)  
(b) (5)

Best,  
Tom

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**From:** JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:10 AM  
**To:** dirstaff <dirstaff@uss.s.dhs.gov>; CMR-clips-list <CMR-clips-list@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: USSS News Briefing (3-25-21)

Good morning,

Please reference the attached USSS Daily News Brief for March 25, 2021.

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**From:** USSS Daily - TechMIS <[uss.s@techmis.com](mailto:uss.s@techmis.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:40 AM  
**To:** [noreply@techmis.com](mailto:noreply@techmis.com)  
**Subject:** USSS News Briefing (3-25-21)



# SECRET SERVICE

# NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the United States Secret Service

By TechMIS

[www.TechMIS.com](http://www.TechMIS.com)

[Mobile User Copy](#)

**TO: Secret Service**

**DATE: Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:00 AM ET**

## Investigations

[\[KY\] Elizabethtown Man Sentenced To Federal Prison After Being Caught During Sting Operation \(United States Department of Justice\)](#)

[\[KY\] Elizabethtown man sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for enticing minor for sex \(WDRB\)](#)

[\[GA\] Former medical practice employees sentenced for theft \(Statesboro Herald\)](#)

[\[GA\] Statesboro women sentenced for stealing thousands from pediatric practice \(WSAV\)](#)

[\[FL\] Credit Card Skimming Device Found On Gas Pump At 7-Eleven On Corner Of Le Chalet Blvd And Military Trail In Boynton Beach \(Published Reporter\)](#)

[\[MS\] Biloxi PD asking for help in identifying suspect \(Picayune Item\)](#)

[\[IL\] Police: Shoppers attempt to use counterfeit bills at Lake Zurich grocery store in separate incidents \(Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune\)](#)

[\[TX\] Louisiana Woman Guilty in \\$4.8 Million Elder Fraud Scheme \(Orange Leader\)](#)

[\[TX\] Louisiana woman pleads guilty to taking over \\$4.85 million from elderly Bullard resident \(Tyler Morning Telegraph\)](#)

[\[OK\] Chickasha Police Investigate After Man Unknowingly Pays With Counterfeit Bill At Gas Station \(News 9\)](#)

[\[Philippines\] Police collar traders of fake dollars in Isabela \(The Manila Times\)](#)

## Protection

[Biden's dogs back at White House after ruff start \(AP\)](#)

[First Dogs Return To White House After Major Biden Causes Minor Injury \(NPR\)](#)

[First dogs Major and Champ return to White House after nipping incident \(NBC News\)](#)

[\[DE\] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun \(Politico\)](#)

## Network TV News Coverage

[\[DC\] Champ & Major Back at White House \(Fox Morning News at 6\)](#)



[\[OK\] Counterfeit Money Used \(News 9 First at Four\)](#)

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## **Investigations**

### **[KY] Elizabethtown Man Sentenced To Federal Prison After Being Caught During Sting Operation (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/24/2021 4:00 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]  
Travis Puckett, 23, originally of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, previously pled guilty before United States District Judge Rebecca Grady Jennings for attempted online enticement of a minor, announced Acting United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett. Today, Judge Jennings sentenced Puckett to 10 years in prison followed by a 15-year term of Supervised Release. There is no parole in the federal system. Puckett will be required to register as a sex offender.

“Mr. Puckett will serve a 10-year federal prison sentence followed by 15 years of supervision as a result of the outstanding work of AUSA Lawless and our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners,” stated Acting U.S. Attorney Bennett. “Our children and communities are safer because of their tireless effort in identifying, charging, and prosecuting those who engage in this egregious criminal conduct.”

According to the Plea Agreement, on October 6, 2019, a Detective with the Louisville Metro Police Department took part in an undercover investigation on the Internet. The Detective posed as a 14-year-old girl on a social media app. At approximately 6:00 p.m. that evening, a person using the profile of a 22-year-old, white male, from Elizabethtown, and identified

as "Travis," sent the undercover profile a message. "Travis," later identified as Puckett, initially stated he thought the undercover officer was the police and then stated that he wished the undercover officer was 18. Puckett texted, "your cute and all just don't want any charges."

Puckett requested that the undercover detective prove he wasn't the police and provided a Snapchat username for further communication. The undercover detective communicated with Puckett via Snapchat and sent several non-pornographic pictures of an undercover female officer, all the while maintaining the age of 14. The two stopped communicating at approximately 11:30 p.m. that evening, as the undercover advised that "her" parents were home and they could talk the next day. The next day, around noon, Puckett initiated contact with the undercover. Puckett asked what the undercover was doing that evening around 8:00 p.m. Puckett asked to get together and directed the conversation towards sex. At approximately 10:30 p.m. that evening, Puckett arrived at the agreed upon location and was arrested. When he arrived, he had a cellular telephone and condoms.

During a post-Miranda interview, Puckett admitted he was the person who had been communicating with a 14-year-old girl, beginning on the social media app "Skout." He admitted telling her he wanted to engage in sexual activities. During the interview, Puckett wrote an apology letter to the undercover persona. In it, he stated he was sorry and that he felt terrible for disrespecting her.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The joint investigation was conducted by the United States Secret Service, Kentucky Office of the Attorney General, Kentucky State Police, and Louisville Metro Police Department.

**[KY] Elizabethtown man sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for enticing minor for sex (WDRB)**

[WDRB](#) [3/24/2021 4:24 PM, Staff, 57K, Positive, Secondary]

An Elizabethtown man will serve 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to enticing a minor for sex.

Travis Puckett, 23, admitted to trying to meet up with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl for sex. It was a Louisville Metro Police detective, and Puckett was arrested at their agreed upon meeting place with condoms on him, according to authorities.

Puckett will be required to register as a sex offender and will also serve 15 years of supervision after 10 years behind bars.

"Our children and communities are safer because of their tireless effort in identifying, charging, and prosecuting those who engage in this egregious criminal conduct," acting United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett said in news release.

Puckett reached out to the undercover investigator in October 2019 on the social media app "Skout," according to the news release.

"'Travis,' later identified as Puckett, initially stated he thought the undercover officer was the police and then stated that he wished the undercover officer was 18," the release says. "Puckett texted, 'your cute and all just don't want any charges.'"

Puckett then reportedly asked the undercover detective to prove they weren't police and gave them a Snapchat username to communicate further.

The next day, police said Puckett contacted the detective and "asked to get together and directed the conversation towards sex." They planned to meet later that night, when police took Puckett into custody.

LMPD conducted the investigation in conjuncture with United States Secret Service, Kentucky State Police and the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General.

**[GA] Former medical practice employees sentenced for theft (Statesboro Herald)**

[Statesboro Herald](#) [3/24/2021 7:27 PM, Staff, 5K, Positive, Secondary]

Two former employees of a Statesboro pediatrics practice have been sentenced to federal prison for stealing money from the business.

Kristen Hart, 37, and Alisa Brown, 44, both of Statesboro, each pled guilty to a charge of Theft or Embezzlement in Connection with Health Care, said David H. Estes, acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge J. Randal Hall sentenced Hart to 16 months in prison and ordered her to pay \$115,550.69 in restitution, and U.S. District Court Judge R. Stan Baker sentenced Brown to 21 months in federal prison and ordered her to pay \$239,626.86 in restitution and a fine of \$1,000. Each must serve three years of supervised release after completion of their prison term, and there is no parole in the federal system.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a significant challenge for small businesses, including health care practices," said Acting U.S. Attorney Estes. "It's much more difficult when seemingly trustworthy employees treat their jobs as a license to steal."

As described in court documents and testimony, Hart and Brown were employees of Bulloch Pediatrics Group, which is located in the Statesboro Market District, behind East Georgia Regional Medical Center. Each used a variety of methods to steal from their employer.

Hart, the office manager, began to make personal purchases on the office's bank cards in 2015 and eventually spent tens of thousands of dollars at various businesses, including Amazon.

Brown, a nurse manager who began to steal from her employer in 2013, and Hart also both purchased thousands of dollars in postal money orders which they would then convert to their own use without their employer's knowledge or consent.

When the thefts were uncovered in 2020, both employees were terminated and prosecuted.

"As this case highlights, the United States Postal Inspection Service will assist its law enforcement partners and help bring individuals to justice who misuse the United States Postal Service or its services to steal from victim businesses or individuals," said Juan Vargas, acting inspector in charge of the Miami Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service-Miami Division.

“Greed is not good,” said U.S. Secret Service Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Steven Baisel. “Those who chase its allure, particularly at the expense of those who trust them, will most often find themselves trapped. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to bring them to justice.”

The U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigated the case, which was prosecuted on behalf of the United States by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Georgia.

**[GA] Statesboro women sentenced for stealing thousands from pediatric practice (WSAV)**

[WSAV](#) [3/24/2021 1:45 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

Two Statesboro women will spend over a year in prison and repay thousands of dollars for stealing from a pediatrics practice where they were employed.

According to David Estes, acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, Kristen Hart, 37, and Alisa Brown, 44, both of Statesboro, pleaded guilty to theft or embezzlement in connection with health care.

Hart and Brown were employees of Bulloch Pediatrics Group and used a variety of methods to steal from their employer, said Estes, citing court documents and testimony. Hart was the office manager and Brown, a nurse manager.

It was revealed in court that Brown began stealing from her employer in 2013. In 2015, Hart began making personal purchases on the office’s bank card, spending tens of thousands of dollars at various businesses. Both purchased thousands of dollars in postal money orders, which they would then convert to their own use.

The thefts were uncovered in 2020 and investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

“Greed is not good,” said U.S. Secret Service Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Steven Baisel. “Those who chase its allure, particularly at the expense of those who trust them, will most often find themselves trapped. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to bring them to justice.”

Hart has been sentenced to 16 months in prison and must pay \$115,550.69 in restitution. Brown will spend 21 months behind bars and pay \$239,626.86 in restitution and a fine of \$1,000.

Both must serve three years of supervised release after they complete their prison terms.

**[FL] Credit Card Skimming Device Found On Gas Pump At 7-Eleven On Corner Of Le Chalet Blvd And Military Trail In Boynton Beach (Published Reporter)**

[Published Reporter](#) [3/24/2021 12:45 PM, Joe Mcdermott, Neutral, Secondary]

On Wednesday, March 24, 2021, prior to 10:45 am, a credit card skimming device was found on a gas pump at the 7-Eleven located in the 4900 block of Le Chalet Boulevard in Boynton Beach. The location sits at the corner of Le Chalet Boulevard and South Military Trail. According to detectives, the skimmer was located on Pump #11. It is unknown how long the skimmer was connected to the gas pumps.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office believes that anyone who purchased gasoline from this 7-Eleven station may be the victim of a crime. and are advising consumers who may have been at the location for fuel and used a credit or debit card to check their accounts and report any unauthorized charges to the appropriate bank or credit card companies.

This is the second time a device was found at this location as in September 2019 a device was located at which point authorities believed it had been there for at least a week or more.

Credit card skimming is a process where crooks use a small device to steal credit card information during a legitimate credit or debit card transaction. Thieves use the stolen data to make fraudulent charges either online or with a counterfeit credit card.

**[MS] Biloxi PD asking for help in identifying suspect (Picayune Item)**

[Picayune Item](#) [3/24/2021 9:58 AM, Staff, 2K, Neutral, Secondary]

The Biloxi Police Department is requesting your assistance in helping to identify a person for questioning who allegedly was in possession of a counterfeit \$100.00 dollar bill. He reportedly exchanged the counterfeit bill for correct currency/ change, from another customer. The reported incident took place in the 2400 block of Beach Blvd. The incident took place on March 21, 2021 at about 6am. The alleged suspect entered the front passenger side door of a white in color, 4 door newer model sedan.

**[IL] Police: Shoppers attempt to use counterfeit bills at Lake Zurich grocery store in separate incidents (Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune)**

[Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune](#) [3/24/2021 1:18 PM, Staff, 1785K, Neutral, Secondary]

Someone attempted to purchase a \$15 Uber gift card with a counterfeit \$100 bill at Mariano's, 1350 E. Route 22, March 10. The customer left the store without completing the purchase.

Someone attempted to purchase a \$15 Apple gift card with a counterfeit \$100 bill at Mariano's, 1350 E. Route 22, March 7. The customer left the store without completing the purchase.

**[TX] Louisiana Woman Guilty in \$4.8 Million Elder Fraud Scheme (Orange Leader)**

[Orange Leader](#) [3/24/2021 9:14 PM, Dawn Burleigh, 1K, Positive, Secondary]

A Shreveport, Louisiana woman has pleaded guilty for her role in an elder fraud scheme in the Eastern District of Texas, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei.

Monica Ruiz, 45, pleaded guilty to wire fraud today before U.S. Magistrate Judge John D. Love.

"Schemes that target elderly victims are particularly troubling," said Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei. "Ruiz manipulated a vulnerable victim, exploited his trust, and stole much of his hard-earned life savings. Protecting senior citizens from exploitation has been, and will remain, a priority in the Eastern District."

According to information presented in court, Ruiz enlisted a variety of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises in a scheme to defraud an elderly victim from Bullard, Texas. Among the various misrepresentations Ruiz made in order to obtain money

from the victim were the following:

That Ruiz had been in a coma;

That Ruiz had brain surgery;

That Ruiz was falsely arrested and imprisoned;

That Ruiz had bribed a judge and prosecutor;

That Ruiz's son died in a car accident in Pennsylvania;

That Ruiz was in a car accident;

That Ruiz had a kidney transplant;

That Ruiz's daughter was committed to a mental institution;

That Ruiz was incarcerated; and

That Ruiz's grandmother died.

At times, Ruiz impersonated other people in communications with the victim. At other times, she created and used false personas in communications with the victim. Over the course of her scheme, Ruiz obtained more than \$4.85 million from the victim.

A federal grand jury returned an indictment charging Ruiz with federal violations on Nov. 19, 2020. Under federal statutes, Ruiz faces up to 20 years in federal prison. The maximum statutory sentence prescribed by Congress is provided here for information purposes, as the sentencing will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

In October 2017, the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (EAPPA) was signed into law. The EAPPA's purpose is to increase the federal government's focus on preventing elder abuse and exploitation. Subsequently, the Department of Justice launched the Elder Justice Initiative (EJI). Through the EJI, the Department has participated in hundreds of criminal and civil enforcement actions involving misconduct that targeted vulnerable seniors. In March of last year, the Department announced the largest elder fraud enforcement action in American history, charging more than 400 defendants in a nationwide sweep. The Department has likewise conducted hundreds of trainings and outreach sessions across the country. The EJI website contains useful information, including educational resources about prevalent financial scams so you can guard against them.

In August of 2020, the Eastern District of Texas announced its own initiative, in partnership with law enforcement and private financial institutions, to identify and prosecute transnational elder fraud. This EDTX initiative is designed to combat these criminal organization, both foreign and domestic, as well their networks of associates and money mules who launder the stolen funds.

If you or someone you know is age 60 or older and has been a victim of financial fraud, help is standing by at the National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311). This U.S. Department of Justice hotline, managed by the Office for Victims of Crime, is staffed by experienced professionals who provide personalized support to callers by assessing the needs of the victim, and identifying relevant next steps. Case managers will identify appropriate reporting agencies, provide information to callers to assist them in reporting, connect callers directly with appropriate agencies, and provide resources and referrals, on a case-by-case basis. Reporting is the first step. Reporting can help authorities identify those who commit fraud and reporting certain financial losses due to fraud as soon as possible can increase the likelihood of recovering losses. The hotline is staffed 7 days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time. English, Spanish, and other languages are available.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Secret Service with the assistance of the Tyler Police Department and the Louisiana State Police – Gaming Enforcement Division and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathaniel C. Kummerfeld.

**[TX] Louisiana woman pleads guilty to taking over \$4.85 million from elderly Bullard resident (Tyler Morning Telegraph)**

[Tyler Morning Telegraph](#) [3/24/2021 11:00 PM, Zak Wellerman, 21K, Positive, Secondary]  
A Louisiana woman pleaded guilty Wednesday to conducting a scheme that took over \$4.85 million from an elderly Bullard resident.

Monica Ruiz, 45, of Shreveport, entered her guilty plea to wire fraud in federal court. She faces up to 20 years in prison.

The court information states Ruiz said she had been in a coma, had brain surgery, was falsely arrested and imprisoned, was in a car accident, had a kidney transplant and bribed a judge and prosecutor.

She is also accused of saying her son died in a car accident in Pennsylvania, her daughter was committed to a mental institution and her grandmother died.

Ruiz is also accused of impersonating other people when communicating with the victim and creating false personas.

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating the case with help from the Tyler Police Department and the Louisiana State Police — Gaming Enforcement Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathaniel C. Kummerfeld is serving as the prosecutor.

**[OK] Chickasha Police Investigate After Man Unknowingly Pays With Counterfeit Bill At Gas Station (News 9)**

[News 9](#) [3/24/2021 6:11 PM, Hunter McKee, 46K, Neutral, Secondary]  
A man was stopped at a Chickasha convenient store after trying to purchase gas and food, not realizing he was using counterfeit money. Police said it happened at the Chickasha Travel Plaza.

The man tried paying with a \$10 bill, but the store's cashier noticed there was something off about the money. She used a counterfeit detection pen on the bill, to determine it was fake.



"The manager of course contacted the customer who was totally cooperative," said Lt. Scott Weaver, with the Chickasha Police Department. "Was not even aware that by his account, had any money that wasn't real."

Police were then called to investigate. According to the report, the customer paid for the gas and food with other money and waited for police to get there.

During the conversation, officers asked him where he got the money from? The customer told authorities from a Valero gas station in Anadarko. Weaver then contacted them.

"A lot of the times when you talk to a convenient store or another business, they're not even aware that has happened," said Weaver. "Especially with smaller bills."

Police said sometimes counterfeit money like this can originate from other countries.

"They have foreign writing on them," said Weaves. "That's supposed to make them look different where the bill is not mistaken for actual currency."

The bill was eventually turned over and logged for evidence. Police said it's still uncertain exactly where the money came from.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

**[Philippines] Police collar traders of fake dollars in Isabela (The Manila Times)**

[The Manila Times](#) [3/24/2021 12:00 PM, Vince Jacob A. Visaya, Positive, Secondary]

Eight people were arrested for selling counterfeit US dollars, other foreign notes and bank certificates in a joint police operation in Barangay 3 San Mateo on March 23.

BGen. Crizaldo Nieves, Cagayan Valley regional police director, said the arrested were identified as group leader Menerva Roan, 53, of Angono, Rizal; Fe Borromeo, 67, of San Mateo, Rizal; Michelle Quitlib, 63, Monette Baronia, 41, and Pilar Castilleja, of Cauayan City; Rowena De Guzman, 53, of Maria Aurora, Aurora Province; Aji Marquez, 25, of Roxas, Isabela; and Jay Mark Bredico of San Agustin, Isabela.

Police said operatives were tipped off by villagers, prompting the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Isabela, Tumauni police, special operations team and intelligence members to hatch the entrapment operation.

The group has agreed to sell the counterfeit money for P2 million, alleging that the notes are all original and legal.

Seized were five uncut sheets of \$100-bills worth \$14,000; a golden US bill worth \$1 million; two \$100 US dollar bank notes and two other US bank notes; 60 pieces of Zimbabwean bank notes of various denominations; 100 pieces of Iraqi dinars of various denominations; 23 pieces of Vietnam Dong banknotes; 45 various bank notes from Malaysia, China, Yugoslavia, Brazil and other countries; and 12 pieces of HSBC bank deposit certificates worth P57-trillion each; seven caliber .45 handguns; and a Starex van (POD-656) registered to Norma Estavillo of Naguilian, Isabela.

The arrested people were brought to CIDG-Isabela and charged for illegal possession of

false treasury or bank notes and other instruments of credit, and firearms.

## Protection

### **Biden's dogs back at White House after ruff start (AP)**

[AP](#) [3/24/2021 6:34 PM, Josh Boak, Neutral, Secondary]

President Joe Biden's dogs — Champ and Major — are roaming the White House again, after having been sent to Delaware when Major, the younger dog, injured a Secret Service agent.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at the Wednesday briefing that the dogs met the Bidens last weekend at Camp David in Maryland and came back to Washington on Sunday.

The dogs had been in the Biden's home state of Delaware, where Major received some additional training after having been startled by a Secret Service agent who received a minor injury from the fracas. One of the two German shepherds waited on the balcony of the White House on Tuesday evening as Marine One landed on the South Lawn, having ferried the president back from a speech in Columbus, Ohio.

"The dogs will come and go and it will not be uncommon for them to head back to Delaware on occasion as the president and first lady often do as well," Psaki said.

### **First Dogs Return To White House After Major Biden Causes Minor Injury (NPR)**

[NPR](#) [3/24/2021 1:51 PM, Rachel Treisman, Neutral, Secondary]

First dogs Champ and Major Biden are back in Washington, D.C., after spending part of the month in Delaware, where Major underwent remedial training after causing a "minor injury" at the White House.

Michael LaRosa, spokesman for first lady Jill Biden, confirmed to NPR on Wednesday morning that the dogs are at the White House, but did not specify when they returned. One of the family's two German shepherds can be seen on an Executive Residence balcony in a photo snapped by Reuters correspondent Jeff Mason on Monday night.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Wednesday that Champ and Major joined the first family at Camp David over the weekend, and returned to the White House on Sunday. She said it "will not be uncommon" for the dogs — and their owners — to go back and forth to Delaware.

The news comes a week after President Biden defended Major in an interview with ABC's Good Morning America, calling the 3-year-old a "sweet dog" who was just startled by an unfamiliar person in his new home.

"You turn a corner, and there's two people you don't know at all," Biden said. "And he moves to protect."

He added that Major "did not bite someone and penetrate the skin."

Psaki said earlier this month that Major "reacted in a way that resulted in a minor injury" to the unnamed individual, with NBC News reporting that he nipped the hand of a Secret

Service agent.

She said that both dogs had been sent to the Bidens' home in Wilmington, Del., as part of a previously planned visit while the first lady was traveling.

"He was going home," President Biden said last week. "I didn't banish him to home. Jill was gonna be away for four days. I was gonna be away for two so we took him home."

Major got some remedial training while he was there, according to Biden, who stressed that the rescue dog is still adjusting to his new environment.

The Bidens fostered and then adopted Major from the Delaware Humane Association — where his litter of six puppies was dropped off in poor condition after ingesting an unknown toxic substance — in 2018. According to the shelter, Biden was looking for a companion for Champ, who is now 12 years old.

Major is, famously, the first dog to go from a shelter to the White House — a historic journey that now also includes a brief detour to the dog house.

**First dogs Major and Champ return to White House after nipping incident (NBC News)**

[NBC News](#) [3/24/2021 2:12 PM, Kelly O'Donnell, Kristen Welker and Dareh Gregorian, 4745K, Neutral, Primary]

Major Biden is officially out of the doghouse.

The younger of the Bidens' two German shepherds and fellow first canine Champ are back at the White House two weeks after Major nipped a Secret Service agent.

The two were sent to the Bidens' Delaware home following the incident this month, but they are now back roaming the White House grounds, Jill Biden's press secretary, Michael LaRosa, confirmed.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the pair returned on Sunday after spending the weekend with the first family at Camp David.

"The dogs will come and go, and it will not be uncommon for them to head back to Delaware on occasion, as the president and first lady often do as well," Psaki said.

At the time of the nipping incident, Psaki said the first pups' trip to Wilmington had been pre-planned because Jill Biden was traveling.

She said the nipping happened when Major "was surprised by an unfamiliar person and reacted in a way that resulted in a minor injury to the individual."

Major, who is the first shelter dog to live in the White House, received some extra training while in Delaware to help him acclimate to his new surroundings, LaRosa said.

President Joe Biden told ABC News this month that he still thought 3-year-old Major was a good boy.

"I didn't banish him to home," Biden said. "Jill was going to be away for four days. I was going to be away for two so we took him home."

"Major did not bite someone and penetrate the skin," he added. The president also suggested that he and Major were having trouble adjusting to the large number of personnel around the White House.

"You turn a corner, and there's two people you don't know at all," Biden said. "And he moves to protect. But he's a sweet dog."

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, proly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

## Network TV News Coverage

### **[DC] Champ & Major Back at White House (Fox Morning News at 6)**

[\(B\) Fox Morning News at 6](#) [3/24/2021 6:32 AM, Staff]

President Biden's dogs are back at the White House after Major bit a Secret Service member's hand. The dogs were moved to Delaware after the incident for retraining. The president said Major was being protective when it happened because the dog did not know the agents at the White House.

### **[OK] Counterfeit Money Used (News 9 First at Four)**

[\(B\) News 9 First at Four](#) [3/24/2021 5:32 PM, Hunter McKee]

A man was stopped at a Chickasha convenience store trying to use counterfeit money. Police say the man had no idea it was counterfeit. The man said he got the fake \$10 bill from a Valero gas station in Anadarko.

## Headlines

### **The Washington Post**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden taps Harris to handle border crisis](#)

[Rachel Levine, historic transgender nominee, confirmed as assistant health secretary](#)

[A push for gun control is pledged once more in wake of Boulder shooting](#)

[Biden faces a flurry of new challenges ahead of first White House news conference](#)

[Supreme Court struggles with when police may enter home for safety checks or suicide threats](#)

[North Korea fires more missiles](#)

### **The New York Times**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Democrats Begin Push for Biggest Expansion of Voting Since 1960s](#)

[Suez Canal Blocked After Giant Container Ship Gets Stuck](#)



[After 4th Vote in 2 Years, Israelis Wonder: When Will the Political Morass End?](#)  
[‘I Will Die Protecting My Country’: In Myanmar, a New Resistance Rises](#)

### **The Wall Street Journal**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Kamala Harris to Head Administration Effort to Stanch Migrant Surge](#)  
[Senate Lawmakers Spar Over Voting Rights Bill](#)  
[Democrats Weigh Increases in Corporate, Personal Income-Tax Rates](#)  
[Men Looking for Work Drive Surge in Illegal Crossings at the U.S. Border](#)  
[Suez Canal Is Blocked by Container Ship Causing Huge Traffic Jam](#)

### **ABC News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Major severe weather outbreak expected in South, tornadoes possible](#)  
[Biden administration allows access to border facility -- but not ones over capacity](#)  
[Yellen sees room for US to borrow, opens door to tax hike](#)

### **CBS News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Kamala Harris to lead efforts to stem migration at southern border](#)  
[White House mulls executive action amid gun reform resistance](#)  
[New evidence shows extremist groups coordinated Capitol siege](#)

### **CNN**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Shame, shame, shame’: Schumer and McConnell spar over federal voting rights legislation](#)  
[Biden to highlight gains and face tough scrutiny in first formal news conference](#)  
[North Korea fires two ground-based ballistic missiles, South Korea says](#)

### **Fox News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden still hasn’t held a news conference, 63 days and counting](#)  
[Arizona’s Ducey calls Harris the ‘worst possible choice’ to fix border](#)  
[North Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles into Sea of Japan, US official confirms](#)

### **NBC News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Storm-battered South prepares for possible second tornado outbreak in a week](#)  
[AstraZeneca says its vaccine shows 76 percent efficacy after questions arise about ‘outdated information’](#)  
[North Korea launched two ballistic missiles, U.S., Japanese officials say](#)

## **Washington Schedule**

### **President**

[The White House](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

9:30 AM The President receives the President’s Daily Brief  
10:00 AM In-Town Pool Call Time

1:15 PM The President holds a formal press conference

3:45 PM The President meets virtually with the European Council during its summit

## **Vice President**

[The White House](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

See source link. Schedule not yet available.

## **Senate**

[Senate](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

9:30 AM SD-G50 Armed Services

Hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program.

9:30 AM SR-301 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Hearings to examine Child Nutrition Reauthorization, focusing on healthy meals and healthy futures.

9:30 AM WEBEX Finance

Hearings to examine how U.S. international tax policy impacts American workers, jobs, and investment.

9:45 AM SD-366 Energy and Natural Resources

Hearings to examine the latest developments in the nuclear energy sector, focusing on ways to maintain and expand the use of nuclear energy in the United States and abroad.

10:00 AM SD-106 Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S.632, to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, S.169, to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and the nominations of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

10:00 AM SD-430 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Hearings to examine our COVID-19 response, focusing on improving health equity and outcomes by addressing health disparities.

10:00 AM VTC Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Hearings to examine the U.S. response to the coup in Burma.

10:00 AM WEBEX Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Hearings to examine the American Rescue Plan, focusing on shots in arms and money in pockets.

10:15 AM SD-342/VTC Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Hearings to examine the nomination of Deanne Bennett Criswell, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

11:00 AM SH-216 Budget

Hearings to examine the tax code, focusing on making the wealthiest people and largest corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

## **House of Representatives**

[House of Representatives](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

11:00 AM Virtual

Business Meeting: Modernization Cohort Listening Session

Host: Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

11:00 AM

Hearing: Leading by Action: The Fierce Urgency for Diversity and Inclusion in the Foreign Policy Workforce

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

11:00 AM 2167 Rayburn HOB

Hearing: The Administrations Priorities for Transportation Infrastructure.

Host: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

12:00 PM

Hearing: Disinformation Nation: Social Media's Role in Promoting Extremism and Misinformation

Host: Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

12:00 PM Cisco WebEx

Hearing: Virtual Hearing - Ending Exploitation: How the Financial System Can Work to Dismantle the Business of Human Trafficking

Host: Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy

12:00 PM Washington

Hearing: A Hearing to Review the State of Black Farmers in the U.S.

Host: Committee on Agriculture

12:00 PM

Hearing: Remote Hearing on Rooting Out Fraud in Small Business Relief Programs

Host: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis

1:00 PM Remote Longworth HOB

Hearing: Examining Private Equity's Expanded Role in the U.S. Health Care System

Host: Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight

1:00 PM

Hearing: Building Technologies Research for a Sustainable Future

Host: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy

1:00 PM

Hearing: The Effects of COVID-19 on Arts and Humanities Organizations

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

1:00 PM via Zoom

Hearing: Lessons Learned: Charting the Path to Educational Equity Post-COVID-19

Host: Committee on Education Labor, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education

1:00 PM CiscoWebEx

Markup: Markup of Various Measures

Host: Committee on Foreign Affairs

2:00 PM 2141 Rayburn HOB

Hearing: The Importance of a Diverse Federal Judiciary

Host: Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet

2:00 PM

Hearing: Restoring Faith by Building Trust: VAs First 100 Days."

Host: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

2:30 PM

Hearing: Creating Equitable Communities through Transportation and Housing

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and House and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

**{End of Report}**



# SECRET SERVICE NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the United States Secret Service

By TechMIS

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**TO: Secret Service**

**DATE: Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:00 AM ET**

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## Investigations

### **[KY] Elizabethtown Man Sentenced To Federal Prison After Being Caught During Sting Operation (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/24/2021 4:00 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]  
Travis Puckett, 23, originally of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, previously pled guilty before United States District Judge Rebecca Grady Jennings for attempted online enticement of a minor, announced Acting United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett. Today, Judge Jennings sentenced Puckett to 10 years in prison followed by a 15-year term of Supervised Release. There is no parole in the federal system. Puckett will be required to register as a sex offender.

"Mr. Puckett will serve a 10-year federal prison sentence followed by 15 years of supervision as a result of the outstanding work of AUSA Lawless and our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners," stated Acting U.S. Attorney Bennett. "Our children and communities are safer because of their tireless effort in identifying, charging, and prosecuting those who engage in this egregious criminal conduct."

According to the Plea Agreement, on October 6, 2019, a Detective with the Louisville Metro Police Department took part in an undercover investigation on the Internet. The Detective posed as a 14-year-old girl on a social media app. At approximately 6:00 p.m. that evening, a person using the profile of a 22-year-old, white male, from Elizabethtown, and identified as "Travis," sent the undercover profile a message. "Travis," later identified as Puckett, initially stated he thought the undercover officer was the police and then stated that he wished the undercover officer was 18. Puckett texted, "your cute and all just don't want any charges."

Puckett requested that the undercover detective prove he wasn't the police and provided a Snapchat username for further communication. The undercover detective communicated with Puckett via Snapchat and sent several non-pornographic pictures of an undercover female officer, all the while maintaining the age of 14. The two stopped communicating at approximately 11:30 p.m. that evening, as the undercover advised that "her" parents were

home and they could talk the next day. The next day, around noon, Puckett initiated contact with the undercover. Puckett asked what the undercover was doing that evening around 8:00 p.m. Puckett asked to get together and directed the conversation towards sex. At approximately 10:30 p.m. that evening, Puckett arrived at the agreed upon location and was arrested. When he arrived, he had a cellular telephone and condoms.

During a post-Miranda interview, Puckett admitted he was the person who had been communicating with a 14-year-old girl, beginning on the social media app "Skout." He admitted telling her he wanted to engage in sexual activities. During the interview, Puckett wrote an apology letter to the undercover persona. In it, he stated he was sorry and that he felt terrible for disrespecting her.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The joint investigation was conducted by the United States Secret Service, Kentucky Office of the Attorney General, Kentucky State Police, and Louisville Metro Police Department.

**[KY] Elizabethtown man sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for enticing minor for sex (WDRB)**

[WDRB](#) [3/24/2021 4:24 PM, Staff, 57K, Positive, Secondary]

An Elizabethtown man will serve 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to enticing a minor for sex.

Travis Puckett, 23, admitted to trying to meet up with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl for sex. It was a Louisville Metro Police detective, and Puckett was arrested at their agreed upon meeting place with condoms on him, according to authorities.

Puckett will be required to register as a sex offender and will also serve 15 years of supervision after 10 years behind bars.

"Our children and communities are safer because of their tireless effort in identifying, charging, and prosecuting those who engage in this egregious criminal conduct," acting United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett said in news release.

Puckett reached out to the undercover investigator in October 2019 on the social media app "Skout," according to the news release.

"'Travis,' later identified as Puckett, initially stated he thought the undercover officer was the police and then stated that he wished the undercover officer was 18," the release says. "Puckett texted, 'your cute and all just don't want any charges.'"

Puckett then reportedly asked the undercover detective to prove they weren't police and gave them a Snapchat username to communicate further.

The next day, police said Puckett contacted the detective and "asked to get together and directed the conversation towards sex." They planned to meet later that night, when police took Puckett into custody.

LMPD conducted the investigation in conjuncture with United States Secret Service, Kentucky State Police and the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General.



**[GA] Former medical practice employees sentenced for theft (Statesboro Herald)**

[Statesboro Herald](#) [3/24/2021 7:27 PM, Staff, 5K, Positive, Secondary]

Two former employees of a Statesboro pediatrics practice have been sentenced to federal prison for stealing money from the business.

Kristen Hart, 37, and Alisa Brown, 44, both of Statesboro, each pled guilty to a charge of Theft or Embezzlement in Connection with Health Care, said David H. Estes, acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge J. Randal Hall sentenced Hart to 16 months in prison and ordered her to pay \$115,550.69 in restitution, and U.S. District Court Judge R. Stan Baker sentenced Brown to 21 months in federal prison and ordered her to pay \$239,626.86 in restitution and a fine of \$1,000. Each must serve three years of supervised release after completion of their prison term, and there is no parole in the federal system.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a significant challenge for small businesses, including health care practices," said Acting U.S. Attorney Estes. "It's much more difficult when seemingly trustworthy employees treat their jobs as a license to steal."

As described in court documents and testimony, Hart and Brown were employees of Bulloch Pediatrics Group, which is located in the Statesboro Market District, behind East Georgia Regional Medical Center. Each used a variety of methods to steal from their employer.

Hart, the office manager, began to make personal purchases on the office's bank cards in 2015 and eventually spent tens of thousands of dollars at various businesses, including Amazon.

Brown, a nurse manager who began to steal from her employer in 2013, and Hart also both purchased thousands of dollars in postal money orders which they would then convert to their own use without their employer's knowledge or consent.

When the thefts were uncovered in 2020, both employees were terminated and prosecuted.

"As this case highlights, the United States Postal Inspection Service will assist its law enforcement partners and help bring individuals to justice who misuse the United States Postal Service or its services to steal from victim businesses or individuals," said Juan Vargas, acting inspector in charge of the Miami Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service-Miami Division.

"Greed is not good," said U.S. Secret Service Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Steven Baisel. "Those who chase its allure, particularly at the expense of those who trust them, will most often find themselves trapped. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to bring them to justice."

The U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigated the case, which was prosecuted on behalf of the United States by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia.

**[GA] Statesboro women sentenced for stealing thousands from pediatric practice (WSAV)**

[WSAV](#) [3/24/2021 1:45 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

Two Statesboro women will spend over a year in prison and repay thousands of dollars for stealing from a pediatrics practice where they were employed.

According to David Estes, acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, Kristen Hart, 37, and Alisa Brown, 44, both of Statesboro, pleaded guilty to theft or embezzlement in connection with health care.

Hart and Brown were employees of Bulloch Pediatrics Group and used a variety of methods to steal from their employer, said Estes, citing court documents and testimony. Hart was the office manager and Brown, a nurse manager.

It was revealed in court that Brown began stealing from her employer in 2013. In 2015, Hart began making personal purchases on the office's bank card, spending tens of thousands of dollars at various businesses. Both purchased thousands of dollars in postal money orders, which they would then convert to their own use.

The thefts were uncovered in 2020 and investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

"Greed is not good," said U.S. Secret Service Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Steven Baisel. "Those who chase its allure, particularly at the expense of those who trust them, will most often find themselves trapped. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to bring them to justice."

Hart has been sentenced to 16 months in prison and must pay \$115,550.69 in restitution. Brown will spend 21 months behind bars and pay \$239,626.86 in restitution and a fine of \$1,000.

Both must serve three years of supervised release after they complete their prison terms.

**[FL] Credit Card Skimming Device Found On Gas Pump At 7-Eleven On Corner Of Le Chalet Blvd And Military Trail In Boynton Beach (Published Reporter)**

[Published Reporter](#) [3/24/2021 12:45 PM, Joe Mcdermott, Neutral, Secondary]

On Wednesday, March 24, 2021, prior to 10:45 am, a credit card skimming device was found on a gas pump at the 7-Eleven located in the 4900 block of Le Chalet Boulevard in Boynton Beach. The location sits at the corner of Le Chalet Boulevard and South Military Trail. According to detectives, the skimmer was located on Pump #11. It is unknown how long the skimmer was connected to the gas pumps.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office believes that anyone who purchased gasoline from this 7-Eleven station may be the victim of a crime. and are advising consumers who may have been at the location for fuel and used a credit or debit card to check their accounts and report any unauthorized charges to the appropriate bank or credit card companies.

This is the second time a device was found at this location as in September 2019 a device was located at which point authorities believed it had been there for at least a week or more.

Credit card skimming is a process where crooks use a small device to steal credit card information during a legitimate credit or debit card transaction. Thieves use the stolen data to make fraudulent charges either online or with a counterfeit credit card.

**[MS] Biloxi PD asking for help in identifying suspect (Picayune Item)**

[Picayune Item](#) [3/24/2021 9:58 AM, Staff, 2K, Neutral, Secondary]

The Biloxi Police Department is requesting your assistance in helping to identify a person for questioning who allegedly was in possession of a counterfeit \$100.00 dollar bill. He reportedly exchanged the counterfeit bill for correct currency/ change, from another customer. The reported incident took place in the 2400 block of Beach Blvd. The incident took place on March 21, 2021 at about 6am. The alleged suspect entered the front passenger side door of a white in color, 4 door newer model sedan.

**[IL] Police: Shoppers attempt to use counterfeit bills at Lake Zurich grocery store in separate incidents (Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune)**

[Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune](#) [3/24/2021 1:18 PM, Staff, 1785K, Neutral, Secondary]

Someone attempted to purchase a \$15 Uber gift card with a counterfeit \$100 bill at Mariano's, 1350 E. Route 22, March 10. The customer left the store without completing the purchase.

Someone attempted to purchase a \$15 Apple gift card with a counterfeit \$100 bill at Mariano's, 1350 E. Route 22, March 7. The customer left the store without completing the purchase.

**[TX] Louisiana Woman Guilty in \$4.8 Million Elder Fraud Scheme (Orange Leader)**

[Orange Leader](#) [3/24/2021 9:14 PM, Dawn Burleigh, 1K, Positive, Secondary]

A Shreveport, Louisiana woman has pleaded guilty for her role in an elder fraud scheme in the Eastern District of Texas, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei.

Monica Ruiz, 45, pleaded guilty to wire fraud today before U.S. Magistrate Judge John D. Love.

"Schemes that target elderly victims are particularly troubling," said Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei. "Ruiz manipulated a vulnerable victim, exploited his trust, and stole much of his hard-earned life savings. Protecting senior citizens from exploitation has been, and will remain, a priority in the Eastern District."

According to information presented in court, Ruiz enlisted a variety of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises in a scheme to defraud an elderly victim from Bullard, Texas. Among the various misrepresentations Ruiz made in order to obtain money from the victim were the following:

That Ruiz had been in a coma;

That Ruiz had brain surgery;

That Ruiz was falsely arrested and imprisoned;

That Ruiz had bribed a judge and prosecutor;

That Ruiz's son died in a car accident in Pennsylvania;

That Ruiz was in a car accident;

That Ruiz had a kidney transplant;

That Ruiz's daughter was committed to a mental institution;

That Ruiz was incarcerated; and

That Ruiz's grandmother died.

At times, Ruiz impersonated other people in communications with the victim. At other times, she created and used false personas in communications with the victim. Over the course of her scheme, Ruiz obtained more than \$4.85 million from the victim.

A federal grand jury returned an indictment charging Ruiz with federal violations on Nov. 19, 2020. Under federal statutes, Ruiz faces up to 20 years in federal prison. The maximum statutory sentence prescribed by Congress is provided here for information purposes, as the sentencing will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

In October 2017, the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (EAPPA) was signed into law. The EAPPA's purpose is to increase the federal government's focus on preventing elder abuse and exploitation. Subsequently, the Department of Justice launched the Elder Justice Initiative (EJI). Through the EJI, the Department has participated in hundreds of criminal and civil enforcement actions involving misconduct that targeted vulnerable seniors. In March of last year, the Department announced the largest elder fraud enforcement action in American history, charging more than 400 defendants in a nationwide sweep. The Department has likewise conducted hundreds of trainings and outreach sessions across the country. The EJI website contains useful information, including educational resources about prevalent financial scams so you can guard against them.

In August of 2020, the Eastern District of Texas announced its own initiative, in partnership with law enforcement and private financial institutions, to identify and prosecute transnational elder fraud. This EDTX initiative is designed to combat these criminal organization, both foreign and domestic, as well their networks of associates and money mules who launder the stolen funds.

If you or someone you know is age 60 or older and has been a victim of financial fraud, help is standing by at the National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311). This U.S. Department of Justice hotline, managed by the Office for Victims of Crime, is staffed by experienced professionals who provide personalized support to callers by assessing the needs of the victim, and identifying relevant next steps. Case managers will identify appropriate reporting agencies, provide information to callers to assist them in reporting, connect callers directly with appropriate agencies, and provide resources and

referrals, on a case-by-case basis. Reporting is the first step. Reporting can help authorities identify those who commit fraud and reporting certain financial losses due to fraud as soon as possible can increase the likelihood of recovering losses. The hotline is staffed 7 days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time. English, Spanish, and other languages are available.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Secret Service with the assistance of the Tyler Police Department and the Louisiana State Police – Gaming Enforcement Division and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathaniel C. Kummerfeld.

**[TX] Louisiana woman pleads guilty to taking over \$4.85 million from elderly Bullard resident (Tyler Morning Telegraph)**

[Tyler Morning Telegraph](#) [3/24/2021 11:00 PM, Zak Wellerman, 21K, Positive, Secondary]

A Louisiana woman pleaded guilty Wednesday to conducting a scheme that took over \$4.85 million from an elderly Bullard resident.

Monica Ruiz, 45, of Shreveport, entered her guilty plea to wire fraud in federal court. She faces up to 20 years in prison.

The court information states Ruiz said she had been in a coma, had brain surgery, was falsely arrested and imprisoned, was in a car accident, had a kidney transplant and bribed a judge and prosecutor.

She is also accused of saying her son died in a car accident in Pennsylvania, her daughter was committed to a mental institution and her grandmother died.

Ruiz is also accused of impersonating other people when communicating with the victim and creating false personas.

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating the case with help from the Tyler Police Department and the Louisiana State Police — Gaming Enforcement Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathaniel C. Kummerfeld is serving as the prosecutor.

**[OK] Chickasha Police Investigate After Man Unknowingly Pays With Counterfeit Bill At Gas Station (News 9)**

[News 9](#) [3/24/2021 6:11 PM, Hunter McKee, 46K, Neutral, Secondary]

A man was stopped at a Chickasha convenient store after trying to purchase gas and food, not realizing he was using counterfeit money. Police said it happened at the Chickasha Travel Plaza.

The man tried paying with a \$10 bill, but the store's cashier noticed there was something off about the money. She used a counterfeit detection pen on the bill, to determine it was fake.

"The manager of course contacted the customer who was totally cooperative," said Lt. Scott Weaver, with the Chickasha Police Department. "Was not even aware that by his account, had any money that wasn't real."

Police were then called to investigate. According to the report, the customer paid for the gas and food with other money and waited for police to get there.

During the conversation, officers asked him where he got the money from? The customer told authorities from a Valero gas station in Anadarko. Weaver then contacted them.

"A lot of the times when you talk to a convenient store or another business, they're not even aware that has happened," said Weaver. "Especially with smaller bills."

Police said sometimes counterfeit money like this can originate from other countries.

"They have foreign writing on them," said Weaves. "That's supposed to make them look different where the bill is not mistaken for actual currency."

The bill was eventually turned over and logged for evidence. Police said it's still uncertain exactly where the money came from.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

### **[Philippines] Police collar traders of fake dollars in Isabela (The Manila Times)**

[The Manila Times](#) [3/24/2021 12:00 PM, Vince Jacob A. Visaya, Positive, Secondary]  
Eight people were arrested for selling counterfeit US dollars, other foreign notes and bank certificates in a joint police operation in Barangay 3 San Mateo on March 23.

BGen. Crizaldo Nieves, Cagayan Valley regional police director, said the arrested were identified as group leader Menerva Roan, 53, of Angono, Rizal; Fe Borrromeo, 67, of San Mateo, Rizal; Michelle Quitlib, 63, Monette Baronía, 41, and Pilar Castilleja, of Cauayan City; Rowena De Guzman, 53, of Maria Aurora, Aurora Province; Aji Marquez, 25, of Roxas, Isabela; and Jay Mark Bredico of San Agustin, Isabela.

Police said operatives were tipped off by villagers, prompting the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Isabela, Tumauni police, special operations team and intelligence members to hatch the entrapment operation.

The group has agreed to sell the counterfeit money for P2 million, alleging that the notes are all original and legal.

Seized were five uncut sheets of \$100-bills worth \$14,000; a golden US bill worth \$1 million; two \$100 US dollar bank notes and two other US bank notes; 60 pieces of Zimbabwean bank notes of various denominations; 100 pieces of Iraqi dinars of various denominations; 23 pieces of Vietnam Dong banknotes; 45 various bank notes from Malaysia, China, Yugoslavia, Brazil and other countries; and 12 pieces of HSBC bank deposit certificates worth P57-trillion each; seven caliber .45 handguns; and a Starex van (POD-656) registered to Norma Estavillo of Naguilan, Isabela.

The arrested people were brought to CIDG-Isabela and charged for illegal possession of false treasury or bank notes and other instruments of credit, and firearms.

## **Protection**

### **Biden's dogs back at White House after ruff start (AP)**



[AP](#) [3/24/2021 6:34 PM, Josh Boak, Neutral, Secondary]

President Joe Biden's dogs — Champ and Major — are roaming the White House again, after having been sent to Delaware when Major, the younger dog, injured a Secret Service agent.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at the Wednesday briefing that the dogs met the Bidens last weekend at Camp David in Maryland and came back to Washington on Sunday.

The dogs had been in the Biden's home state of Delaware, where Major received some additional training after having been startled by a Secret Service agent who received a minor injury from the fracas. One of the two German shepherds waited on the balcony of the White House on Tuesday evening as Marine One landed on the South Lawn, having ferried the president back from a speech in Columbus, Ohio.

"The dogs will come and go and it will not be uncommon for them to head back to Delaware on occasion as the president and first lady often do as well," Psaki said.

### **First Dogs Return To White House After Major Biden Causes Minor Injury (NPR)**

[NPR](#) [3/24/2021 1:51 PM, Rachel Treisman, Neutral, Secondary]

First dogs Champ and Major Biden are back in Washington, D.C., after spending part of the month in Delaware, where Major underwent remedial training after causing a "minor injury" at the White House.

Michael LaRosa, spokesman for first lady Jill Biden, confirmed to NPR on Wednesday morning that the dogs are at the White House, but did not specify when they returned. One of the family's two German shepherds can be seen on an Executive Residence balcony in a photo snapped by Reuters correspondent Jeff Mason on Monday night.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Wednesday that Champ and Major joined the first family at Camp David over the weekend, and returned to the White House on Sunday. She said it "will not be uncommon" for the dogs — and their owners — to go back and forth to Delaware.

The news comes a week after President Biden defended Major in an interview with ABC's Good Morning America, calling the 3-year-old a "sweet dog" who was just startled by an unfamiliar person in his new home.

"You turn a corner, and there's two people you don't know at all," Biden said. "And he moves to protect."

He added that Major "did not bite someone and penetrate the skin."

Psaki said earlier this month that Major "reacted in a way that resulted in a minor injury" to the unnamed individual, with NBC News reporting that he nipped the hand of a Secret Service agent.

She said that both dogs had been sent to the Bidens' home in Wilmington, Del., as part of a previously planned visit while the first lady was traveling.



"He was going home," President Biden said last week. "I didn't banish him to home. Jill was gonna be away for four days. I was gonna be away for two so we took him home."

Major got some remedial training while he was there, according to Biden, who stressed that the rescue dog is still adjusting to his new environment.

The Bidens fostered and then adopted Major from the Delaware Humane Association — where his litter of six puppies was dropped off in poor condition after ingesting an unknown toxic substance — in 2018. According to the shelter, Biden was looking for a companion for Champ, who is now 12 years old.

Major is, famously, the first dog to go from a shelter to the White House — a historic journey that now also includes a brief detour to the dog house.

**First dogs Major and Champ return to White House after nipping incident (NBC News)**

[NBC News](#) [3/24/2021 2:12 PM, Kelly O'Donnell, Kristen Welker and Dareh Gregorian, 4745K, Neutral, Primary]

Major Biden is officially out of the doghouse.

The younger of the Bidens' two German shepherds and fellow first canine Champ are back at the White House two weeks after Major nipped a Secret Service agent.

The two were sent to the Bidens' Delaware home following the incident this month, but they are now back roaming the White House grounds, Jill Biden's press secretary, Michael LaRosa, confirmed.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the pair returned on Sunday after spending the weekend with the first family at Camp David.

"The dogs will come and go, and it will not be uncommon for them to head back to Delaware on occasion, as the president and first lady often do as well," Psaki said.

At the time of the nipping incident, Psaki said the first pups' trip to Wilmington had been pre-planned because Jill Biden was traveling.

She said the nipping happened when Major "was surprised by an unfamiliar person and reacted in a way that resulted in a minor injury to the individual."

Major, who is the first shelter dog to live in the White House, received some extra training while in Delaware to help him acclimate to his new surroundings, LaRosa said.

President Joe Biden told ABC News this month that he still thought 3-year-old Major was a good boy.

"I didn't banish him to home," Biden said. "Jill was going to be away for four days. I was going to be away for two so we took him home."

"Major did not bite someone and penetrate the skin," he added. The president also suggested that he and Major were having trouble adjusting to the large number of personnel around the White House.

"You turn a corner, and there's two people you don't know at all," Biden said. "And he moves to protect. But he's a sweet dog."

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**  
[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative

would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded “no” to a question on the transaction record that asks, “Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?” Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden’s administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter’s pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified “suspicions she had,” according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen’s Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store’s general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. “We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could,” Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was

questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, proly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to

any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.”

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden’s Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.”

## Network TV News Coverage

### **[DC] Champ & Major Back at White House (Fox Morning News at 6)**

[\(B\) Fox Morning News at 6](#) [3/24/2021 6:32 AM, Staff]

President Biden’s dogs are back at the White House after Major bit a Secret Service member’s hand. The dogs were moved to Delaware after the incident for retraining. The president said Major was being protective when it happened because the dog did not know the agents at the White House.

### **[OK] Counterfeit Money Used (News 9 First at Four)**

[\(B\) News 9 First at Four](#) [3/24/2021 5:32 PM, Hunter McKee]

A man was stopped at a Chickasha convenience store trying to use counterfeit money. Police say the man had no idea it was counterfeit. The man said he got the fake \$10 bill from a Valero gas station in Anadarko.

## Headlines

### **The Washington Post**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden taps Harris to handle border crisis](#)

[Rachel Levine, historic transgender nominee, confirmed as assistant health secretary](#)

[A push for gun control is pledged once more in wake of Boulder shooting](#)

[Biden faces a flurry of new challenges ahead of first White House news conference](#)

[Supreme Court struggles with when police may enter home for safety checks or suicide threats](#)

[North Korea fires more missiles](#)

### **The New York Times**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Democrats Begin Push for Biggest Expansion of Voting Since 1960s](#)

[Suez Canal Blocked After Giant Container Ship Gets Stuck](#)

[After 4th Vote in 2 Years, Israelis Wonder: When Will the Political Morass End?](#)

[‘I Will Die Protecting My Country’: In Myanmar, a New Resistance Rises](#)

### **The Wall Street Journal**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Kamala Harris to Head Administration Effort to Stanch Migrant Surge](#)  
[Senate Lawmakers Spar Over Voting Rights Bill](#)  
[Democrats Weigh Increases in Corporate, Personal Income-Tax Rates](#)  
[Men Looking for Work Drive Surge in Illegal Crossings at the U.S. Border](#)  
[Suez Canal Is Blocked by Container Ship Causing Huge Traffic Jam](#)

### **ABC News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Major severe weather outbreak expected in South, tornadoes possible](#)  
[Biden administration allows access to border facility -- but not ones over capacity](#)  
[Yellen sees room for US to borrow, opens door to tax hike](#)

### **CBS News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Kamala Harris to lead efforts to stem migration at southern border](#)  
[White House mulls executive action amid gun reform resistance](#)  
[New evidence shows extremist groups coordinated Capitol siege](#)

### **CNN**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Shame, shame, shame': Schumer and McConnell spar over federal voting rights legislation](#)  
[Biden to highlight gains and face tough scrutiny in first formal news conference](#)  
[North Korea fires two ground-based ballistic missiles, South Korea says](#)

### **Fox News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden still hasn't held a news conference, 63 days and counting](#)  
[Arizona's Ducey calls Harris the 'worst possible choice' to fix border](#)  
[North Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles into Sea of Japan, US official confirms](#)

### **NBC News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Storm-battered South prepares for possible second tornado outbreak in a week](#)  
[AstraZeneca says its vaccine shows 76 percent efficacy after questions arise about 'outdated information'](#)  
[North Korea launched two ballistic missiles, U.S., Japanese officials say](#)

## **Washington Schedule**

### **President**

[The White House](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

9:30 AM The President receives the President's Daily Brief

10:00 AM In-Town Pool Call Time

1:15 PM The President holds a formal press conference

3:45 PM The President meets virtually with the European Council during its summit

**Vice President**

[The White House](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

See source link. Schedule not yet available.

**Senate**

[Senate](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

9:30 AM SD-G50 Armed Services

Hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program.

9:30 AM SR-301 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Hearings to examine Child Nutrition Reauthorization, focusing on healthy meals and healthy futures.

9:30 AM WEBEX Finance

Hearings to examine how U.S. international tax policy impacts American workers, jobs, and investment.

9:45 AM SD-366 Energy and Natural Resources

Hearings to examine the latest developments in the nuclear energy sector, focusing on ways to maintain and expand the use of nuclear energy in the United States and abroad.

10:00 AM SD-106 Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S.632, to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, S.169, to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and the nominations of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

10:00 AM SD-430 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Hearings to examine our COVID-19 response, focusing on improving health equity and outcomes by addressing health disparities.

10:00 AM VTC Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Hearings to examine the U.S. response to the coup in Burma.

10:00 AM WEBEX Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Hearings to examine the American Rescue Plan, focusing on shots in arms and money in pockets.

10:15 AM SD-342/VTC Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Hearings to examine the nomination of Deanne Bennett Criswell, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.



11:00 AM SH-216 Budget

Hearings to examine the tax code, focusing on making the wealthiest people and largest corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

## **House of Representatives**

[House of Representatives](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

11:00 AM Virtual

Business Meeting: Modernization Cohort Listening Session

Host: Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

11:00 AM

Hearing: Leading by Action: The Fierce Urgency for Diversity and Inclusion in the Foreign Policy Workforce

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

11:00 AM 2167 Rayburn HOB

Hearing: The Administrations Priorities for Transportation Infrastructure.

Host: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

12:00 PM

Hearing: Disinformation Nation: Social Media's Role in Promoting Extremism and Misinformation

Host: Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

12:00 PM Cisco WebEx

Hearing: Virtual Hearing - Ending Exploitation: How the Financial System Can Work to Dismantle the Business of Human Trafficking

Host: Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy

12:00 PM Washington

Hearing: A Hearing to Review the State of Black Farmers in the U.S.

Host: Committee on Agriculture

12:00 PM

Hearing: Remote Hearing on Rooting Out Fraud in Small Business Relief Programs

Host: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis

1:00 PM Remote Longworth HOB

Hearing: Examining Private Equity's Expanded Role in the U.S. Health Care System

Host: Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight

1:00 PM

Hearing: Building Technologies Research for a Sustainable Future

Host: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy

1:00 PM

Hearing: The Effects of COVID-19 on Arts and Humanities Organizations

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

1:00 PM via Zoom

Hearing: Lessons Learned: Charting the Path to Educational Equity Post-COVID-19

Host: Committee on Education Labor, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education

1:00 PM CiscoWebEx

Markup: Markup of Various Measures

Host: Committee on Foreign Affairs

2:00 PM 2141 Rayburn HOB

Hearing: The Importance of a Diverse Federal Judiciary

Host: Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet

2:00 PM

Hearing: Restoring Faith by Building Trust: VAs First 100 Days."

Host: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

2:30 PM

Hearing: Creating Equitable Communities through Transportation and Housing

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and House and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

**{End of Report}**

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (LEG)  
**To:** THOMAS HUSE (LEG)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PPD)  
**Subject:** Re: USSS News Briefing (3-25-21) [NO RUSH]  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:17:37 PM

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Tom- (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Office of the Chief Counsel  
U.S. Secret Service  
202 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) cell

On Mar 25, 2021, at 6:14 PM, THOMAS HUSE (LEG)  
<(b) (6)> wrote:

Gents:

See the last article regarding DE listed under the "Protection" header  
below. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Best,  
Tom

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**From:** JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:10 AM  
**To:** dirstaff <dirstaff@uss.s.dhs.gov>; CMR-clips-list <CMR-clips-list@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: USSS News Briefing (3-25-21)

Good morning,

Please reference the attached USSS Daily News Brief for March 25, 2021.

This message is the property of the United States Secret Service and may contain information that is law enforcement sensitive, privileged, or subject to other disclosure limitations. Release or distribution of this message or its contents in any form may be prohibited by federal or state laws, including 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), (b)(7)(C), and (b)(7)(E). If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep, use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.

**From:** USSS Daily - TechMIS <[uss@techmis.com](mailto:uss@techmis.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:40 AM

**To:** [noreply@techmis.com](mailto:noreply@techmis.com)

**Subject:** USSS News Briefing (3-25-21)

<image003.jpg>

# SECRET SERVICE NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the United States Secret Service

By TechMIS

[www.TechMIS.com](http://www.TechMIS.com)

[Mobile User Copy](#)

**TO: Secret Service**

**DATE: Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:00 AM ET**

## Investigations

[\[KY\] Elizabethtown Man Sentenced To Federal Prison After Being Caught During Sting Operation \(United States Department of Justice\)](#)

[\[KY\] Elizabethtown man sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for enticing minor for sex \(WDRB\)](#)

[\[GA\] Former medical practice employees sentenced for theft \(Statesboro Herald\)](#)

[\[GA\] Statesboro women sentenced for stealing thousands from pediatric practice \(WSAV\)](#)

[\[FL\] Credit Card Skimming Device Found On Gas Pump At 7-Eleven On Corner Of Le Chalet Blvd And Military Trail In Boynton Beach \(Published Reporter\)](#)

[\[MS\] Biloxi PD asking for help in identifying suspect \(Picayune Item\)](#)

[\[IL\] Police: Shoppers attempt to use counterfeit bills at Lake Zurich grocery store in separate incidents \(Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune\)](#)

[\[TX\] Louisiana Woman Guilty in \\$4.8 Million Elder Fraud Scheme \(Orange Leader\)](#)

[\[TX\] Louisiana woman pleads guilty to taking over \\$4.85 million from elderly Bullard resident \(Tyler Morning Telegraph\)](#)

[\[OK\] Chickasha Police Investigate After Man Unknowingly Pays With](#)

[Counterfeit Bill At Gas Station \(News 9\)](#)

[\[Philippines\] Police collar traders of fake dollars in Isabela \(The Manila Times\)](#)

## **Protection**

[Biden's dogs back at White House after ruff start \(AP\)](#)

[First Dogs Return To White House After Major Biden Causes Minor Injury \(NPR\)](#)

[First dogs Major and Champ return to White House after nipping incident \(NBC News\)](#)

[\[DE\] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun \(Politico\)](#)

## **Network TV News Coverage**

[\[DC\] Champ & Major Back at White House \(Fox Morning News at 6\)](#)

[\[OK\] Counterfeit Money Used \(News 9 First at Four\)](#)

## **Headlines**

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## **Washington Schedule**

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[House of Representatives](#)

## **Investigations**

**[KY] Elizabethtown Man Sentenced To Federal Prison After Being Caught During Sting Operation (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/24/2021 4:00 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

Travis Puckett, 23, originally of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, previously pled guilty before United States District Judge Rebecca Grady Jennings for attempted online enticement of a minor, announced Acting United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett. Today, Judge Jennings sentenced Puckett to 10 years in prison followed by a 15-year term of Supervised Release. There is no parole in the federal system. Puckett will be required to register as a sex offender.

“Mr. Puckett will serve a 10-year federal prison sentence followed by 15 years of supervision as a result of the outstanding work of AUSA Lawless and our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners,” stated Acting U.S. Attorney Bennett. “Our children and communities are safer because of their tireless effort in identifying, charging, and prosecuting those who engage in this egregious criminal conduct.”

According to the Plea Agreement, on October 6, 2019, a Detective with the Louisville Metro Police Department took part in an undercover investigation on the Internet. The Detective posed as a 14-year-old girl on a social media app. At approximately 6:00 p.m. that evening, a person using the profile of a 22-year-old, white male, from Elizabethtown, and identified as “Travis,” sent the undercover profile a message. “Travis,” later identified as Puckett, initially stated he thought the undercover officer was the police and then stated that he wished the undercover officer was 18. Puckett texted, “your cute and all just don’t want any charges.”

Puckett requested that the undercover detective prove he wasn’t the police and provided a Snapchat username for further communication. The undercover detective communicated with Puckett via Snapchat and sent several non-pornographic pictures of an undercover female officer, all the while maintaining the age of 14. The two stopped communicating at approximately 11:30 p.m. that evening, as the undercover advised that “her” parents were home and they could talk the next day. The next day, around noon, Puckett initiated contact with the undercover. Puckett asked what the undercover was doing that evening around 8:00 p.m. Puckett asked to get together and directed the conversation towards sex. At approximately 10:30 p.m. that evening, Puckett arrived at the agreed upon location and was arrested. When he arrived, he had a cellular telephone and condoms.

During a post-Miranda interview, Puckett admitted he was the person who had been communicating with a 14-year-old girl, beginning on the social media app “Skout.” He admitted telling her he wanted to engage in sexual activities. During the interview, Puckett wrote an apology letter to the undercover persona. In it, he stated he was sorry and that he felt terrible for disrespecting her.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The joint investigation was conducted by the United States Secret Service, Kentucky

Office of the Attorney General, Kentucky State Police, and Louisville Metro Police Department.

**[KY] Elizabethtown man sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for enticing minor for sex (WDRB)**

[WDRB](#) [3/24/2021 4:24 PM, Staff, 57K, Positive, Secondary]

An Elizabethtown man will serve 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to enticing a minor for sex.

Travis Puckett, 23, admitted to trying to meet up with who he thought was a 14-year-old girl for sex. It was a Louisville Metro Police detective, and Puckett was arrested at their agreed upon meeting place with condoms on him, according to authorities.

Puckett will be required to register as a sex offender and will also serve 15 years of supervision after 10 years behind bars.

"Our children and communities are safer because of their tireless effort in identifying, charging, and prosecuting those who engage in this egregious criminal conduct," acting United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett said in news release.

Puckett reached out to the undercover investigator in October 2019 on the social media app "Skout," according to the news release.

"'Travis,' later identified as Puckett, initially stated he thought the undercover officer was the police and then stated that he wished the undercover officer was 18," the release says. "Puckett texted, 'your cute and all just don't want any charges.'"

Puckett then reportedly asked the undercover detective to prove they weren't police and gave them a Snapchat username to communicate further.

The next day, police said Puckett contacted the detective and "asked to get together and directed the conversation towards sex." They planned to meet later that night, when police took Puckett into custody.

LMPD conducted the investigation in conjuncture with United States Secret Service, Kentucky State Police and the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General.

**[GA] Former medical practice employees sentenced for theft (Statesboro Herald)**

[Statesboro Herald](#) [3/24/2021 7:27 PM, Staff, 5K, Positive, Secondary]

Two former employees of a Statesboro pediatrics practice have been sentenced to federal prison for stealing money from the business.

Kristen Hart, 37, and Alisa Brown, 44, both of Statesboro, each pled guilty to a charge of Theft or Embezzlement in Connection with Health Care, said David H. Estes, acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.



U.S. District Court Chief Judge J. Randal Hall sentenced Hart to 16 months in prison and ordered her to pay \$115,550.69 in restitution, and U.S. District Court Judge R. Stan Baker sentenced Brown to 21 months in federal prison and ordered her to pay \$239,626.86 in restitution and a fine of \$1,000. Each must serve three years of supervised release after completion of their prison term, and there is no parole in the federal system.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a significant challenge for small businesses, including health care practices,” said Acting U.S. Attorney Estes. “It’s much more difficult when seemingly trustworthy employees treat their jobs as a license to steal.”

As described in court documents and testimony, Hart and Brown were employees of Bulloch Pediatrics Group, which is located in the Statesboro Market District, behind East Georgia Regional Medical Center. Each used a variety of methods to steal from their employer.

Hart, the office manager, began to make personal purchases on the office’s bank cards in 2015 and eventually spent tens of thousands of dollars at various businesses, including Amazon.

Brown, a nurse manager who began to steal from her employer in 2013, and Hart also both purchased thousands of dollars in postal money orders which they would then convert to their own use without their employer’s knowledge or consent.

When the thefts were uncovered in 2020, both employees were terminated and prosecuted.

“As this case highlights, the United States Postal Inspection Service will assist its law enforcement partners and help bring individuals to justice who misuse the United States Postal Service or its services to steal from victim businesses or individuals,” said Juan Vargas, acting inspector in charge of the Miami Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service-Miami Division.

“Greed is not good,” said U.S. Secret Service Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Steven Baisel. “Those who chase its allure, particularly at the expense of those who trust them, will most often find themselves trapped. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to bring them to justice.”

The U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigated the case, which was prosecuted on behalf of the United States by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Georgia.

**[GA] Statesboro women sentenced for stealing thousands from pediatric practice (WSAV)**

[WSAV](#) [3/24/2021 1:45 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

Two Statesboro women will spend over a year in prison and repay thousands of dollars for stealing from a pediatrics practice where they were employed.

According to David Estes, acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, Kristen Hart, 37, and Alisa Brown, 44, both of Statesboro, pleaded guilty to theft or embezzlement in connection with health care.

Hart and Brown were employees of Bulloch Pediatrics Group and used a variety of methods to steal from their employer, said Estes, citing court documents and testimony. Hart was the office manager and Brown, a nurse manager.

It was revealed in court that Brown began stealing from her employer in 2013. In 2015, Hart began making personal purchases on the office's bank card, spending tens of thousands of dollars at various businesses. Both purchased thousands of dollars in postal money orders, which they would then convert to their own use.

The thefts were uncovered in 2020 and investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

"Greed is not good," said U.S. Secret Service Atlanta Special Agent in Charge Steven Baisel. "Those who chase its allure, particularly at the expense of those who trust them, will most often find themselves trapped. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to bring them to justice."

Hart has been sentenced to 16 months in prison and must pay \$115,550.69 in restitution. Brown will spend 21 months behind bars and pay \$239,626.86 in restitution and a fine of \$1,000.

Both must serve three years of supervised release after they complete their prison terms.

**[FL] Credit Card Skimming Device Found On Gas Pump At 7-Eleven On Corner Of Le Chalet Blvd And Military Trail In Boynton Beach (Published Reporter)**

[Published Reporter](#) [3/24/2021 12:45 PM, Joe Mcdermott, Neutral, Secondary] On Wednesday, March 24, 2021, prior to 10:45 am, a credit card skimming device was found on a gas pump at the 7-Eleven located in the 4900 block of Le Chalet Boulevard in Boynton Beach. The location sits at the corner of Le Chalet Boulevard and South Military Trail. According to detectives, the skimmer was located on Pump #11. It is unknown how long the skimmer was connected to the gas pumps.

The Palm Beach Sheriff's Office believes that anyone who purchased gasoline from this 7-Eleven station may be the victim of a crime. and are advising consumers who may have been at the location for fuel and used a credit or debit card to check their accounts and report any unauthorized charges to the appropriate bank or credit card companies.

This is the second time a device was found at this location as in September 2019 a device was located at which point authorities believed it had been there for at least a week or more.

Credit card skimming is a process where crooks use a small device to steal credit card information during a legitimate credit or debit card transaction. Thieves use the stolen data to make fraudulent charges either online or with a counterfeit credit card.

**[MS] Biloxi PD asking for help in identifying suspect (Picayune Item)**

[Picayune Item](#) [3/24/2021 9:58 AM, Staff, 2K, Neutral, Secondary]

The Biloxi Police Department is requesting your assistance in helping to identify a person for questioning who allegedly was in possession of a counterfeit \$100.00 dollar bill. He reportedly exchanged the counterfeit bill for correct currency/ change, from another customer. The reported incident took place in the 2400 block of Beach Blvd. The incident took place on March 21, 2021 at about 6am. The alleged suspect entered the front passenger side door of a white in color, 4 door newer model sedan.

**[IL] Police: Shoppers attempt to use counterfeit bills at Lake Zurich grocery store in separate incidents (Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune)**

[Lake Zurich Courier - Chicago Tribune](#) [3/24/2021 1:18 PM, Staff, 1785K, Neutral, Secondary]

Someone attempted to purchase a \$15 Uber gift card with a counterfeit \$100 bill at Mariano's, 1350 E. Route 22, March 10. The customer left the store without completing the purchase.

Someone attempted to purchase a \$15 Apple gift card with a counterfeit \$100 bill at Mariano's, 1350 E. Route 22, March 7. The customer left the store without completing the purchase.

**[TX] Louisiana Woman Guilty in \$4.8 Million Elder Fraud Scheme (Orange Leader)**

[Orange Leader](#) [3/24/2021 9:14 PM, Dawn Burleigh, 1K, Positive, Secondary]

A Shreveport, Louisiana woman has pleaded guilty for her role in an elder fraud scheme in the Eastern District of Texas, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei.

Monica Ruiz, 45, pleaded guilty to wire fraud today before U.S. Magistrate Judge John D. Love.

"Schemes that target elderly victims are particularly troubling," said Acting U.S. Attorney Nicholas J. Ganjei. "Ruiz manipulated a vulnerable victim, exploited his trust, and stole much of his hard-earned life savings. Protecting senior citizens from exploitation has been, and will remain, a priority in the Eastern District."

According to information presented in court, Ruiz enlisted a variety of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises in a scheme to defraud an elderly victim from Bullard, Texas. Among the various misrepresentations Ruiz made in order to obtain money from the victim were the following:

That Ruiz had been in a coma;

That Ruiz had brain surgery;

That Ruiz was falsely arrested and imprisoned;

That Ruiz had bribed a judge and prosecutor;

That Ruiz's son died in a car accident in Pennsylvania;

That Ruiz was in a car accident;

That Ruiz had a kidney transplant;

That Ruiz's daughter was committed to a mental institution;

That Ruiz was incarcerated; and

That Ruiz's grandmother died.

At times, Ruiz impersonated other people in communications with the victim. At other times, she created and used false personas in communications with the victim. Over the course of her scheme, Ruiz obtained more than \$4.85 million from the victim.

A federal grand jury returned an indictment charging Ruiz with federal violations on Nov. 19, 2020. Under federal statutes, Ruiz faces up to 20 years in federal prison. The maximum statutory sentence prescribed by Congress is provided here for information purposes, as the sentencing will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

In October 2017, the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (EAPPA) was signed into law. The EAPPA's purpose is to increase the federal government's focus on preventing elder abuse and exploitation. Subsequently, the Department of Justice launched the Elder Justice Initiative (EJI). Through the EJI, the Department has participated in hundreds of criminal and civil enforcement actions involving misconduct that targeted vulnerable seniors. In March of last year, the Department announced the largest elder fraud enforcement action in American history, charging more than 400 defendants in a nationwide sweep. The Department has likewise conducted hundreds of trainings and outreach sessions across the country. The EJI website contains useful information, including educational resources about prevalent financial scams so you can guard against them.

In August of 2020, the Eastern District of Texas announced its own initiative, in partnership with law enforcement and private financial institutions, to identify and prosecute transnational elder fraud. This EDTX initiative is designed to combat these criminal organization, both foreign and domestic, as well their networks of associates and money mules who launder the stolen funds.

If you or someone you know is age 60 or older and has been a victim of financial fraud, help is standing by at the National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311). This U.S. Department of Justice hotline, managed by the Office for Victims of Crime, is staffed by experienced professionals who provide personalized support to callers by assessing the needs of the victim, and identifying relevant next steps. Case managers will identify appropriate reporting agencies, provide information to callers to assist them in reporting, connect callers directly with appropriate agencies, and provide resources and referrals, on a case-by-case basis. Reporting is the first step. Reporting can help authorities identify those who commit fraud and reporting certain financial losses due to fraud as soon as possible can increase the likelihood of recovering losses. The hotline is staffed 7 days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time. English, Spanish, and other languages are available.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Secret Service with the assistance of the Tyler Police Department and the Louisiana State Police – Gaming Enforcement Division and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathaniel C. Kummerfeld.

**[TX] Louisiana woman pleads guilty to taking over \$4.85 million from elderly Bullard resident (Tyler Morning Telegraph)**

[Tyler Morning Telegraph](#) [3/24/2021 11:00 PM, Zak Wellerman, 21K, Positive, Secondary]

A Louisiana woman pleaded guilty Wednesday to conducting a scheme that took over \$4.85 million from an elderly Bullard resident.

Monica Ruiz, 45, of Shreveport, entered her guilty plea to wire fraud in federal court. She faces up to 20 years in prison.

The court information states Ruiz said she had been in a coma, had brain surgery, was falsely arrested and imprisoned, was in a car accident, had a kidney transplant and bribed a judge and prosecutor.

She is also accused of saying her son died in a car accident in Pennsylvania, her daughter was committed to a mental institution and her grandmother died.

Ruiz is also accused of impersonating other people when communicating with the victim and creating false personas.

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating the case with help from the Tyler Police Department and the Louisiana State Police — Gaming Enforcement Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathaniel C. Kummerfeld is serving as the prosecutor.

**[OK] Chickasha Police Investigate After Man Unknowingly Pays With Counterfeit Bill At Gas Station (News 9)**

[News 9](#) [3/24/2021 6:11 PM, Hunter McKee, 46K, Neutral, Secondary]

A man was stopped at a Chickasha convenient store after trying to purchase gas and food, not realizing he was using counterfeit money. Police said it

happened at the Chickasha Travel Plaza.

The man tried paying with a \$10 bill, but the store's cashier noticed there was something off about the money. She used a counterfeit detection pen on the bill, to determine it was fake.

"The manager of course contacted the customer who was totally cooperative," said Lt. Scott Weaver, with the Chickasha Police Department. "Was not even aware that by his account, had any money that wasn't real."

Police were then called to investigate. According to the report, the customer paid for the gas and food with other money and waited for police to get there.

During the conversation, officers asked him where he got the money from? The customer told authorities from a Valero gas station in Anadarko. Weaver then contacted them.

"A lot of the times when you talk to a convenient store or another business, they're not even aware that has happened," said Weaver. "Especially with smaller bills."

Police said sometimes counterfeit money like this can originate from other countries.

"They have foreign writing on them," said Weaves. "That's supposed to make them look different where the bill is not mistaken for actual currency."

The bill was eventually turned over and logged for evidence. Police said it's still uncertain exactly where the money came from.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

**[Philippines] Police collar traders of fake dollars in Isabela (The Manila Times)**

[The Manila Times](#) [3/24/2021 12:00 PM, Vince Jacob A. Visaya, Positive, Secondary]

Eight people were arrested for selling counterfeit US dollars, other foreign notes and bank certificates in a joint police operation in Barangay 3 San Mateo on March 23.

BGen. Crizaldo Nieves, Cagayan Valley regional police director, said the arrested were identified as group leader Menerva Roan, 53, of Angono, Rizal; Fe Borromeo, 67, of San Mateo, Rizal; Michelle Quitlib, 63, Monette Baronia, 41, and Pilar Castilleja, of Cauayan City; Rowena De Guzman, 53, of Maria Aurora, Aurora Province; Aji Marquez, 25, of Roxas, Isabela; and Jay Mark Bredico of San Agustin, Isabela.

Police said operatives were tipped off by villagers, prompting the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Isabela, Tumauni police, special operations team and intelligence members to hatch the entrapment operation.

The group has agreed to sell the counterfeit money for P2 million, alleging that the notes are all original and legal.

Seized were five uncut sheets of \$100-bills worth \$14,000; a golden US bill worth \$1 million; two \$100 US dollar bank notes and two other US bank notes; 60 pieces of Zimbabwean bank notes of various denominations; 100 pieces of Iraqi dinars of various denominations; 23 pieces of Vietnam Dong banknotes; 45 various bank notes from Malaysia, China, Yugoslavia, Brazil and other countries; and 12 pieces of HSBC bank deposit certificates worth P57-trillion each; seven caliber .45 handguns; and a Starex van (POD-656) registered to Norma Estavillo of Naguilian, Isabela.

The arrested people were brought to CIDG-Isabela and charged for illegal possession of false treasury or bank notes and other instruments of credit, and firearms.

## Protection

### **Biden's dogs back at White House after ruff start (AP)**

[AP](#) [3/24/2021 6:34 PM, Josh Boak, Neutral, Secondary]

President Joe Biden's dogs — Champ and Major — are roaming the White House again, after having been sent to Delaware when Major, the younger dog, injured a Secret Service agent.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at the Wednesday briefing that the dogs met the Bidens last weekend at Camp David in Maryland and came back to Washington on Sunday.

The dogs had been in the Biden's home state of Delaware, where Major received some additional training after having been startled by a Secret Service agent who received a minor injury from the fracas. One of the two German shepherds waited on the balcony of the White House on Tuesday evening as Marine One landed on the South Lawn, having ferried the president back from a speech in Columbus, Ohio.

"The dogs will come and go and it will not be uncommon for them to head back to Delaware on occasion as the president and first lady often do as well," Psaki said.

### **First Dogs Return To White House After Major Biden Causes Minor Injury (NPR)**

[NPR](#) [3/24/2021 1:51 PM, Rachel Treisman, Neutral, Secondary]

First dogs Champ and Major Biden are back in Washington, D.C., after spending part of the month in Delaware, where Major underwent remedial training after causing a "minor injury" at the White House.

Michael LaRosa, spokesman for first lady Jill Biden, confirmed to NPR on Wednesday morning that the dogs are at the White House, but did not specify when they returned. One of the family's two German shepherds can be seen on



an Executive Residence balcony in a photo snapped by Reuters correspondent Jeff Mason on Monday night.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Wednesday that Champ and Major joined the first family at Camp David over the weekend, and returned to the White House on Sunday. She said it "will not be uncommon" for the dogs — and their owners — to go back and forth to Delaware.

The news comes a week after President Biden defended Major in an interview with ABC's Good Morning America, calling the 3-year-old a "sweet dog" who was just startled by an unfamiliar person in his new home.

"You turn a corner, and there's two people you don't know at all," Biden said. "And he moves to protect."

He added that Major "did not bite someone and penetrate the skin."

Psaki said earlier this month that Major "reacted in a way that resulted in a minor injury" to the unnamed individual, with NBC News reporting that he nipped the hand of a Secret Service agent.

She said that both dogs had been sent to the Bidens' home in Wilmington, Del., as part of a previously planned visit while the first lady was traveling.

"He was going home," President Biden said last week. "I didn't banish him to home. Jill was gonna be away for four days. I was gonna be away for two so we took him home."

Major got some remedial training while he was there, according to Biden, who stressed that the rescue dog is still adjusting to his new environment.

The Bidens fostered and then adopted Major from the Delaware Humane Association — where his litter of six puppies was dropped off in poor condition after ingesting an unknown toxic substance — in 2018. According to the shelter, Biden was looking for a companion for Champ, who is now 12 years old.

Major is, famously, the first dog to go from a shelter to the White House — a historic journey that now also includes a brief detour to the dog house.

### **First dogs Major and Champ return to White House after nipping incident (NBC News)**

[NBC News](#) [3/24/2021 2:12 PM, Kelly O'Donnell, Kristen Welker and Dareh Gregorian, 4745K, Neutral, Primary]  
Major Biden is officially out of the doghouse.

The younger of the Bidens' two German shepherds and fellow first canine Champ are back at the White House two weeks after Major nipped a Secret Service agent.

The two were sent to the Bidens' Delaware home following the incident this month, but they are now back roaming the White House grounds, Jill Biden's press secretary, Michael LaRosa, confirmed.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the pair returned on Sunday after spending the weekend with the first family at Camp David.

"The dogs will come and go, and it will not be uncommon for them to head back to Delaware on occasion, as the president and first lady often do as well," Psaki said.

At the time of the nipping incident, Psaki said the first pups' trip to Wilmington had been pre-planned because Jill Biden was traveling.

She said the nipping happened when Major "was surprised by an unfamiliar person and reacted in a way that resulted in a minor injury to the individual."

Major, who is the first shelter dog to live in the White House, received some extra training while in Delaware to help him acclimate to his new surroundings, LaRosa said.

President Joe Biden told ABC News this month that he still thought 3-year-old Major was a good boy.

"I didn't banish him to home," Biden said. "Jill was going to be away for four days. I was going to be away for two so we took him home."

"Major did not bite someone and penetrate the skin," he added. The president also suggested that he and Major were having trouble adjusting to the large number of personnel around the White House.

"You turn a corner, and there's two people you don't know at all," Biden said. "And he moves to protect. But he's a sweet dog."

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has

firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, proly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.”

## Network TV News Coverage

### **[DC] Champ & Major Back at White House (Fox Morning News at 6)**

[\(B\) Fox Morning News at 6](#) [3/24/2021 6:32 AM, Staff]

President Biden’s dogs are back at the White House after Major bit a Secret Service member’s hand. The dogs were moved to Delaware after the incident for retraining. The president said Major was being protective when it happened because the dog did not know the agents at the White House.

### **[OK] Counterfeit Money Used (News 9 First at Four)**

[\(B\) News 9 First at Four](#) [3/24/2021 5:32 PM, Hunter McKee]

A man was stopped at a Chickasha convenience store trying to use counterfeit money. Police say the man had no idea it was counterfeit. The man said he got the fake \$10 bill from a Valero gas station in Anadarko.

## Headlines

### **The Washington Post**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden taps Harris to handle border crisis](#)

[Rachel Levine, historic transgender nominee, confirmed as assistant health secretary](#)

[A push for gun control is pledged once more in wake of Boulder shooting](#)

[Biden faces a flurry of new challenges ahead of first White House news conference](#)

[Supreme Court struggles with when police may enter home for safety checks or suicide threats](#)

[North Korea fires more missiles](#)

### **The New York Times**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Democrats Begin Push for Biggest Expansion of Voting Since 1960s](#)

[Suez Canal Blocked After Giant Container Ship Gets Stuck](#)

[After 4th Vote in 2 Years, Israelis Wonder: When Will the Political Morass End?](#)

[‘I Will Die Protecting My Country’: In Myanmar, a New Resistance Rises](#)

### **The Wall Street Journal**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Kamala Harris to Head Administration Effort to Stanch Migrant Surge](#)

[Senate Lawmakers Spar Over Voting Rights Bill](#)

[Democrats Weigh Increases in Corporate, Personal Income-Tax Rates](#)

[Men Looking for Work Drive Surge in Illegal Crossings at the U.S. Border](#)

[Suez Canal Is Blocked by Container Ship Causing Huge Traffic Jam](#)

## **ABC News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Major severe weather outbreak expected in South, tornadoes possible](#)  
[Biden administration allows access to border facility -- but not ones over capacity](#)  
[Yellen sees room for US to borrow, opens door to tax hike](#)

## **CBS News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Kamala Harris to lead efforts to stem migration at southern border](#)  
[White House mulls executive action amid gun reform resistance](#)  
[New evidence shows extremist groups coordinated Capitol siege](#)

## **CNN**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Shame, shame, shame': Schumer and McConnell spar over federal voting rights legislation](#)  
[Biden to highlight gains and face tough scrutiny in first formal news conference](#)  
[North Korea fires two ground-based ballistic missiles, South Korea says](#)

## **Fox News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden still hasn't held a news conference, 63 days and counting](#)  
[Arizona's Ducey calls Harris the 'worst possible choice' to fix border](#)  
[North Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles into Sea of Japan, US official confirms](#)

## **NBC News**

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

[Storm-battered South prepares for possible second tornado outbreak in a week](#)  
[AstraZeneca says its vaccine shows 76 percent efficacy after questions arise about 'outdated information'](#)  
[North Korea launched two ballistic missiles, U.S., Japanese officials say](#)

## **Washington Schedule**

### **President**

[The White House](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

9:30 AM The President receives the President's Daily Brief

10:00 AM In-Town Pool Call Time

1:15 PM The President holds a formal press conference

3:45 PM The President meets virtually with the European Council during its summit

### **Vice President**

[The White House](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

See source link. Schedule not yet available.



## **Senate**

### Senate

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

9:30 AM SD-G50 Armed Services

Hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program.

9:30 AM SR-301 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Hearings to examine Child Nutrition Reauthorization, focusing on healthy meals and healthy futures.

9:30 AM WEBEX Finance

Hearings to examine how U.S. international tax policy impacts American workers, jobs, and investment.

9:45 AM SD-366 Energy and Natural Resources

Hearings to examine the latest developments in the nuclear energy sector, focusing on ways to maintain and expand the use of nuclear energy in the United States and abroad.

10:00 AM SD-106 Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S.632, to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, S.169, to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and the nominations of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

10:00 AM SD-430 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Hearings to examine our COVID-19 response, focusing on improving health equity and outcomes by addressing health disparities.

10:00 AM VTC Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy  
Hearings to examine the U.S. response to the coup in Burma.

10:00 AM WEBEX Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Hearings to examine the American Rescue Plan, focusing on shots in arms and money in pockets.

10:15 AM SD-342/VTC Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Hearings to examine the nomination of Deanne Bennett Criswell, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

11:00 AM SH-216 Budget

Hearings to examine the tax code, focusing on making the wealthiest people

and largest corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

## **House of Representatives**

### [House of Representatives](#)

(3/25/2021 6:00 AM)

11:00 AM Virtual

Business Meeting: Modernization Cohort Listening Session

Host: Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

11:00 AM

Hearing: Leading by Action: The Fierce Urgency for Diversity and Inclusion in the Foreign Policy Workforce

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

11:00 AM 2167 Rayburn HOB

Hearing: The Administrations Priorities for Transportation Infrastructure.

Host: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

12:00 PM

Hearing: Disinformation Nation: Social Media's Role in Promoting Extremism and Misinformation

Host: Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

12:00 PM Cisco WebEx

Hearing: Virtual Hearing - Ending Exploitation: How the Financial System Can Work to Dismantle the Business of Human Trafficking

Host: Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy

12:00 PM Washington

Hearing: A Hearing to Review the State of Black Farmers in the U.S.

Host: Committee on Agriculture

12:00 PM

Hearing: Remote Hearing on Rooting Out Fraud in Small Business Relief Programs

Host: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis

1:00 PM Remote Longworth HOB

Hearing: Examining Private Equity's Expanded Role in the U.S. Health Care System

Host: Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight

1:00 PM

Hearing: Building Technologies Research for a Sustainable Future

Host: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy

1:00 PM

Hearing: The Effects of COVID-19 on Arts and Humanities Organizations

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

1:00 PM via Zoom

Hearing: Lessons Learned: Charting the Path to Educational Equity Post-COVID-19

Host: Committee on Education Labor, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education

1:00 PM CiscoWebEx

Markup: Markup of Various Measures

Host: Committee on Foreign Affairs

2:00 PM 2141 Rayburn HOB

Hearing: The Importance of a Diverse Federal Judiciary

Host: Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet

2:00 PM

Hearing: Restoring Faith by Building Trust: VAs First 100 Days."

Host: Committee on Veterans' Affairs

2:30 PM

Hearing: Creating Equitable Communities through Transportation and Housing

Host: Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and House and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

**{End of Report}**

<USSS News Briefing (3-25-21).docx>

<USSS News Briefing (3-25-21).pdf>

<USSS News Analysis (3-25-21).pdf>

**From:** [JAMES HENRY \(PHL\)](#)  
**To:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**Cc:** [DOUGLAS HENDERSON \(INV\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Politico article  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:40:51 PM

---

Cathy,

Just tried your cell. I'm at a (b) (6), can we talk in the morning?

Jim

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 25, 2021, at 5:27 PM, CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)> wrote:

Jim,

Please call me.

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)  
Cell: (202) (b) (6)

---

**From:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:05 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** RE: Politico article

Cathy,

For awareness, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) a senior PHL agent, received the attached email to his personal email address on 2/25/21. He provided the email to me today after seeing the Politico article. SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) advised he has no idea how this reporter knew who he was, did not know the incident he was referring to, or how he obtained his personal email. He deleted the email and did not respond

Jim

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:04 AM  
**To:** MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> DOUGLAS  
HENDERSON (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [usss.dhs.gov](mailto:usss.dhs.gov)>; JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Politico article

INV/OPO,

For your awareness...the article is total BS as we all know. Leadership is aware and I will let you know if CMR receives any queries.

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the



grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the



police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)

**From:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**To:** [JAMES HENRY \(PHL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [DOUGLAS HENDERSON \(INV\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Politico article  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:58:55 PM

---

Sorry I just saw this. Thanks Jim.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:40:29 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Re: Politico article

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Cathy L. Milhoan  
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**To:** MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> DOUGLAS HENDERSON (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> KIMBERLY CHEATLE (OPO) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>

**Cc:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [ussd.dhs.gov](mailto:ussd.dhs.gov)>; JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>

**Subject:** Politico article

INV/OPO,

For your awareness...the article is total BS as we all know. Leadership is aware and I will let you know if CMR receives any queries.

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary] On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret

Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.

The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.



When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."



Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708

Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)

Cell: (202) (b) (6)

**From:** [THOMAS HUSE \(LEG\)](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) (LEG); [KATHY DIPIPPA \(LEG\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS (Hunter Biden Weapon)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 8:01:22 PM

---

Hi (b) (6), (b) (5)  
(b) (5)—thanks for forwarding.

(b) (5)

Thanks,  
Tom

---

**From:** (b) (6) (LEG) (b) (6) @uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:13 PM  
**To:** THOMAS HUSE (LEG) (b) (6) KATHY DIPIPPA (LEG)  
(b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS (Hunter Biden Weapon)

Hello,

(b) (5)  
(b) (5), (b) (6)

Thank you,

(b) (6)

---

**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 5:18 PM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** cafhq <[cafhq@uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:cafhq@uss.s.dhs.gov)>; cafdetail <[cafdetail@uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:cafdetail@uss.s.dhs.gov)>; (b) (6) (LEG) <(b) (6) @uss.s.dhs.gov>; (b) (6) (LEG) (b) (6) @uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: 2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS (Hunter Biden Weapon)

Sir,

Reference the below and attached; please be advised of the following:

- **(Comment in Letter) “In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency’s involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden’s firearm no later than April 8, 2021.”**
  - U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.
    - Note: This language is direct from CMR’s media response.
- **(Comment in Letter) “Further, USSS failed to fully respond to our October 20, 2020, letter relating to emails that reference travel plans for Hunter Biden involving USSS agents one year after Hunter Biden’s protection ended. We continue to expect a complete response to that letter and ask that you produce all requested records no later than April 8, 2021.”**
  - Pursuant to an email inquiry from Grassley/Johnson staff regarding the status of their prior request, on 3/19/21, CAF coordinated directly with DHS/OLA in order to address responding to the Grassley/Johnson 116<sup>th</sup> inquiry (note: (b) (5) (b) (5) (b) (5)).
    - Per coordinated DHS guidance on 3/19/21, CAF prepared an updated DRAFT response to the Grassley/Johnson request from the 116<sup>th</sup>.
  - (b) (5) (b) (5) (b) (5)
    - (b) (5)

Hoping this information is helpful and let CAF know if anything further is needed.

Note: (COB UPDATE for D2) CAF is **NOT** in receipt of, or aware of, any other inquiries associated with the matter identified.

Thanks,

Ben  
(202) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) \*cell  
pronouns: he/him

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:37 PM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> cafhq <cafhq@uss.s.dhs.gov>; (b) (6) (b) (6) (LEG) (b) (6) @uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: 2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS (Hunter Biden Weapon)

CAF,

Please see the attached letter from Ranking Members Grassley and Johnson regarding the recent news stories associated with Hunter Biden. I will coordinate with SAIC Kramer on CAF actions.

Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

*Assistant Special Agent in Charge*

**U.S. Secret Service**

*Congressional Affairs Program*

(202) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Cell

---

**From:** Flynn-Brown, Josh (Judiciary-Rep) <(b) (6)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:30 PM

**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:uss.s.dhs.gov)>

**Cc:** CEG (Judiciary-Rep) <[CEG@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](mailto:CEG@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)>; Downey, Brian (HSGAC)

<(b) (6)>; Wittmann, Scott (HSGAC)

(b) (6) >

**Subject:** 2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS (Hunter Biden Weapon)

(b) (6) please see the attached letter from Sens. Grassley and Johnson. Please confirm receipt, thank you.

Respectfully,

Joshua Flynn-Brown  
Deputy Chief Investigative Counsel  
Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley  
Committee on the Judiciary  
202-224-5225



**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** Olson, Tyler; USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** Re: Fox News request: Allegations of Secret Service involvement in 2018 Hunter Biden incident  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 8:16:08 AM

---

Tyler,

Good morning. What's a good contact number for you?

Thanks,  
Cathy

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---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:51:26 PM  
**To:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> FOXNEWS.COM>; USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Fox News request: Allegations of Secret Service involvement in 2018 Hunter Biden incident

On Feb. 24, in response to a query from Politico, the Secret Service provided an on the record statement clearly denying agency involvement in an alleged Delaware gun store incident. The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described.

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---

**From:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> FOXNEWS.COM>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:34:26 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Fox News request: Allegations of Secret Service involvement in 2018 Hunter Biden incident

Good afternoon Catherine,

I'm Tyler Olson, a reporter for FoxNews.com.

I spoke with the White House press office a few minutes ago and they said you would be the best point of contact for our inquiry about allegations that the Secret Service was inserted itself into an incident involving a gun belonging to Hunter Biden being thrown in a dumpster outside of a market in Delaware.

Was the Secret Service involved in this, either officially or unofficially, in a role that was recorded or not?

Any other comment you are able to provide?

Thanks!

Tyler

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**From:** [Olson, Tyler](#)  
**To:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\); USSSMEDIAINQUIRY](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fox News request: Allegations of Secret Service involvement in 2018 Hunter Biden incident  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 8:49:15 AM

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<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/hunter-biden-police-report-2018-gun-incident>

	<h2>Fox News Flash top headlines for March 25</h2>
<p>Fox News Flash top headlines are here. Check out what's clicking on Foxnews.com.</p>	
<p><a href="http://www.foxnews.com">www.foxnews.com</a></p>	

---

**From:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> FOXNEWS.COM>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 8:21 AM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)> USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Fox News request: Allegations of Secret Service involvement in 2018 Hunter Biden incident

Cathy -- it's (b) (6)

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 8:16 AM  
**To:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> FOXNEWS.COM>; USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Fox News request: Allegations of Secret Service involvement in 2018 Hunter Biden incident

Tyler,

Good morning. What's a good contact number for you?

Thanks,  
Cathy

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---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:51:26 PM  
**To:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> FOXNEWS.COM>; USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>



**Subject:** Re: Fox News request: Allegations of Secret Service involvement in 2018 Hunter Biden incident

On Feb. 24, in response to a query from Politico, the Secret Service provided an on the record statement clearly denying agency involvement in an alleged Delaware gun store incident. The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described.

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---

**From:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> FOXNEWS.COM>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:34:26 PM

**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>

**Subject:** Fox News request: Allegations of Secret Service involvement in 2018 Hunter Biden incident

Good afternoon Catherine,

I'm Tyler Olson, a reporter for FoxNews.com.

I spoke with the White House press office a few minutes ago and they said you would be the best point of contact for our inquiry about allegations that the Secret Service was inserted itself into an incident involving a gun belonging to Hunter Biden being thrown in a dumpster outside of a market in Delaware.

Was the Secret Service involved in this, either officially or unofficially, in a role that was recorded or not?

Any other comment you are able to provide?

Thanks!

Tyler

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All e-mail to/from this account is subject to official review and is for official use only. Action may be taken in response to any inappropriate use of the Secret Service's e-mail system. This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, law enforcement sensitive, or subject to other disclosure limitations. Such information is loaned to you and should not be further

disseminated without the permission of the Secret Service. If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep, use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.

**From:** [Olson, Tyler](#)  
**To:** [Biddle, Kristina](#); [Doocy, Peter](#); [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Pappas, Alex](#)  
**Subject:** USSS Intro  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 9:06:48 AM

---

Hi Kristina and Peter,

I was working on the Hunter Biden Politico story yesterday and in the process got the following statement from Cathy Milhoan of the U.S. Secret Service:

*On Feb. 24, in response to a query from Politico, the Secret Service provided an on the record statement clearly denying agency involvement in an alleged Delaware gun store incident. The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described.*

Cathy also wanted to get in touch with some of the WH unit folks, so just wanted to loop you in with her on here.

Noting that for our dot com story, Pappas and I decided not to use the statement or mention the Secret Service angle because we were unable to confirm anything on that -- only information about the gun incident itself. Story linked below for reference.

Best,

Tyler

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/hunter-biden-police-report-2018-gun-incident>



## Fox News Flash top headlines for March 25

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**To:** JAMES HENRY (PHL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 9:35:44 AM

---

Sirs.....I must have jinxed myself by mentioning this reporter.

After not hearing from him for a month, this e-mail appeared in my Yahoo in-box yesterday. I will reply, and direct him to the email address provided in SAIC Henry's message.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) politico.com>  
**Date:** March 25, 2021 at 11:52:20 AM EDT  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter

Hi (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FYI <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/25/sources-secret-service-inserted-itself-into-case-of-hunter-bidens-gun-477879>

Are you free for a call this afternoon?

Best,  
Ben

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Politico.com

Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office: 703- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Twitter: @SchreckReports



**From:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**To:** [Ben Schreckinger](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 9:56:21 AM

---

Ben,

We discussed with you that none of the Biden's were our protectees in the years you brought up and therefore we we did not provide security for them. The DSP also told you that in your article.

Cathy  
Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: [\(202\) 406-5708](#)  
Direct: [\(202\) 406-](#)(b) (6)  
Cell: [\(202\) \(b\) \(6\)](#)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:54 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Mike Zapler <(b) (6)@politico.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi Cathy,

Thanks for reaching out. We included the statement you all provided us to that effect. We also had our own reporting.

I know you all declined previously to provide any information about whether the Secret Service had any informal involvement in Joe Biden's security or that of his relatives during this period, but please let us know if that changes, as we'd be interested to understand more about that.

--Ben

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office: 703- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Twitter: [@SchreckReports](#)

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:49 PM  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com>  
**Cc:** Mike Zapler <(b) (6)@politico.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Mike,

Looks like Ben is out of the office. Can you please give me a call?

Thanks,  
Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)  
Cell: (202) (b) (6)

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:18 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com' <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@politico.com>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@politico.com' <(b) (6)@politico.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Ben,

Please give me a call to discuss. We clearly, on more than one occasion, told you that the Secret Service had no involvement in this incident.

Cathy

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service  
(b) (6)

Main: (202) 406-5708  
Direct: (202) 406- (b) (6)  
Cell: (202) (b) (6)



---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:33 PM  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) politico.com>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

To reiterate, the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident.

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) politico.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Just to clarify: Did Secret Service agents ever visit StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply and request records related to Hunter Biden?

Ben Schreckinger  
National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Politico.com  
Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Office: 703 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Twitter: @SchreckReports

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 4:05 PM  
**To:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) politico.com>  
**Cc:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

**EXTERNAL SENDER:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Ben,

Statement, attributable to a USSS spokesperson:

US Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** Ben Schreckinger <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)politico.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:58 AM

**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Hi from a Politico reporter on deadline re:Fall 2018 Wilmington incident

Hi Secret Service media team,

I'm a reporter with Politico preparing a story related to an October 2018 incident in which the Delaware State Police investigated the disposal of a gun belonging to Hunter Biden by his then-girlfriend, Hallie Biden.

During the course of the Delaware State Police investigation, two Secret Service agents went to a gun shop in Wilmington and sought to take possession of the paperwork that Hunter Biden filled out to purchase the gun.

I'm wondering:

1. How did Secret Service agents become involved in this matter?
2. Did this matter fall under Secret Service jurisdiction -- and if so, how?
3. Did Secret Service agents take any other actions related to this matter?
4. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Thanks. My deadline is close of business today.

Best,

Ben Schreckinger

Ben Schreckinger

National Political Correspondent // POLITICO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [Politico.com](#)

Cell/Signal: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Office: 703 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Twitter: [@SchreckReports](#)

All e-mail to/from this account is subject to official review and is for official use only. Action may be taken in response to any inappropriate use of the Secret Service's e-mail system. This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, law enforcement sensitive, or subject to other disclosure limitations. Such information is loaned to you and should not be further disseminated without the permission of the Secret Service. If you have received this e-mail in error, do not keep, use, disclose, or copy it; notify the sender immediately and delete it.

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR); CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** RE: TV Eyes  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 10:56:04 AM

---

Cathy – TVEyes returned a message for the video clip that “TVEyes is not able to make this content available for streaming at this time.” However I was able to pull the transcript at least. I will check back periodically for the video portion. In the meantime, transcript below. The short story here is... we weren’t really the focus of this bit.

---

katie: there is a new scandal with joe biden son hunter. a bizarre case in 2019 with his missing gun. hunters think girlfriend who lost the weapon after tossing it in a grocery store trashing can because she thought he was going to kill himself with it. secret service agents tried to obtain the paperwork with a gun sale from the owner of the store hunter bought it from, but was unsuccessful. then there is a spirit hunter may have broken the law. the report says he answered no to a question on the background check form about using drugs and lying on the form is a felony. so jesse, this is a very bizarre story. the gun was tossed into a trash can and found by a man rummaging through it. and it was a high school so could have gotten someone severely injured had that been loaded in the trash can and that man found it. but hunter seems to leave things around. he left a gun in his truck. and then took it to the grocery store, left his laptop and computer at the repair shop and it gets him in trouble.

jesse: and everybody cleans up after him. that is the story of hunter's life. imagine if don jr. left a firearm in a trash bin up across a school and then the secret service swept in and tried to cover it up here and oh, man, that is something chris cuomo would be allowed to report on my guarantee. hunter biden is just a chaotic person. he's been drug addicted to. apparently he was suicidal. he is reckless. a woman he was obviously with at the time is incredibly irresponsible to have a fit and throw a gun in a place like that. and delaware is a small state. people take care of each other there. joe has been in office 40 years. his son was ag there. law enforcement knows each other. the secret service, of course, we'll take care of a former vp's family. the daughter is definitely on their radar so i can guarantee you that that it was covered up and i'm surprised the median is not saying, danger, prosecute! he will never get prosecuted.

katie: juan, that is the big question. we are hearing a lot about joe biden for the need for more "gun safety measures." and we have hunter biden lying on background check form and it felony but most people have prosecuted ten years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

juan: what strikes me about the story, first, i guess it was the girlfriend, the widow of the girlfriend who threw the gun, not him. but i think the drugs, the computer.

katie: the computer.

jesse: you shouldn't lie on these forms. i don't think it is a cover-up. i think we are hearing about it. i don't know the details of the story but now the computer and then the gun. there is no evidence



that anybody asked him to cover up anything with regards to hunter biden. in fact come i think he has written a book. his troubles have been pretty public.

katie: greg.

greg: he loses a laptop here. he loses a gun over there. he impregnates a stripper. the guy can't keep anything in his pants. but the big point here and you bring it up, how can you push for gun control when your own can can't control his own gun? and this is what bugs me. every family has a counter somewhere here to could be a cousin, but the law isn't that kind, you know, drug addict, addict loser. you don't get this many breaks. this guy, he's not just the black sheep, he's the whole flock. but his deviance is allowed to prosper because his privilege allows him so many chances to keep going. i mean, there is no way a minority kid could have gotten away with this resume of escapades. this is truly a leap privilege. that suicidal mention, i don't know what is going on, but that is generally a lot of times used as manipulation when your lifestyle is threatened by a loved one. if they say they want to take away your drugs or they want you to seek help, no, i will kill myself because i will maintain more kind of gratuitous lifestyle. so he's a prime manipulator. that is what he is. he hurts a lot of people.

katie: dana, for me, this is about hunter biden getting away from lying on a federal form that would be a felony for any other personal while joe biden and other democrats are preaching we need more laws. and yet we are not willing to prosecute hunter biden and an unfair standard of justice.

---

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR) <(b) (6)@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 10:46 AM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)@CMRMediaTeam>  
<CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: TV Eyes

On it.

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)@CMRMediaTeam>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 9:49 AM  
**To:** CMRMediaTeam <[CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** TV Eyes

Media team,

Can someone please pull me the link to the FOX "The Five" segment from last night that references the Delaware story.

Also, the NPR story about the Roy Dotson case.

Thanks

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**From:** (b) (6) (IGL)  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL)  
**Subject:** For Discussion on Monday's call with LEG  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 12:32:24 PM  
**Attachments:** USSS Draft\_reply\_v1.docx

---

Hi Ben,

(b) (5), (b) (6)

Hope it helps!

Thanks,

(b) (6)

(b)

(5)



**From:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**To:** [FARON PARAMORE \(DEP\)](#)  
**Subject:** Transcript  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 12:54:12 PM

---

katie: there is a new scandal with joe biden son hunter. a bizarre case in 2019 with his missing gun. hunters think girlfriend who lost the weapon after tossing it in a grocery store trashing can because she thought he was going to kill himself with it. secret service agents tried to obtain the paperwork with a gun sale from the owner of the store hunter bought it from, but was unsuccessful. then there is a spirit hunter may have broken the law. the report says he answered no to a question on the background check form about using drugs and lying on the form is a felony. so jesse, this is a very bizarre story. the gun was tossed into a trash can and found by a man rummaging through it. and it was a high school so could have gotten someone severely injured had that been loaded in the trash can and that man found it. but hunter seems to leave things around. he left a gun in his truck. and then took it to the grocery store, left his laptop and computer at the repair shop and it gets him in trouble.

jesse: and everybody cleans up after him. that is the story of hunter's life. imagine if don jr. left a firearm in a trash bin up across a school and then the secret service swept in and tried to cover it up here and oh, man, that is something chris cuomo would be allowed to report on my guarantee. hunter biden is just a chaotic person. he's been drug addicted to. apparently he was suicidal. he is reckless. a woman he was obviously with at the time is incredibly irresponsible to have a fit and throw a gun in a place like that. and delaware is a small state. people take care of each other there. joe has been in office 40 years. his son was ag there. law enforcement knows each other. the secret service, of course, we'll take care of a former vp's family. the daughter is definitely on their radar so i can guarantee you that that it was covered up and i'm surprised the median is not saying, danger, prosecute! he will never get prosecuted.

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juan: what strikes me about the story, first, i guess it was the girlfriend, the widow of the girlfriend who threw the gun, not him. but i think the drugs, the computer.

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jesse: you shouldn't lie on these forms. i don't think it is a cover-up. i think we are hearing about it. i don't know the details of the story but now the computer and then the gun. there is no evidence that anybody asked him to cover up anything with regards to hunter biden. in fact come i think he has written a book. his troubles have been pretty public.

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greg: he loses a laptop here. he loses a gun over there. he impregnates a stripper. the guy can't keep anything in his pants. but the big point here and you bring it up, how can you push for gun control when your own can can't control his own gun? and this is what bugs me. every family has a counter somewhere here to could be a cousin, but the law isn't that kind, you know, drug addict, addict loser. you don't get this many breaks. this guy, he's not just the black sheep, he's the whole flock. but his deviance is allowed to prosper because his privilege allows him so many chances to keep going. i mean, there is no way a minority kid could have gotten away with this resume of escapades. this is truly a leap privilege. that suicidal mention, i don't know what is going on, but that is generally a lot of times used as manipulation when your lifestyle is threatened by a loved one. if they say they want to take away your drugs or they want you to seek help, no, i will kill myself because i will maintain more kind of gratuitous lifestyle. so he's a prime manipulator. that is what he is. he hurts a lot of people.

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**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL)  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR); JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL); ROBERT NOVY (IGL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL)  
**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:00:00 PM

---

(b) (5)

Thoughts...?

Ben

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** CMR query + congressional lettet

CAF,

FOX is asking for a response to the confessional letters. Please advise how you would like us to respond

Thanks,  
Cathy  
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---

**From:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> [FOXNEWS.COM](mailto:TYLER.OLSON@FOXNEWS.COM)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:54 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Subject:** text of letter

#### **TEXT OF THE LETTER**

A recent press report detailed an October 2018 incident where a firearm owned by Hunter Biden was discarded in a “trash can behind a grocery store” across from a high school.<sup>1</sup>

After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden’s purchase of the firearm.<sup>2</sup> The owner of the gun store reportedly “refused to supply the paperwork” to the USSS agents due to suspicion that “the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter’s ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime.”<sup>3</sup> The gun store owner reportedly provided the paperwork to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.<sup>4</sup> According to the report, neither Joe Biden nor Hunter Biden were a Secret Service protectee at that time.<sup>5</sup> However, according to this report, a “law enforcement

official” claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware “kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president’s security.”

6 In addition, at the time of the October 2018 incident, the FBI reportedly “responded to the scene”; however, it is unclear what actions, if any, the FBI took.

7 In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency’s involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden’s firearm no later than April 8, 2021

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**From:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:02:45 PM

---

I am guessing I missed a step. What are the confessional letters?

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** CMR query + congressional lettet

CAF,

FOX is asking for a response to the confessional letters. Please advise how you would like us to respond

Thanks,  
Cathy  
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---

**From:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> [FOXNEWS.COM](#)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:54 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Subject:** text of letter

#### **TEXT OF THE LETTER**

A recent press report detailed an October 2018 incident where a firearm owned by Hunter Biden was discarded in a “trash can behind a grocery store” across from a high school.<sup>1</sup>

After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden’s purchase of the firearm.<sup>2</sup> The owner of the gun store reportedly “refused to supply the paperwork” to the USSS agents due to suspicion that “the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter’s ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime.”<sup>3</sup> The gun store owner reportedly provided the paperwork to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.<sup>4</sup> According to the report, neither Joe Biden nor Hunter Biden were a Secret Service protectee at that time.<sup>5</sup> However, according to this report, a “law enforcement official” claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware “kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president’s security.”

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**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL); BENJAMIN KRAMER (VPD); ROBERT NOVY (IGL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL)  
**Subject:** Re: CMR query + congressional lettet  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:05:10 PM

---

Spell check. Sorry. And thanks for the response.

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---

**From:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:04:16 PM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
<(b) (6)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet

Assuming "confessional" is supposed to be "Congressional", (b) (5)  
(b) (5)

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:01 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)> JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet

(b) (5)

Thoughts...?

Ben

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** CMR query + congressional lettet

CAF,

FOX is asking for a response to the confessional letters. Please advise how you would like us to respond

Thanks,  
Cathy



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---

**From:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6) [FOXNEWS.COM](mailto:FOXNEWS.COM)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:54 PM

**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)

**Subject:** text of letter

**TEXT OF THE LETTER**

A recent press report detailed an October 2018 incident where a firearm owned by Hunter Biden was discarded in a “trash can behind a grocery store” across from a high school.<sup>1</sup>

After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden’s purchase of the firearm.<sup>2</sup> The owner of the gun store reportedly “refused to supply the paperwork” to the USSS agents due to suspicion that “the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter’s ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime.”<sup>3</sup> The gun store owner reportedly provided the paperwork to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.<sup>4</sup> According to the report, neither Joe Biden nor Hunter Biden were a Secret Service protectee at that time.<sup>5</sup> However, according to this report, a “law enforcement official” claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware “kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president’s security.”

<sup>6</sup> In addition, at the time of the October 2018 incident, the FBI reportedly “responded to the scene”; however, it is unclear what actions, if any, the FBI took.

<sup>7</sup> In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency’s involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden’s firearm no later than April 8, 2021

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**From:** [BENJAMIN KRAMER \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(IGL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:06:00 PM

---

Re-sent...

---

**From:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:05 PM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet

I wasn't invited

---

**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:04 PM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet

Assuming so... Are you joining us (DAD, LIA, HLS) on this 2:00?

---

**From:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:03 PM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet

I missed a step. What is the confessional letter? Did she mean Congressional?

---

**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:01 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)> JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> [ussd.dhs.gov](mailto:ussd.dhs.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet

(b) (5)

Thoughts...?

Ben

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL)



<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> [uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:uss.s.dhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** CMR query + congressional lettet

CAF,

FOX is asking for a response to the confessional letters. Please advise how you would like us to respond

Thanks,  
Cathy  
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---

**From:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> [FOXNEWS.COM](mailto:FOXNEWS.COM)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:54 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Subject:** text of letter

**TEXT OF THE LETTER**

A recent press report detailed an October 2018 incident where a firearm owned by Hunter Biden was discarded in a “trash can behind a grocery store” across from a high school.<sup>1</sup>

After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden’s purchase of the firearm.<sup>2</sup> The owner of the gun store reportedly “refused to supply the paperwork” to the USSS agents due to suspicion that “the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter’s ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime.”<sup>3</sup> The gun store owner reportedly provided the paperwork to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.<sup>4</sup> According to the report, neither Joe Biden nor Hunter Biden were a Secret Service protectee at that time.<sup>5</sup> However, according to this report, a “law enforcement official” claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware “kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president’s security.”

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message and its attachments that does not relate to the official business of Fox News or Fox Business must not be taken to have been sent or endorsed by either of them. No representation is made that this email or its attachments are without defect.

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** Olson, Tyler; USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** Re: text of letter  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:07:29 PM

---

Thanks Tyler. I am cc'ing our media statement and someone will provide you a statement.  
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---

**From:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> FOXNEWS.COM>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:03 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Subject:** Re: text of letter

Following up with PDF of complete letter

---

**From:** Olson, Tyler  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:53 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** text of letter

#### **TEXT OF THE LETTER**

A recent press report detailed an October 2018 incident where a firearm owned by Hunter Biden was discarded in a "trash can behind a grocery store" across from a high school.<sup>1</sup>

After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden's purchase of the firearm.<sup>2</sup> The owner of the gun store reportedly "refused to supply the paperwork" to the USSS agents due to suspicion that "the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime."<sup>3</sup> The gun store owner reportedly provided the paperwork to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.<sup>4</sup> According to the report, neither Joe Biden nor Hunter Biden were a Secret Service protectee at that time.<sup>5</sup> However, according to this report, a "law enforcement official" claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware "kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security."

<sup>6</sup> In addition, at the time of the October 2018 incident, the FBI reportedly "responded to the scene"; however, it is unclear what actions, if any, the FBI took.

<sup>7</sup> In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency's involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden's firearm no later than April 8, 2021

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**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL)  
**Subject:** Re: CMR query + congressional lettet  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:13:14 PM

---

I'm sorry.

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---

**From:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:07:31 PM

**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>

**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet

Legitimately scared me. I thought someone had come out with a confession.

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:05 PM

**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL)

<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>

<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CMR query + congressional lettet

Spell check. Sorry. And thanks for the response.

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---

**From:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:04:16 PM

**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)

<(b) (6)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>

<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet

Assuming "confessional" is supposed to be "Congressional", (b) (5)

(b) (5)

---

**From:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:01 PM

**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)> JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL)

<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>

<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: CMR query + congressional lettet

(b) (5)

Thoughts...?

Ben

---

**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> ROBERT NOVY (IGL)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> [ussd.dhs.gov](mailto:ussd.dhs.gov)>  
**Subject:** CMR query + congressional lettet

CAF,

FOX is asking for a response to the confessional letters. Please advise how you would like us to respond

Thanks,  
Cathy  
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---

**From:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> [FOXNEWS.COM](mailto:tyler.olson@foxnews.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:54 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Subject:** text of letter

**TEXT OF THE LETTER**

A recent press report detailed an October 2018 incident where a firearm owned by Hunter Biden was discarded in a “trash can behind a grocery store” across from a high school.<sup>1</sup>

After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden’s purchase of the firearm.<sup>2</sup> The owner of the gun store reportedly “refused to supply the paperwork” to the USSS agents due to suspicion that “the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter’s ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime.”<sup>3</sup> The gun store owner reportedly provided the paperwork to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.<sup>4</sup> According to the report, neither Joe Biden nor Hunter Biden were a Secret Service protectee at that time.<sup>5</sup> However, according to this report, a “law enforcement official” claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware “kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president’s security.”

6 In addition, at the time of the October 2018 incident, the FBI reportedly “responded to the scene”; however, it is unclear what actions, if any, the FBI took.

7 In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency’s

involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden's firearm no later than April 8, 2021

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**From:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**To:** "Lorena Mongelli"; USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** RE: Hunter Biden gun incident and text messages  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:48:48 PM

---

Lorena,

We have received your inquiry, would you be able to provide copies of these alleged text messages for reference?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

**From:** Lorena Mongelli (b) (6) nypost.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hunter Biden gun incident and text messages

Good afternoon,

I am a reporter with the NY Post. We are reaching out regarding the Oct. 23, 2018 gun incident involving Hunter Biden. Our office located text messages from a hard drive purportedly from a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden that was dropped off at a computer repair shop and never retrieved.

It appears the text messages were sent from Hunter Biden in which he indicates that the Secret Service did in fact respond to the Oct. 23, 2018 incident. This information contradicts your previous statement relating to the incident and we would like to know whether the Secret Service would like to respond to these new findings.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Regards,

Lorena Mongelli

--

Lorena Mongelli  
Reporter  
New York Post  
1211 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036  
212 (b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) [nypost.com](mailto:nypost.com)



**From:** Lorena Mongelli  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Cc:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** Re: Hunter Biden gun incident and text messages  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 3:43:07 PM

---

Hi (b) (6)

The Daily Mail actually posted copies of the same text messages the NY Post is referencing.

This is what one text message says:

"She stole the gun out of my trunk lock box and threw it in a garbage can full to the top at Jansens [sic]. Then told me it was my problem to deal with," Hunter wrote.

"Then when the police the FBI the secret service came on the scene she said she took it from me because she was scared I would harm myself due to my drug and alcohol problem and our volatile relationship and that she was afraid for the kids."

The Jan. 29, 2019, message adds: "Really not joking the cop kept me convinced that Hallie was implying she was scared of me."

In another text message sent about a month earlier, Biden described the weapon as "my 38," an apparent reference to a .38 caliber revolver.

"Took from lock box of truck and put it IN PapER BAG AND Threw it in trash can at local high end grocer. For no reason," he wrote on Jan. 6, 2018.

"And I freaked when I saw it was missing 10 minutes after she took it and when she went back to get it after I scared the s--t out of her it was gone which led to state police investigation of me. True story."

You can view images of the messages here:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9403757/Texts-Hunter-Biden-therapist-Hallie-Biden-leaving-gun-trashcan.html>

On Fri, Mar 26, 2021 at 2:48 PM (b) (6) (CMR)  
<(b) (6) @uss.dhs.gov> wrote:

Lorena,

We have received your inquiry, would you be able to provide copies of these alleged text messages for reference?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

**From:** Lorena Mongelli <(b) (6) nypost.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hunter Biden gun incident and text messages

Good afternoon,

I am a reporter with the NY Post. We are reaching out regarding the Oct. 23, 2018 gun incident involving Hunter Biden. Our office located text messages from a hard drive purportedly from a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden that was dropped off at a computer repair shop and never retrieved.

It appears the text messages were sent from Hunter Biden in which he indicates that the Secret Service did in fact respond to the Oct. 23, 2018 incident. This information contradicts your previous statement relating to the incident and we would like to know whether the Secret Service would like to respond to these new findings.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Regards,

Lorena Mongelli

--

Lorena Mongelli

Reporter

New York Post

[1211 Avenue of the Americas](#)

[New York, NY 10036](#)

212 (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) [nypost.com](#)



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--

Lorena Mongelli  
Reporter  
New York Post  
1211 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036  
212- (b) (6)  
(b) (6)  
(b) (6) [nypost.com](mailto:(b) (6)@nypost.com)

**To:** Lorena Mongelli  
**Cc:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** RE: Hunter Biden gun incident and text messages  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 3:45:46 PM

---

**From:** Lorena Mongelli (b) (6) nypost.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 3:43 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR) (b) (6) @usss.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hunter Biden gun incident and text messages

Hi Julia,  
The Daily Mail actually posted copies of the same text messages the NY Post is referencing.

This is what one text message says:

"She stole the gun out of my trunk lock box and threw it in a garbage can full to the top at Jansens [sic]. Then told me it was my problem to deal with," Hunter wrote.

"Then when the police the FBI the secret service came on the scene she said she took it from me because she was scared I would harm myself due to my drug and alcohol problem and our volatile relationship and that she was afraid for the kids."

The Jan. 29, 2019, message adds: "Really not joking the cop kept me convinced that Hallie was implying she was scared of me."

In another text message sent about a month earlier, Biden described the weapon as "my 38," an apparent reference to a .38 caliber revolver.

"Took from lock box of truck and put it IN PapER BAG AND Threw it in trash can at local high end grocer. For no reason," he wrote on Jan. 6, 2018.

"And I freaked when I saw it was missing 10 minutes after she took it and when she went back to get it after I scared the s--t out of her it was gone which led to state police investigation of me. True story."

You can view images of the messages here:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9403757/Texts-Hunter-Biden-therapist-Hallie-Biden-leaving-gun-trashcan.html>

On Fri, Mar 26, 2021 at 2:48 PM (b) (6) (CMR)  
(b) (6) @usss.dhs.gov> wrote:

Lorena,

We have received your inquiry, would you be able to provide copies of these alleged text messages for reference?

Thanks,

(b) (6)

**From:** Lorena Mongelli (b) (6) nypost.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:20 PM

**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <[USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov](mailto:USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov)>

**Subject:** Hunter Biden gun incident and text messages

Good afternoon,

I am a reporter with the NY Post. We are reaching out regarding the Oct. 23, 2018 gun incident involving Hunter Biden. Our office located text messages from a hard drive purportedly from a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden that was dropped off at a computer repair shop and never retrieved.

It appears the text messages were sent from Hunter Biden in which he indicates that the Secret Service did in fact respond to the Oct. 23, 2018 incident. This information contradicts your previous statement relating to the incident and we would like to know whether the Secret Service would like to respond to these new findings.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Regards,

Lorena Mongelli

--

Lorena Mongelli

Reporter

New York Post

[1211 Avenue of the Americas](#)

[New York, NY 10036](#)

212- (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) [nypost.com](#)

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--

Lorena Mongelli

Reporter

New York Post

1211 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10036

212- (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6) [nypost.com](#)

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**To:** "Lorena Mongelli"; USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** RE: Hunter Biden gun incident and text messages  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 3:47:53 PM

---

Lorena,

On Feb. 24, in response to a query from Politico, the Secret Service provided an on the record statement clearly denying agency involvement in an alleged Delaware gun store incident. The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

**From:** Lorena Mongelli <(b) (6)@nypost.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:23 PM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Hunter Biden gun incident and text messages

Good afternoon,

I am a reporter with the NY Post. We are reaching out regarding the Oct. 23, 2018 gun incident involving Hunter Biden. Our office located text messages from a hard drive purportedly from a laptop belonging to Hunter Biden that was dropped off at a computer repair shop and never retrieved.

It appears the text messages were sent from Hunter Biden in which he indicates that the Secret Service did in fact respond to the Oct. 23, 2018 incident. This information contradicts your previous statement relating to the incident and we would like to know whether the Secret Service would like to the new findings.

This is a deadline story and we appreciate a timely response.

Regards,

Lorena Mongelli

NY Post  
Reporter

(b) (6)

212-(b) (6)

--

Lorena Mongelli  
Reporter  
New York Post  
1211 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036  
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--

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New York, NY 10036  
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(b) (6)  
(b) (6) [nypost.com](mailto:(b) (6)@nypost.com)



**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** (b) (6) (CMR); CMRMediaTeam  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Comment  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 3:57:00 PM

---

You bet!

---

**From:** (b) (6) (CMR)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 3:57 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>; CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Comment

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for some reason I don't have that email in my inbox, please send that to Zach.

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 3:52 PM  
**To:** CMRMediaTeam <CMRMediaTeam@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Comment

DRAFT

On Feb. 24, in response to a query from Politico, the Secret Service provided an on the record statement clearly denying agency involvement in an alleged Delaware gun store incident. The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described.

**From:** Zack Stieber (b) (6) @epochtimes.nyc>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 6:29 AM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for Comment

Hi there,

Good morning. Did the Secret Service insert itself into a Hunter Biden gun case, as this report details? <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/25/sources-secret-service-inserted-itself-into-case-of-hunter-bidens-gun-477879>

Thanks,  
Zack Stieber  
The Epoch Times  
(b) (6)



**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** Zack Stieber  
**Cc:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Comment  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 3:59:00 PM

---

Hi Zack,

On Feb. 24, in response to a query from Politico, the Secret Service provided an on the record statement clearly denying agency involvement in an alleged Delaware gun store incident. The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described.

Thank you

**From:** Zack Stieber (b) (6) @epochtimes.nyc>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 6:29 AM  
**To:** USSSMEDIAINQUIRY <USSSMediaInquiry@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for Comment

Hi there,

Good morning. Did the Secret Service insert itself into a Hunter Biden gun case, as this report details? <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/03/25/sources-secret-service-inserted-itself-into-case-of-hunter-bidens-gun-477879>

Thanks,  
Zack Stieber  
The Epoch Times  
(b) (6)

**From:** [FARON PARAMORE \(DEP\)](#)  
**To:** [MICHAEL D AMBROSIO \(INV\)](#)  
**Subject:** Article  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 4:18:54 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Faron K. Paramore  
Deputy Director  
United States Secret Service

#202-406-[REDACTED] – Office  
#202-[REDACTED] – Cell #

[https://urldefense.us/v3/https://nypost.com/2021/03/26/hunter-biden-texts-shoot-down-secret-service-denial-over-gun-incident/\\_\\_;!!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!UrFLvT22AXgKGhSx-2fWNmrF3ID4nCX-6yr5cwoxQ9Ra8bLzq9CEgRg8KJlbsoqC0fpIpa4O\\$](https://urldefense.us/v3/https://nypost.com/2021/03/26/hunter-biden-texts-shoot-down-secret-service-denial-over-gun-incident/__;!!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!UrFLvT22AXgKGhSx-2fWNmrF3ID4nCX-6yr5cwoxQ9Ra8bLzq9CEgRg8KJlbsoqC0fpIpa4O$)

**From:** [BENJAMIN KRAMER \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) (LEG); (b) (6) (LEG); (b) (6) (IGL); (b) (6) (IGL);  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (IGL)  
**Subject:** CAF and LEG - RHB Materials Discussion  
**Attachments:** [DraftPre-Decisional - DHS Review Requested U.S. Secret Service Responsive Materials .msg](#)  
[FW 2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS \(Hunter Biden Weapon\).msg](#)  
[2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS \(Hunter Biden Weapon\).pdf](#)  
[USSS Draft reply v1.docx](#)  
[RE 2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS \(Hunter Biden Weapon\).msg](#)

---

DRAFT CAF letter attached (for discussion in the meeting reference indication of materials submitted to DHS...)

---

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<[https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=c1de70df-c617-41cc-9046-d336621cf38a&tenantId=851a4685-9fa8-4bee-ab14-8828cb079b39&threadId=19\\_meeting\\_NDhkNmRkMzEtY2Q0YS00NjQ0LTgwNDktZjlkOGY0MWFhYWY4@thread%2F0&messageId=0&language=en-US](https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=c1de70df-c617-41cc-9046-d336621cf38a&tenantId=851a4685-9fa8-4bee-ab14-8828cb079b39&threadId=19_meeting_NDhkNmRkMzEtY2Q0YS00NjQ0LTgwNDktZjlkOGY0MWFhYWY4@thread%2F0&messageId=0&language=en-US)> | Legal <<https://www.secretservice.gov/contact/>>

---

**From:** [BENJAMIN KRAMER \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(IGL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [cafhq; cafdetail; \(b\) \(6\) \(LEG\); \(b\) \(6\) \(LEG\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS (Hunter Biden Weapon)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 5:17:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS \(Hunter Biden Weapon\).pdf](#)

---

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2021

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

Mr. James. M. Murray  
Director  
U.S. Secret Service

Dear Director Murray:

A recent press report detailed an October 2018 incident where a firearm owned by Hunter Biden was discarded in a “trash can behind a grocery store” across from a high school.<sup>1</sup>

After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden’s purchase of the firearm.<sup>2</sup> The owner of the gun store reportedly “refused to supply the paperwork” to the USSS agents due to suspicion that “the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter’s ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime.”<sup>3</sup> The gun store owner reportedly provided the paperwork to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.<sup>4</sup> According to the report, neither Joe Biden nor Hunter Biden was a Secret Service protectee at that time.<sup>5</sup> However, according to this report, a “law enforcement official” claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware “kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president’s security.”<sup>6</sup> If true, USSS must explain to Congress why such informal actions were taken and whether they were necessary in light of the circumstances.

In addition, at the time of the October 2018 incident, the FBI reportedly “responded to the scene”; however, it is unclear what actions, if any, the FBI took.<sup>7</sup>

In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency’s involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden’s firearm no later than April 8, 2021. Further, USSS failed to fully respond to our October 20, 2020, letter relating to emails that reference travel plans for Hunter Biden involving USSS agents one year after

---

<sup>1</sup> Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, *Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden’s gun*, Politico (March 25, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> According to USSS records, Hunter Biden enrolled as a protectee starting in January 2009 and declined USSS protection after July 8, 2014. See S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff. & S. Comm. on Fin., *Hunter Biden, Burisma, and Corruption: The Impact on U.S. Government Policy and Related Concerns* at 31 (Sept. 2020), [https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HSGAC\\_Finance\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HSGAC_Finance_Report_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, *Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden’s gun*, Politico (March 25, 2021).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

Hunter Biden's protection ended. We continue to expect a complete response to that letter and ask that you produce all requested records no later than April 8, 2021.

Should you have questions, please contact Joshua Flynn-Brown of Senator Grassley's Committee staff at 202-224-5225 and Brian Downey and Scott Wittmann of Senator Johnson's Subcommittee staff at 202-224-3721. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary



Ron Johnson  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee  
on Investigations



(b)

(5)

**From:** External: (b) (6) @HQ.DHS.GOV  
**To:** (b) (6); (b) (7)(C); (IGL); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6);  
(b) (6)  
**Cc:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL); (b) (6) External: (b) (6) @HQ.DHS.GOV  
**Subject:** RE: 2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS (Hunter Biden Weapon)  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 3:15:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS \(Hunter Biden Weapon\).pdf](#)

---

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2021

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

Mr. James. M. Murray  
Director  
U.S. Secret Service

Dear Director Murray:

A recent press report detailed an October 2018 incident where a firearm owned by Hunter Biden was discarded in a “trash can behind a grocery store” across from a high school.<sup>1</sup>

After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden’s purchase of the firearm.<sup>2</sup> The owner of the gun store reportedly “refused to supply the paperwork” to the USSS agents due to suspicion that “the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter’s ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime.”<sup>3</sup> The gun store owner reportedly provided the paperwork to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.<sup>4</sup> According to the report, neither Joe Biden nor Hunter Biden was a Secret Service protectee at that time.<sup>5</sup> However, according to this report, a “law enforcement official” claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware “kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president’s security.”<sup>6</sup> If true, USSS must explain to Congress why such informal actions were taken and whether they were necessary in light of the circumstances.

In addition, at the time of the October 2018 incident, the FBI reportedly “responded to the scene”; however, it is unclear what actions, if any, the FBI took.<sup>7</sup>

In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency’s involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden’s firearm no later than April 8, 2021. Further, USSS failed to fully respond to our October 20, 2020, letter relating to emails that reference travel plans for Hunter Biden involving USSS agents one year after

---

<sup>1</sup> Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, *Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden’s gun*, Politico (March 25, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> According to USSS records, Hunter Biden enrolled as a protectee starting in January 2009 and declined USSS protection after July 8, 2014. See S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff. & S. Comm. on Fin., *Hunter Biden, Burisma, and Corruption: The Impact on U.S. Government Policy and Related Concerns* at 31 (Sept. 2020), [https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HSGAC\\_Finance\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HSGAC_Finance_Report_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, *Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden’s gun*, Politico (March 25, 2021).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

Hunter Biden's protection ended. We continue to expect a complete response to that letter and ask that you produce all requested records no later than April 8, 2021.

Should you have questions, please contact Joshua Flynn-Brown of Senator Grassley's Committee staff at 202-224-5225 and Brian Downey and Scott Wittmann of Senator Johnson's Subcommittee staff at 202-224-3721. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ron Johnson  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee  
on Investigations

**From:** [MICHAEL D AMBROSIO \(INV\)](#)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**Subject:** FW: Article  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 4:38:00 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

I will call shortly

-----Original Message-----

**From:** FARON PARAMORE (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 4:19 PM  
**To:** MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Article  
**Importance:** High

Faron K. Paramore  
Deputy Director  
United States Secret Service

#202-406- (b) (6) – Office  
#202- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) – Cell #

[https://urldefense.us/v3/\\_https://nypost.com/2021/03/26/hunter-biden-texts-shoot-down-secret-service-denial-over-gun-incident/\\_:!!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!UrFLvT22AXgKGhSx-2fWNmrF3ID4nCX-6yr5cwoxQ9Ra8bLzq9CEgRg8KJlbsoqC0fpIpa4O\\$](https://urldefense.us/v3/_https://nypost.com/2021/03/26/hunter-biden-texts-shoot-down-secret-service-denial-over-gun-incident/_:!!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!UrFLvT22AXgKGhSx-2fWNmrF3ID4nCX-6yr5cwoxQ9Ra8bLzq9CEgRg8KJlbsoqC0fpIpa4O$)

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**To:** MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV)  
**Subject:** Re: Article  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 4:46:32 PM

---

Roger

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 4:38:46 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Article

I will call shortly

-----Original Message-----

**From:** FARON PARAMORE (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 4:19 PM  
**To:** MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Article  
**Importance:** High

Faron K. Paramore  
Deputy Director  
United States Secret Service

#202-406- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) – Office  
#202- (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) – Cell #

[https://urldefense.us/v3/\\_https://nypost.com/2021/03/26/hunter-biden-texts-shoot-down-secret-service-denial-over-gun-incident/\\_:!!BCIRuOV5cvfbuNI!UrFLyT22AXgKGhSx-2fWNmrF3ID4nCX-6yr5cwoxQ9Ra8bLzq9CEgRg8KJIbsoqC0fpIpa4O\\$](https://urldefense.us/v3/_https://nypost.com/2021/03/26/hunter-biden-texts-shoot-down-secret-service-denial-over-gun-incident/_:!!BCIRuOV5cvfbuNI!UrFLyT22AXgKGhSx-2fWNmrF3ID4nCX-6yr5cwoxQ9Ra8bLzq9CEgRg8KJIbsoqC0fpIpa4O$)



**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** Olson, Tyler; USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** Re: text of letter  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:07:29 PM

---

Thanks Tyler. I am cc'ing our media statement and someone will provide you a statement.  
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---

**From:** Olson, Tyler <(b) (6)> FOXNEWS.COM>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 2:03 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Subject:** Re: text of letter

Following up with PDF of complete letter

---

**From:** Olson, Tyler  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 1:53 PM  
**To:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** text of letter

#### **TEXT OF THE LETTER**

A recent press report detailed an October 2018 incident where a firearm owned by Hunter Biden was discarded in a "trash can behind a grocery store" across from a high school.<sup>1</sup>

After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden's purchase of the firearm.<sup>2</sup> The owner of the gun store reportedly "refused to supply the paperwork" to the USSS agents due to suspicion that "the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime."<sup>3</sup> The gun store owner reportedly provided the paperwork to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.<sup>4</sup> According to the report, neither Joe Biden nor Hunter Biden were a Secret Service protectee at that time.<sup>5</sup> However, according to this report, a "law enforcement official" claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware "kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security."

<sup>6</sup> In addition, at the time of the October 2018 incident, the FBI reportedly "responded to the scene"; however, it is unclear what actions, if any, the FBI took.

<sup>7</sup> In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency's involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden's firearm no later than April 8, 2021

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deliver this message or its attachments to anyone. Rather, you should permanently delete this message and its attachments and kindly notify the sender by reply e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments that does not relate to the official business of Fox News or Fox Business must not be taken to have been sent or endorsed by either of them. No representation is made that this email or its attachments are without defect.

**From:** [GEORGE MULLIGAN \(COO\)](#)  
**To:** [FARON PARAMORE \(DEP\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re:  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 7:07:24 PM

---

Copy. Thanks. -g

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---

**From:** FARON PARAMORE (DEP) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 5:55:17 PM  
**To:** GEORGE MULLIGAN (COO) <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** FW:

FYSA.

Faron K. Paramore  
Deputy Director  
United States Secret Service

#202-406-(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) – Office  
#202-(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) – Cell #

[https://urldefense.us/v3/\\_https://nypost.com/2021/03/26/hunter-biden-texts-shoot-down-secret-service-denial-over-gun-incident/\\_:!!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!UrFLvT22AXgKGhSx-2fWNmrF3ID4nCX-6yr5cwoxQ9Ra8bLzq9CEgRg8KJtbsqC0fpIpa4O\\$](https://urldefense.us/v3/_https://nypost.com/2021/03/26/hunter-biden-texts-shoot-down-secret-service-denial-over-gun-incident/_:!!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!UrFLvT22AXgKGhSx-2fWNmrF3ID4nCX-6yr5cwoxQ9Ra8bLzq9CEgRg8KJtbsqC0fpIpa4O$)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [BENJAMIN KRAMER \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** [cafhq](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Article  
**Date:** Saturday, March 27, 2021 9:36:55 AM

---

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Received.

Ben

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---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 27, 2021 9:23:21 AM  
**To:** cafdetail <cafdetail@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Article

Team,  
Please see the article below:

<https://nypost.com/2021/03/26/hunter-biden-texts-shoot-down-secret-service-denial-over-gun-incident/>

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**From:** CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**To:** Olson, Tyler; Biddle, Kristina; Doocy, Peter  
**Cc:** Pappas, Alex; USSSMEDIAINQUIRY  
**Subject:** Secret Service statement  
**Date:** Saturday, March 27, 2021 6:47:05 PM

---

Kristina and Peter,

Good evening. Even though we have provided FOX our statement on at least two occasions it continues to not be referenced in reporting across FOX shows.

The Secret Service had NO involvement in an alleged gun store incident in Delaware.

I would appreciate it if you can ensure this on the record statement is used in your ongoing coverage.

Happy to chat in more detail and available on my cell.

Thanks,  
Cathy

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Olson, Tyler (b) (6) FOXNEWS.COM>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 9:06 AM  
**To:** Biddle, Kristina; Doocy, Peter; CATHERINE MILHOAN (CMR)  
**Cc:** Pappas, Alex  
**Subject:** USSS Intro

Hi Kristina and Peter,

I was working on the Hunter Biden Politico story yesterday and in the process got the following statement from Cathy Milhoan of the U.S. Secret Service:

*On Feb. 24, in response to a query from Politico, the Secret Service provided an on the record statement clearly denying agency involvement in an alleged Delaware gun store incident. The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described.*

Cathy also wanted to get in touch with some of the WH unit folks, so just wanted to loop you in with her on here.

Noting that for our dot com story, Pappas and I decided not to use the statement or mention the Secret Service angle because we were unable to confirm anything on that -- only information about the gun incident itself. Story linked below for reference.

Best,



Tyler

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/hunter-biden-police-report-2018-gun-incident>

	<h2>Fox News Flash top headlines for March 25</h2>
	<p>Fox News Flash top headlines are here. Check out what's clicking on Foxnews.com.</p>
	<p><a href="http://www.foxnews.com">www.foxnews.com</a></p>

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**From:** [BENJAMIN KRAMER \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** (b) (6) (IGL)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL)  
**Subject:** RE: AD Sheridan Briefing Sheet - Monday March 29  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 10:23:03 AM

---

(b) (6)

Technical difficulties... needing to send CAF AD brief information via a direct email.

Thanks for the flexibility,

Ben

-  
---

**HOUSE/SENATE CALENDAR:**

- Only the Senate is in session.

**SCHEDULED DIRECTOR MEETINGS:**

- None Scheduled.

**HEARINGS:**

- No hearings of note are scheduled at this time.

**SCHEDULED BRIEFS:**

- None Scheduled

**SUBSTANTIVE CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS**

- 3.11.21, letter from Sen. Peters (HSGAC) et. al. to DHS S1 and DIR Murray et. al. reference events at the Capitol on 1.6.21.
  - DHS has “the pen” for response to this letter (and Secret Service will be a clearing component).
  - (b) (5)
- 3.25.21, letter from Sen. Grassley and Sen. Johnson to DIR Murray reference Hunter Biden and an October 2018 “weapon” incident (plus prior document production as requested during the 116<sup>th</sup>).
  - (b) (5)
- 3.25.21, letter from Chairwoman Maloney (COR) to DHS S1 reference events on 1/6/21
  - (b) (5)

**CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS:**

- The Secret Service Premium Pay report; required by Secret Service Overtime Pay Extension Act (Public Law No: 116-269) – **DUE: 1.31.21**
  - (b) (5) [REDACTED]
    - On 2.26.21, Congressional Committees notified of report timeline expectations.
- “Sec. 542” Reporting – **DUE: 2.10.21**
  - On 2.11.21, CAF notified DHS of report timeline expectations.
    - (b) (5) [REDACTED]  
(b) (5) [REDACTED].

**OTHER:**

N/A

---

**From:** (b) (6) [REDACTED] (IGL) <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@ussd.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 10:01 AM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED] (LIA)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [REDACTED]@ussd.dhs.gov>; (b) (6) [REDACTED] (IGL) (b) (6) [REDACTED]@USSS.DHS.GOV>;  
(b) (6) [REDACTED] (IGL) <(b) (6) [REDACTED]@ussd.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** AD Sheridan Briefing Sheet - Monday March 29

Friendly Reminder

Negative responses preferred.

Thx!

**From:** (b) (6) (IGL)  
**To:** (b) (6) (LEG)  
**Cc:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL); (b) (6) (IGL)  
**Subject:** New Language (DRAFT)  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 11:15:31 AM  
**Attachments:** USSS Draft reply v2.docx

---

Hi (b) (6)

Here is the new draft.

Thanks!

(b) (6)

(b)

(5)

**From:** (b) (6) (IGL)  
**To:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(INV\)](#)  
**Cc:** [ROBERT NOVY \(IGL\)](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL); [BENJAMIN KRAMER \(IGL\)](#)  
**Subject:** AD Sheridan Briefing Sheet - Monday, March 29  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 11:45:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [AD Briefing Sheet Thursday, March 29, 2021.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Good morning AD Sheridan,

Attached please find your Briefing Sheet for today, Monday, March 29.

I apologize for the tardy submission, as we have experienced technical difficulties with Outlook.

Have a good day,

(b) (6)

## AD Sheridan Briefing Sheet

Monday, March 29

### Congressional Affairs Program

#### House / Senate Calendar

The House is out of session.

The Senate is in session, today.

#### Scheduled Director Meetings

None.

#### Scheduled Hearings

No hearings of note.

#### Scheduled Briefs

None.

#### Substantive Congressional Letters

March 11, letter from Sen. Peters (HSGAC,) et. al. to DHS SI and DIR Murray, et. al. reference events at the Capitol on January 6.

- DHS has “the pen” for response to this letter (USSS will be a clearing component.)

- (b) (5)

- March 25, letter from Sen. Grassley and Sen. Johnson to DIR Murray reference Hunter Biden and an October 2018 “weapon” incident (plus prior document production as requested during 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.)

- (b) (5)

- March 25, letter from Chairwoman Maloney (COR) to DHS SI reference January 6 events.

- (b) (5)

#### Outstanding Congressional Reports (All Repeat)

January 31, 2021, DUE DATE. The Secret Service Premium Pay report; required by Secret Service Overtime Pay Extension Act (Public Law No: 116-269.)

- (b) (5)



- February 24, Congressional Committees notified of report timeline expectations.

February 10, "Sec. 542" Reporting DUE DATE.

- February 11, CAF notified DHS of report timeline expectations.

- (b) (5)

## Homeland Security Affairs Program

### Director Meetings

None.

### DHS Scheduled Briefs

None.

### DHS Events

None.

## Executive Secretariat

### Current Status of CHS Letters to SI (USSS is Lead)

Chairman Thompson letter from the previous (116th) Congress on protection costs for former President Trump and his adult children was originally coordinated by DHS OGC Oversight; lead was turned over to USSS at end of previous Administration. USSS has drafted response, cleared by DHS Components, and submitted to DHS Front Office on March 16, for final SI signature/transmittal.

Cleared by DHS Front Office and provided to OLA for signature/transmission on evening of March 26 (b) (5) OLA has not provided transmittal information as of March 29, 9:00 a.m.

## Liaison Division

### Assignments for Office of the Director

None.

### Protectee Visits at LIA Sites

Capitol Hill – Open Schedule

Inter-Agency – Open Schedule

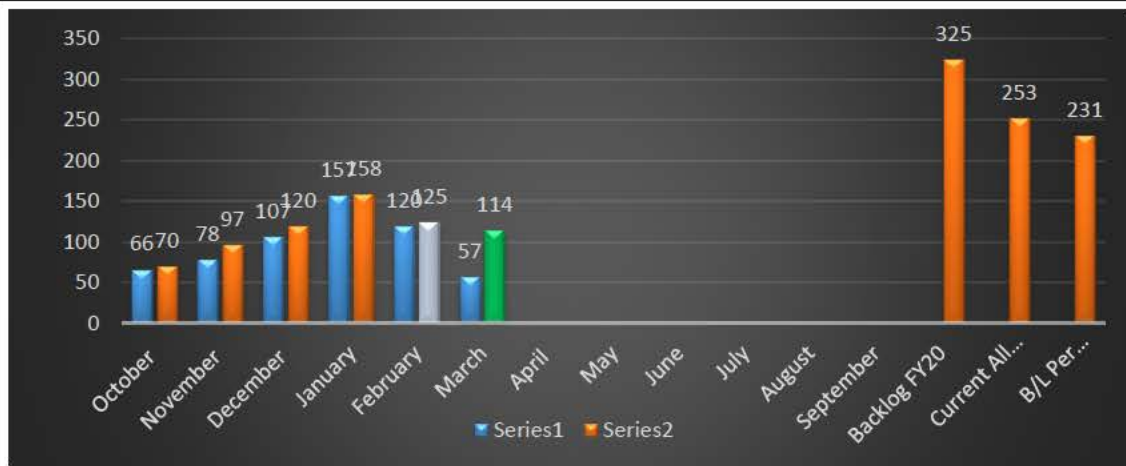
### Meetings / Special Events / Other

March 29, (10:30 a.m.) Lt (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (UD)/LIA is scheduled for a meeting with the Ambassador at the Embassy of Slovenia, regarding the (b) (6).

SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) – Bangkok TDY for period of March 6 - April 3, 2021. (Repeat)

## Freedom of Information Program

FOIA Breakdown 3/29/2021		
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Closed</u>
October 2020	66	70
November 2020	78	97
December 2020	107	120
January 2021	157	158
February 2021	120	125
March 2021	57	114
<b>Backlog FY20</b>		<b>325</b>
Current All USSS Backlog		253
<b>DHS/DOJ Guidelines</b>		<b>231</b>



FOIA Page Numbers: 3/29/2021		
	<u>Released</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>
October 2020	932	6,216
November 2020	1,726	8,757
December 2020	2,791	12,988
January 2021	2,543	6,073
February 2021	1,320	29,481
March 2021	3,006	18,011
FY21 Totals	12,318	81,526
<b>FY20 Totals</b>	<b>37,049</b>	

## Privacy Program

### Meetings

None.

### Privacy Events/Other

None.

END

**From:** (b) (6) (IGL)  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (INV)  
**Cc:** ROBERT NOVY (IGL); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL); BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL); (b) (6) (IGL)  
**Subject:** \*AMENDED\* AD Sheridan Briefing Sheet - Monday, March 29  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 11:54:23 AM  
**Attachments:** AD Briefing Sheet Thursday, March 29, 2021.docx  
**Importance:** High

---

AD Sheridan,

UPDATED version, attached, please find your Briefing Sheet for today, Monday, March 29.

---

**From:** (b) (6) (IGL)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 11:46 AM  
**To:** JEREMY SHERIDAN (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** ROBERT NOVY (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (IGL)  
<(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>; BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** AD Sheridan Briefing Sheet - Monday, March 29  
**Importance:** High

Good morning AD Sheridan,

Attached please find your Briefing Sheet for today, Monday, March 29.

I apologize for the tardy submission, as we have experienced technical difficulties with Outlook.

Have a good day,

(b) (6)

## AD Sheridan Briefing Sheet

Monday, March 29

### Congressional Affairs Program

#### House / Senate Calendar

The House is out of session.

The Senate is in session, today.

#### Scheduled Director Meetings

None.

#### Scheduled Hearings

No hearings of note.

#### Scheduled Briefs

None.

#### Substantive Congressional Letters

March 11, letter from Sen. Peters (HSGAC,) et. al. to DHS SI and DIR Murray, et. al. reference events at the Capitol on January 6.

- DHS has “the pen” for response to this letter (USSS will be a clearing component.)
  - March 24 deadline, CAF has requested response to various questions in the letter from applicable Directorates.

- (b) (5)

March 25, letter from Sen. Grassley and Sen. Johnson to DIR Murray reference Hunter Biden and an October 2018 “weapon” incident (plus prior document production as requested during 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.)

- (b) (5)

March 25, letter from Chairwoman Maloney (COR) to DHS SI reference January 6 events.

- (b) (5)

#### Outstanding Congressional Reports (All Repeat)

January 31, 2021, DUE DATE. The Secret Service Premium Pay report; required by Secret Service Overtime Pay Extension Act (Public Law No: 116-269.)

- (b) (5)



- February 24, Congressional Committees notified of report timeline expectations.

February 10, "Sec. 542" Reporting DUE DATE.

- February 11, CAF notified DHS of report timeline expectations.

- (b) (5)

## Homeland Security Affairs Program

### Director Meetings

None.

### DHS Scheduled Briefs

None.

### DHS Events

None.

## Executive Secretariat

### Current Status of CHS Letters to SI (USSS is Lead)

Chairman Thompson letter from the previous (116th) Congress on protection costs for former President Trump and his adult children was originally coordinated by DHS OGC Oversight; lead was turned over to USSS at end of previous Administration. USSS has drafted response, cleared by DHS Components, and submitted to DHS Front Office on March 16, for final SI signature/transmittal. Cleared by DHS Front Office and provided to OLA for signature/transmission on evening of March 26 (b) (5) OLA has not provided transmittal information as of March 29, 9:00 a.m.

## Liaison Division

### Assignments for Office of the Director

None.

### Protectee Visits at LIA Sites

Capitol Hill – Open Schedule

Inter-Agency – Open Schedule

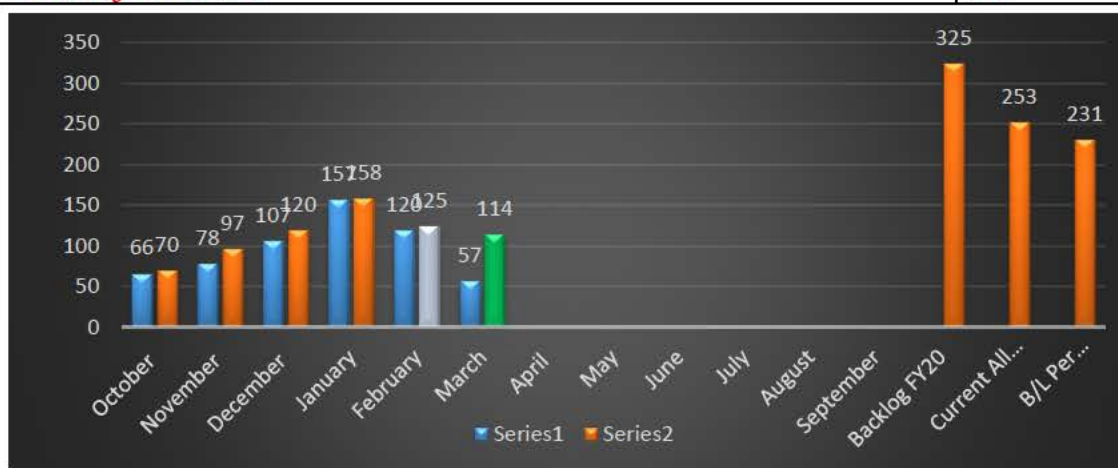
### Meetings / Special Events / Other

March 29, (10:30 a.m.) Lt. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (UD)/LIA is scheduled for a meeting with the Ambassador at the Embassy of Slovenia, regarding the (b) (6).

SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) – Bangkok TDY for period of March 6 - April 3, 2021. (Repeat)

## Freedom of Information Program

FOIA Breakdown 3/29/2021		
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Closed</u>
October 2020	66	70
November 2020	78	97
December 2020	107	120
January 2021	157	158
February 2021	120	125
March 2021	57	114
<b>Backlog FY20</b>		<b>325</b>
Current All USSS Backlog		253
<b>DHS/DOJ Guidelines</b>		<b>231</b>



FOIA Page Numbers: 3/29/2021		
	<u>Released</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>
October 2020	932	6,216
November 2020	1,726	8,757
December 2020	2,791	12,988
January 2021	2,543	6,073
February 2021	1,320	29,481
March 2021	3,006	18,011
FY21 Totals	12,318	81,526
<b>FY20 Totals</b>	<b>37,049</b>	

## Privacy Program

### Meetings

None.

### Privacy Events/Other

None.

END



**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**To:** CMRMediaTeam  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT Bongino backs the Service  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 1:56:28 PM

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The segment begins with 7 minutes left in his show and at 4 mins he backs the Service (show is memorialized on Spotify).

---

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 1:54 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** DRAFT Bongino backs the Service

Story many of you been waiting for it to the end of the show but I wanna be able to talk about it show the story broke last week in political Tara Paul Mary and then Shrek in I'll let it go and I'll have this in the show notes in my sources Incident father trashcan a man searching for recycle bowls and eventually All right and I didn't OK the book of all the books I federal law-enforcement I got a ton of emails about the Secret Service hunter Biden story totally get it because folks again it's not important for me to be first it's important for me to be right so I did a lot of homework and homework got a lot of different perspectives heard a lot of things I'm gonna tell you what and you can read it again in the newsletter today is that Hunter Biden had a fight with his brothers widower he was having a romantic relationship at the time don't even try to figure that out that's it and his brother is deceased brother why after this dispute apparently took a firearm Hunter had and discarded it nearest supermarket my trashcan in Delaware some sources then told politico that the weapon which was purchased pursuant to the filling out of a 4473 anytime you go to federal Firesteel you have to fill out a 4473 are you on drugs I filled it out There were some narcotics drug use wondering how we answer that question apparently to get it he had to fill out that he wasn't at the time I don't know he's gonna have to explain that someday but reportedly that 4473 political saying you follow me if this doesn't make sense Joe stop in here service agents went to the gun shop we're Hunter Biden purchased farm and filled out that form and they tried to get access to the foreman were denied by the federal firearms dealer who rob a dealer who rob OK the boys are the bomb time there and I really want to fix it but the book was not particularly clock kind of some of their procedures when things go wrong messed up I'm hearing from extremely reliable sources I wouldn't pass them on and ruin my reputation otherwise and it is a lien I have to apologize to you later and I did a lot of homework on this stream Lee reliable sources were pretty unimpeachable on the matter never happen throwing away the garbage can service and I average on everything that never steered me wrong if it turns out later that did happen the story is proven true I will absolutely correct it on the year but I would be remiss in doing you a huge disservice if I did not tell you that folks the people who are telling me this never happened are extremely credible and I've never let me down and by the way I've never apologize when they screwed something up what happened they were like all right they're telling me this never happened at the Secret Service ad and saying it never happened I get a lot of you don't believe that and that's fine my guys are telling me that there is no way that this story happened they did not go in there and do that they had no involvement with this at all we'll see but I trust them

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**From:** [STEVEN STANFORD \(INV\)](#)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (NWK); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (BAL)  
**Subject:** FW: USSS News Briefing (3-29-21)  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 2:02:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [USSS News Briefing \(3-29-21\).docx](#)  
[USSS News Briefing \(3-29-21\).pdf](#)  
[USSS News Analysis \(3-29-21\).pdf](#)

---

Gents,

Please see the attached regarding our conversation later today, specifically the articles regarding HB's lost weapon.

Thanks,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

---

**From:** JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 6:47 AM  
**To:** dirstaff <dirstaff@uss.s.dhs.gov>; CMR-clips-list <CMR-clips-list@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: USSS News Briefing (3-29-21)

Good morning,

Please reference the attached USSS Daily News Brief for March 29, 2021.

---

**From:** USSS Daily - TechMIS <[uss.s@techmis.com](mailto:uss.s@techmis.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 6:44 AM  
**To:** [noreply@techmis.com](mailto:noreply@techmis.com)  
**Subject:** USSS News Briefing (3-29-21)



# SECRET SERVICE NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the United States Secret Service  
By TechMIS  
[www.TechMIS.com](http://www.TechMIS.com)

Mobile User Copy

**TO: Secret Service**  
**DATE: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:00 AM ET**

**Top News**

[Justice Department Takes Action Against COVID-19 Fraud \(United States Department of Justice\)](#)

[Justice Dept. has charged 474 people with trying to steal more than \\$569 million in covid-related fraud schemes \(Washington Post\)](#)

[Nearly 500 People Charged With Covid 'Fraud Schemes', DOJ Says \(Forbes\)](#)

[Nearly 500 charged with pandemic-related fraud: DOJ \(The Hill\)](#)

[\[VA\] Virginia Beach brothers arrested for Capitol riot charges \(WTKR\)](#)

[\[FL\] Fort Myers Business Owner Convicted At Trial For COVID Relief Fraud \(United States Department of Justice\)](#)

[\[MO\] Missouri District Cancels Classes Due to Malware Attack \(Campus Safety Magazine\)](#)

**Investigations**

[\[CT\] Feds: Hartford man who bought guns with counterfeit money out of state sentenced \(Register Citizen\)](#)

[\[NY\] Man Nabbed With Heroin, Numerous Forged Credit Cards On Long Island, Police Say \(Daily Voice\)](#)

[\[PA\] Police Seeking ID Of Two Accused Of Using Counterfeit Money \(Levittown Now\)](#)

[\[TX\] Waggoner National Bank warns of counterfeit bills in Vernon \(KAUZ\)](#)

[\[CA\] Arrests Made for Trafficking Fentanyl and Hundreds of Pounds of Methamphetamine out of Bakersfield \(United States Department of Justice\)](#)

**Protection**

[GOP senators seek Hunter Biden gun incident information from law enforcement \(FOX News\)](#)

[Senators ask Secret Service director to explain role in Hunter Biden gun incident \(New York Post\)](#)

[Hunter Biden texts contradict claims Secret Service wasn't involved in gun case \(New York Post\)](#)

[\[CT\] Crowds turn out to greet VP Kamala Harris in New Haven & West Haven \(Post-Chronicle\)](#)

[\[CT\] "Help is here: " VP Harris visits New Haven childcare providers, touts stimulus \(Yale](#)

[Daily News\)](#)

[\[CT\] Vice President Kamala Harris got another dose of CT's famed pizza, in West Haven \(Register Citizen\)](#)

[\[DE\] As Biden adjusts to White House life, Wilmington beckons \(NBC News\)](#)

### **Network TV News Coverage**

[\[CT\] Harris Visits Connecticut \(Eyewitness News at 4:00pm\)](#)

[\[KY\] Estill County Deputies Report Counterfeit Money \(WKYT This Morning at 8:00 AM\)](#)

### **Headlines**

[The Washington Post](#)

[The New York Times](#)

[The Wall Street Journal](#)

[ABC News](#)

[CBS News](#)

[CNN](#)

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### **Washington Schedule**

[President](#)

[Vice President](#)

[Senate](#)

[House of Representatives](#)

## **Top News**

### **Justice Department Takes Action Against COVID-19 Fraud (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/26/2021 10:23 AM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]  
The Department of Justice announced an update today on criminal and civil enforcement efforts to combat COVID-19 related fraud, including schemes targeting the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program and Unemployment Insurance (UI) programs.

As of today, the Department of Justice has publicly charged 474 defendants with criminal offenses based on fraud schemes connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. These cases involve attempts to obtain over \$569 million from the U.S. government and unsuspecting

individuals through fraud and have been brought in 56 federal districts around the country. These cases reflect a degree of reach, coordination, and expertise that is critical for enforcement efforts against COVID-19 related fraud to have a meaningful impact and is also emblematic of the Justice Department's response to criminal wrongdoing.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is actively participating in the Department of Justice's efforts to hold accountable those who have illegally lined their pockets during the COVID-19 pandemic. This office has utilized all available legal authorities to stop coronavirus related fraud schemes, including civil injunctions to stop ongoing frauds, and criminal indictments to bring to justice those who have taken advantage of the pandemic to victimize their fellow citizens. We will continue to devote resources to addressing this abhorrent behavior, and anyone engaged in these kinds of schemes can expect to see continuing, robust criminal and civil enforcement action.

"The Department of Justice has led an historic enforcement initiative to detect and disrupt COVID-19 related fraud schemes," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "The impact of the department's work to date sends a clear and unmistakable message to those who would exploit a national emergency to steal taxpayer-funded resources from vulnerable individuals and small businesses. We are committed to protecting the American people and the integrity of the critical lifelines provided for them by Congress, and we will continue to respond to this challenge."

"To anyone thinking of using the global pandemic as an opportunity to scam and steal from hardworking Americans, my advice is simple – don't," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Nicholas L. McQuaid of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "No matter where you are or who you are, we will find you and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law."

"We will not allow American citizens or the critical benefits programs that have been created to assist them to be preyed upon by those seeking to take advantage of this national emergency," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Brian M. Boynton of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "We are proud to work with our law enforcement partners to hold wrongdoers accountable and to safeguard taxpayer funds."

"On the anniversary of the CARES Act, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas renews its commitment to pursue the fraudsters who steal from a system designed to provide help to deserving individuals and businesses suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," said U.S. Attorney Ashley C. Hoff. "Working closely with IRS Criminal Investigation and our other law enforcement partners, we will redouble our efforts to identify and vigorously prosecute anyone committing fraud in relation to the CARES Act financial benefit programs."

In March 2020, Congress passed a \$2.2 trillion economic relief bill known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act designed to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of Americans who are suffering the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Anticipating the need to protect the integrity of these taxpayer funds and to otherwise protect Americans from fraud related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Justice immediately stood up multiple efforts dedicated to identifying, investigating, and prosecuting such fraud. Leveraging data analysis capabilities and partnerships developed through its vast experience combatting



economic crime and fraud on government programs, the Justice Department's response to COVID-19 related fraud serves as a model for proactive, high-impact white-collar enforcement, and demonstrates our agility in responding to new and emerging threats. This rapid and nationwide response enabled the Justice Department to quickly ensure accountability for wrongdoing amid a national crisis and sent a forceful message of deterrence during an ongoing crisis. The multifaceted and multi-district approach to enforcement during this national health emergency continues and is expected to yield numerous additional criminal and civil enforcement actions in the coming months.

On criminal matters, the Justice Department's efforts to combat COVID-19 related fraud schemes have proceeded on numerous fronts, including:

**Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) fraud:** Prominent among the department's efforts have been cases brought by the Criminal Division's Fraud Section involving at least 120 defendants charged with PPP fraud. The cases involve a range of conduct, from individual business owners who have inflated their payroll expenses to obtain larger loans than they otherwise would have qualified for, to serial fraudsters who revived dormant corporations and purchased shell companies with no actual operations to apply for multiple loans falsely stating they had significant payroll, to organized criminal networks submitting identical loan applications and supporting documents under the names of different companies. Most charged defendants have misappropriated loan proceeds for prohibited purposes, such as the purchase of houses, cars, jewelry, and other luxury items. In one case, *U.S. v. Dinesh Sah*, in the Northern District of Texas, the defendant applied for 15 different PPP loans to eight different lenders, using 11 different companies, seeking a total of \$24.8 million. The defendant obtained approximately \$17.3 million and used the proceeds to purchase multiple homes, jewelry, and luxury vehicles. In another case, *U.S. v. Richard Ayvazyan, et al.*, in the Central District of California, eight defendants applied for 142 PPP and EIDL loans seeking over \$21 million using stolen and fictitious identities and sham companies, and laundered the proceeds through a web of bank accounts to purchase real estate, securities, and jewelry.

**Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) fraud:** The department has also focused on fraud against the EIDL program, which was designed to provide loans to small businesses, agricultural and non-profit entities. Fraudsters have targeted the program by applying for EIDL advances and loans on behalf of ineligible newly-created, shell, or non-existent businesses, and diverting the funds for illegal purposes. The department has responded, primarily through the efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado and their partners at the U.S. Secret Service, acting swiftly to seize loan proceeds from fraudulent applications, with \$580 million seized to date and seizures ongoing. The EIDL Fraud Task Force in Colorado, comprised of personnel from five federal law enforcement agencies and federal prosecutors, is investigating a broad swath of allegedly fraudulently loans and their applicants. It is working to identify individual wrongdoers and networks of fraudsters appropriate for prosecution.

**Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than \$860 billion in federal funds has been appropriated for UI benefits through September 2021. Early investigation and analysis indicate that international organized criminal groups have targeted these funds by using stolen identities to file for UI benefits. Domestic fraudsters, ranging from identity thieves to prison inmates, have also committed UI fraud. In response, the department established the National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force, a

prosecutor-led multi-agency task force with representatives from more than eight different federal law enforcement agencies. Additionally, the department is hiring Assistant U.S. Attorneys in multiple U.S. Attorney's Offices whose focus will be UI fraud prosecutions. Since the start of the pandemic, over 140 defendants have been charged and arrested for federal offenses related to UI fraud. In one case, U.S. v. Leelynn Danielle Chytka, in the Western District of Virginia, a defendant recently pleaded guilty for her role in a scheme that successfully stole more than \$499,000 in UI benefits using the identities of individuals ineligible for UI, including a number of prisoners.

Through the department's International Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (ICHIP) program, ICHIP advisors have provided assistance and case-based mentoring to foreign counterparts around the globe to help detect, investigate and prosecute fraud related to the pandemic. The ICHIPs have helped counterparts combat cyber-enabled crime (e.g., online fraud) and intellectual property crime, including fraudulent and mislabeled COVID-19 treatments and sales of counterfeit pharmaceuticals. ICHIPs conducted webinars for foreign prosecutors and law enforcement in Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America on how to take down fraudulent COVID-19 websites. These webinars addressed methods for finding the registrar for a particular domain and requesting a voluntary takedown as well as the U.S. legal processes necessary for obtaining a court order that would bind a U.S. registrar. This has resulted in the take down of multiple online COVID-19 scams and significant seizures of counterfeit medicines and medical supplies such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and other illicit goods.

The department has also brought actions to combat coronavirus-related fraud schemes targeting American consumers. With scammers around the world attempting to sell fake and unlawful cures, treatments, and personal protective equipment, the department has brought dozens of civil and criminal enforcement actions to safeguard Americans' health and economic security. The department has prosecuted or secured civil injunctions against dozens of defendants who sold products — including industrial bleach, ozone gas, vitamin supplements, and colloidal silver ointments — using false or unapproved claims about the products' abilities to prevent or treat COVID-19 infections. The department has also worked to shutter hundreds of fraudulent websites that were facilitating consumer scams, and it has taken scores of actions to disrupt financial networks supporting such scams. The department is also coordinating with numerous agency partners to prevent and deter vaccine-related fraud.

The department is also using numerous civil tools to address fraud in connection with CARES Act programs. For example, in the Eastern District of California, the department obtained the first civil settlement for fraud involving the Paycheck Protection Program, resolving civil claims under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA) and the False Claims Act (FCA) against an internet retail company and its president and chief executive officer arising from false statements to federally insured banks to influence those banks to approve, and the SBA to guarantee, a PPP loan. FIRREA allows the government to impose civil penalties for violations of enumerated federal criminal statutes, including those that affect federally-insured financial institutions. The FCA is the government's primary civil tool to redress false claims for federal funds and property involving a multitude of government operations and functions. The FCA permits private citizens with knowledge of fraud against the government to bring a lawsuit on behalf of the United States and to share in any recovery. Such whistleblower complaints have been on the rise as unscrupulous actors take advantage of vulnerabilities created by the

COVID-19 pandemic and the new government programs disbursing federal relief, and whistleblower cases will continue to be an essential source of new leads to help root out the misuse and abuse of taxpayer funds.

Indictments and other criminal charges referenced above are merely allegations, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The unprecedented pace and tempo of these efforts is made possible only through the diligent work of a wide range of Justice Department partners, including the Criminal Division's Fraud Section and Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section, the Civil Division's Commercial Litigation Branch (Fraud Section) and Consumer Protection Branch, U.S. Attorneys' Offices throughout the country, and law enforcement partners from the FBI, Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, U.S. Secret Service, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Offices of Inspectors General from the Small Business Administration, Department of Homeland Security, Social Security Administration, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal Housing Finance Agency and Federal Reserve Board, Food and Drug Administration's Office of Criminal Investigations, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Special Inspector General for Pandemic Relief, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, OCDETF Fusion Center and OCDETF's International Organized Crime Intelligence and Operations Center.

**Justice Dept. has charged 474 people with trying to steal more than \$569 million in covid-related fraud schemes (Washington Post)**

[Washington Post](#) [3/26/2021 9:55 AM, Matt Zapotosky, 13890K, Positive, Primary]

The Justice Department has charged 474 people over the past year with trying to swipe more than \$569 million by using criminal fraud schemes connected to the coronavirus pandemic and seized at least \$580 million in civil proceedings, officials announced Friday, demonstrating how taxpayer-funded programs meant to ease the economic burden of the crisis have become susceptible to scammers.

The department said it has seen fraud attempts connected to several government aid programs. The Criminal Division's Fraud Section, for example, has charged at least 120 people in connection with fraud of the Paycheck Protection Program, a taxpayer-subsidized loan program regulated by the Small Business Administration, which has long been of concern because of how program funds were disbursed with relatively little oversight.

The department said it had also seen immense fraud in connection with the Economic Injury Disaster Loans program, and, along with the Secret Service and U.S. attorney's office in Colorado, had seized \$580 million of possibly stolen money from that program through administrative procedures. That money, authorities said, is separate from the funds explicitly tied to criminal charges.

Also, the Justice Department said it had found business owners inflating payroll expenses to get Paycheck Protection Program loans larger than what they would have qualified for, as well as "serial fraudsters" reviving defunct corporations or purchasing shell companies with no operations to apply for large loans.

In one case in Texas, the department said, a man pleaded guilty to submitting 15 fake applications under various business names to try to obtain \$24.8 million in loans, when none of the businesses had employees or paid the wages he claimed they did. Most of those charged, the department said, spent the government aid on houses, cars, jewelry and other luxury items.

“The Department of Justice has led an historic enforcement initiative to detect and disrupt COVID-19 related fraud schemes,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. “The impact of the department’s work to date sends a clear and unmistakable message to those who would exploit a national emergency to steal taxpayer-funded resources from vulnerable individuals and small businesses. We are committed to protecting the American people and the integrity of the critical lifelines provided for them by Congress, and we will continue to respond to this challenge.”

The department said it had also seen significant fraud in connection with unemployment insurance, the use of which ballooned during the pandemic.

The department said it had charged more than 140 people with such fraud since the start of the pandemic, and it had found organized, international criminal groups trying to apply for the funds using stolen identities, as well as more run-of-the-mill fraudsters in the United States.

That the department is seeing such a massive quantity of fraud efforts is not necessarily surprising, given the scope of the pandemic and the amount of money the government has made available in aid. Early in the pandemic, Congress passed a \$2 trillion relief bill known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or Cares Act. This month, lawmakers approved a \$1.9 trillion relief plan.

Officials have seen such abuses during other disasters and economic crises, perhaps most comparably with the 2008 Troubled Asset Relief Program, which doled out hundreds of billions of dollars. That program’s inspector general’s office, which remains active, says its investigations have resulted in the recovery of \$11 billion.

### **Nearly 500 People Charged With Covid ‘Fraud Schemes’, DOJ Says (Forbes)**

[Forbes](#) [3/26/2021 10:08 AM, Melissa Holzberg, 11217K, Positive, Primary]

The Department of Justice has charged 474 people with fraud in connection to “schemes” targeting Covid-19 relief and “attempts to obtain over \$569 million” from the government and “unsuspecting individuals,” the department announced Friday.

Cases have been brought in 56 federal districts, and focus on attempts to defraud the Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and Unemployment Insurance programs.

“At least” 120 people have been charged with PPP fraud including “business owners who have inflated their payroll expenses”, people who “revived dormant corporations” and “organized criminal networks submitting identical loan applications.”

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado and the Secret Service seized \$580 million from loan proceeds from “fraudulent applications” to the EIDL program.

Over 140 people have been charged and arrested for “federal offenses related to” unemployment insurance fraud.

Various laws have been enacted since March 2020 to fund Covid-19 relief. The government has allocated over \$600 billion to the Paycheck Protection Program and over \$500 billion in expanded unemployment benefits.

“The impact of the department’s work to date sends a clear and unmistakable message to those who would exploit a national emergency to steal taxpayer-funded resources from vulnerable individuals and small businesses,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said.

A man from Florida is being accused of a \$1.5 million Covid-19 fraud scheme where he allegedly stole retirement home residents’ identities, including his mother’s. According to prosecutors, Jeremie Saintvil used the identities of eight people to open credit lines and funnel money through a Wells Fargo Account. He’s also accused of submitting PPP applications using inactive or fake businesses.

### **Nearly 500 charged with pandemic-related fraud: DOJ (The Hill)**

[The Hill](#) [3/27/2021 11:07 PM, Jordan Williams, 2406K, Positive, Secondary]

Nearly 500 people have been charged with coronavirus-related fraud, according to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The DOJ said in a statement on Friday that it has charged 474 defendants with criminal offenses over fraud schemes across 56 federal districts.

At least 120 defendants have been charged with fraud related to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a provision of the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act aimed at helping small businesses keep workers on their payrolls. The department also said that more than 140 defendants have been charged with unemployment insurance fraud.

The DOJ also said that the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado and the Secret Service have seized more than \$580 million in proceeds from fraudulent applications for the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) program. Those were designed for small businesses and agricultural and nonprofit entities.

On top of that, the DOJ has brought civil and criminal enforcement actions against scams targeting American consumers, including those that sold products using false or unapproved claims about their abilities to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

“The impact of the department’s work to date sends a clear and unmistakable message to those who would exploit a national emergency to steal taxpayer-funded resources from vulnerable individuals and small businesses,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.

“We are committed to protecting the American people and the integrity of the critical lifelines provided for them by Congress, and we will continue to respond to this challenge,” he said

The department ramped up its pandemic fraud efforts after Congress last March passed the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act, which provided assistance to Americans who were struggling as

the pandemic progressed in its early days.

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan passed earlier this month expanded unemployment benefits through September, provided more funding for the PPP program, and extended the EIDL program.

**[VA] Virginia Beach brothers arrested for Capitol riot charges (WTKR)**

[WTKR](#) [3/26/2021 11:58 AM, Staff, 28K, Positive, Secondary]

Two men were arrested on March 24 in Chesapeake on charges stemming from the Capitol riot that took place on January 6.

Eric Von Bernewitz and Paul Von Bernewitz were arrest by FBI agents after they got a tip in January identifying individuals that were allegedly inside the Capitol at the time of the incidents.

Court documents said the tipster (Witness 1) provided screenshots of Facebook posts from Witness 2, a female who claimed her brother was inside the Capitol Building on January 6. Witness 1 told officials that Witness 2 posted on Facebook saying she was in touch with her brother through FaceTime while the brother was inside the Capitol.

Witness 1 provided screenshots of Witness 2's Facebook posts and a conversation to law enforcement. The posts from Witness 2 conveyed her perception that the riot was not chaotic or crazy, though noting a window was broken and her brother relayed there was tear gas. She further explained her brother communicated with her through FaceTime while he was in the Capitol building and she said her brother and others were there to support contesting election results of certain states.

In addition to the Facebook posts, Witness 1 provided identifying information for Witness 2 and her brothers. Court documents said that although Witness 1 did not know Witness 2's brothers or which brother Witness 2 referred to in her Facebook posts, Witness 1 located information about Witness 2's two brothers on the internet and identified them as Eric Von Bernewitz and Paul Von Bernewitz who live in Virginia Beach.

On January 19, Special Agents from FBI Norfolk interviewed Eric Von Bernewitz with his lawyer on the phone. Court documents said he admitted that he and his brother entered the Capitol Building on January 6.

Eric explained that he and his brother drove together to Washington D.C. and according to Eric, Paul went with him for protection because Eric's right arm is paralyzed. Eric allegedly said that they entered the Capitol Building from the Northwest corner in the front and went to the Northeast corner in the back. Court documents then say Eric stated that he turned off his phone before entering the U.S. Capitol because it was low on battery in case he later needed it to find his brother. Court documents claim Eric said he got caught up in the excitement of the crowd, went in the Capitol Building unexpectedly, and left within ten minutes.

On January 21, Special Agents from FBI Norfolk interviewed Paul with his lawyer on the phone. Paul admitted that he and his brother Eric both entered the Capitol Building. Court documents claim Paul explained that his brother asked him to go and he agreed so that he could take care of his brother, partially due to his brother's disability. According to Paul he



and his brother attended a rally, during which the crowd decided to go to the Capitol building. Outside of the Capitol, the crowd began to push toward an open door. Paul said that he further advised that he and his brother were in the Capitol for a short period of time, estimating less than ten minutes.

Court documents said Paul explained that he took approximately four photos inside the Capitol Building and later deleted them as is his normal practice to delete items from his phones. Eventually more police arrived and forced the crowd back outside through the same door which they had entered the building.

Court documents explained, "Based on the foregoing, your affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that Eric Von Bernewitz and Paul Von Bernewitz violated 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) and (2), which makes it a crime to (1) knowingly enter or remain in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority to do; and (2) knowingly, and with intent to impede or disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions, engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct in, or within such proximity to, any restricted building or grounds when, or so that, such conduct, in fact, impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions; or attempts or conspires to do so. For purposes of Section 1752 of Title 18, a "restricted building" includes a posted, cordoned off, or otherwise restricted area of a building or grounds where the President or other person protected by the Secret Service, including the Vice President, is or will be temporarily visiting; or any building or grounds so restricted in conjunction with an event designated as a special event of national significance.

Your affiant submits there is also probable cause to believe that Eric Von Bernewitz and Paul Von Bernewitz violated 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) and (G), which makes it a crime to willfully and knowingly (D) utter loud, threatening, or abusive language, or engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct, at any place in the Grounds or in any of the Capitol Buildings with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress or either House of Congress, or the orderly conduct in that building of a hearing before, or any deliberations of, a committee of Congress or either House of Congress; and (G) parade, demonstrate, or picket in any of the Capitol Buildings."

#### **[FL] Fort Myers Business Owner Convicted At Trial For COVID Relief Fraud (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/26/2021 5:13 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

A federal jury today found Casey David Crowther (35, Fort Myers) guilty of bank fraud, making a false statement to a lending institution, and two counts of money laundering. Crowther faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison for the bank fraud and false statement charges, and up to 10 years in federal prison for each money laundering charge. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

According to evidence presented at trial, Crowther obtained a \$2.1 million Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan by falsely stating that he intended to use the money to make payroll and pay for rent and utilities for his company Target Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. However, Crowther intended to use the money to enrich himself and, once the loan was obtained, quickly used the proceeds to make a series of personal purchases including a nearly \$700,000 boat and a \$100,000 payment to a former business partner. Crowther concealed the scheme by providing false explanations for the expenditures to his bank, calling the boat "equipment" and the payment to his partner as "payroll." To ensure that he

did not need to pay the loan back under the terms of the PPP program, Crowther added multiple family members to his company's payroll who did not actually perform work. Crowther also created 39 fake employees, along with fake identification documents including Social Security cards, in an attempt to show that his company was using the funds appropriately on payroll.

Prior to trial, Crowther had pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud and one count of making a false statement to a financial institution related to a mortgage fraud scheme. In that scheme, Crowther created false bank statements to justify a loan he had used to purchase a nearly \$1.3 million waterfront house in St. James City, Florida.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Trent Reichling and Michael V. Leeman.

**[MO] Missouri District Cancels Classes Due to Malware Attack (Campus Safety Magazine)**

[Campus Safety Magazine](#) [3/26/2021 6:41 AM, Robin Hattersley-Gray, 7K, Neutral, Secondary]

A malware attack forced the Park Hill School District to cancel classes on Monday and Tuesday.

Early on Monday morning, Park Hill officials posted a message on the district's Facebook page announcing the attack, which took down the district's critical systems, reports KMBC. The schools were forced to close because the affected systems could impact safety.

The district apologized for its last-minute notice of the cancellation of classes. In many cases, students were already on their way to school before the school closure announcement.

The attack happened on the first day of full-time learning for all students in a year, reports FOX4. The problems were initially discovered when parents had difficulty logging into the district's "Schoology" program on Sunday evening. The initial attack is believed to have happened on Sunday morning.

The FBI and U.S. Secret Service are helping district officials investigate the malware attack.

Students taking in-person and virtual classes returned to school on Wednesday, reports KSHB.

The district said it hopes no personal information was stolen during the attack.

Park Hill's ordeal is just the latest attack on K-12 school districts across the country. Earlier this month, Buffalo (New York) Public Schools canceled all remote classes due to a ransomware attack that caused "unanticipated interruption to BPS District network systems." In late November, Baltimore County Public Schools were forced to close for three days due to a ransomware attack.

On March 16, the FBI issued a warning of an uptick in ransomware targeting educational institutions in 12 states and the U.K., spanning K-12, higher education and seminaries.

Before that in December, U.S. cybersecurity officials warned K-12 educators of an increase in cyberattacks designed to exploit and disrupt distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Investigations

### **[CT] Feds: Hartford man who bought guns with counterfeit money out of state sentenced (Register Citizen)**

[Register Citizen](#) [3/27/2021 9:47 PM, Peter Yankowski, 26K, Positive, Secondary]

A 32-year-old Hartford man has been sentenced to more than four years in prison after federal authorities allege he traveled back and forth to North Dakota to illegally purchase guns.

Standford Smith, also known as "Pops" was sentenced Friday to 55 months in prison followed by four years of supervised release during a videoconference appearance before U.S. District Judge Alvin W. Thompson, the U.S. attorney's office for the District of Connecticut said.

In October, Smith pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to unlawfully transport firearms in interstate commerce. He also pleaded guilty to a cocaine distribution charge, after the U.S. attorney's office said he was arrested with crack he intended to distribute while on pretrial release.

Smith's arrest stems from a joint investigation by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and East Haven police into a drug trafficking group "operating out of the Mayberry Village housing complex in East Hartford," a news release said.

Authorities allege Smith traveled to North Dakota with other members of the group where they stole one gun by force and bought others with counterfeit money. They claim he also traveled to North Dakota again that year to acquire another gun.

Investigators recovered two of the guns and traced them back to North Dakota after one was used in a shooting in East Hartford.

"To date, investigators have traced at least nine firearms that were obtained in North Dakota and transported to Connecticut. Some of the guns have been used in shootings in the Hartford area," a press release said.

Smith was arrested in June 2018 and later released on bond. He was arrested weeks later "after he was found in possession of crack cocaine that he intended to distribute," the release said.

He has been in custody since his second arrest.

### **[NY] Man Nabbed With Heroin, Numerous Forged Credit Cards On Long Island, Police Say (Daily Voice)**

[Daily Voice](#) [3/26/2021 8:30 AM, Kathy Reakes, Positive, Secondary]

An out-of-state man has been arrested on Long Island for alleged drug possession and having numerous forged credit cards and card templates, as well as other charges.

Frank Randolph, age 33, of Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, was arrested around 10 p.m., Wednesday, March 23, in Hicksville, said the Nassau County Police.

According to detectives, as part of Operation Natalie, Nassau County's War Against Opioids, officers while on patrol, spotted a black Hyundai Sonata traveling southbound on South Oyster Bay Road, commit multiple traffic violations.

After stopping the vehicle, Randolph parked the vehicle, got out, and began to walk away from officers while making a movement toward his front right pants pocket, police said.

Officers found a black knife in his front right pants pocket and attempted to safely secure the knife.

Randolph then became verbally combative with officers, refusing to comply with their commands, and actively resisted arrest, police said.

After a brief struggle, Randolph was placed into custody.

An investigation was conducted with the U.S. Secret Service, the state Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center.

Randolph was found to be in possession of the following items:

46 glassine envelopes containing a substance believed to be heroin

A substance believed to be methamphetamine

Drug paraphernalia

Equipment to manufacture and fabricate fraudulent documents

Re-encoded forged credit cards

109 blank credit card templates

22 blank chip credit cards

Three credit card reading devices

Equipment for fabricating identifications and credit cards

Personal account information of an unknown victim

A forged Rhode Island driver's license

54 governmental ID holograms belong to various states

A blank Social Security Card

Randolph was charged with:

Three counts of possession of a controlled substance

Six counts of possession of a forged instrument

Four counts of possession of forgery device

Criminal possession of a hypodermic instrument

False impersonation

Obstructing governmental administration

Multiple traffic infractions

He will be arraigned on Wednesday, March 25, in Mineola.

**[PA] Police Seeking ID Of Two Accused Of Using Counterfeit Money (Levittown Now)**

[Levittown Now](#) [3/26/2021 8:00 AM, Staff, Neutral, Secondary]

The Falls Township Police Department is seeking information that will aid them in identifying two people are accused of using counterfeit \$100 bill.

The two suspects used the counterfeit bill at the Home Depot on Commerce Boulevard, police said.

The two left in a newer-model black Volvo hatchback.

Anyone with information has been asked to contact Officer Victoria Crosier with any information at 215-949-9100 ext: 438 or at [v.crosier@fallstwp.com](mailto:v.crosier@fallstwp.com).

**[TX] Waggoner National Bank warns of counterfeit bills in Vernon (KAUZ)**

[KAUZ](#) [3/26/2021 4:13 PM, Staff, 2K, Neutral, Secondary]

Buyers should beware of this scam involving hard-to-spot counterfeit bills.

The Waggoner National Bank said they have received two counterfeit \$100 bills which appear and feel authentic and even passed the retailer's pen test. However, they did not pass the detection machine at a bank. The illegitimate currency was examined and bank officials said the bills are a reproduction of a "Series 1977" \$100 bill and have the exact same serial number.

The estimated lifespan for \$100 bills is nearly 23 years so authorities said they generally don't see this denomination currency older than 1996.

"Private businesses are free to develop their own policies on whether to accept cash unless there is a state law that says otherwise," said the Waggoner National Bank on Facebook.

Waggoner National Bank wants to remind businesses there is no federal mandate requiring a business to accept cash.

The Vernon Police Department said anyone who comes in possession of these bills please contact the authorities.

**[CA] Arrests Made for Trafficking Fentanyl and Hundreds of Pounds of Methamphetamine out of Bakersfield (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/26/2021 5:00 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

Eight people were arrested in Kern County today following a months-long investigation into a Bakersfield-based drug trafficking organization that attempted to smuggle hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine and fentanyl, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced. A ninth defendant is in custody in Chico, California.

The defendants are scheduled to make an initial appearance in Fresno before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jennifer L. Thurston on Monday, March 29, at 2:30 p.m.

Those charged in the federal criminal complaint unsealed today are: Omar Alberto Navarro, 38, of Arvin; David Delgado Gonzalez, 37, of Bakersfield; Amayrani Jared Arreguin, 24, of Bakersfield; Lizette Mendez, 31, of Delano; Mayra Guadalupe Galvan, 31, of Delano; Miguel Angel Martinez, 26, of Bakersfield; Randal Jason Newell, 41, of Bakersfield; Daniel Armendariz Mercado, 31, of Bakersfield, and James Scott Gordon, 47, of Chico.

According to court documents, Navarro oversaw the wide-ranging drug trafficking organization from Bakersfield. Mendez, Galvan, Newell, and others transported narcotics for the organization. Between September and December 2020, those drivers were intercepted by law enforcement who seized a total of more than 380 pounds of methamphetamine and more than eight pounds of fentanyl that were concealed in their vehicles. On Dec. 27, 2020, Martinez was stopped by law enforcement on Interstate 5 as he attempted to smuggle 18 pounds of methamphetamine from Bakersfield to Texas. Also in December 2020, Mercado and Gordon purchased large amounts of methamphetamine from other members of the drug trafficking organization with the intent to distribute the narcotics to customers.

“The success of this operation highlights the importance and necessity of law enforcement partnerships across the spectrum,” said Homeland Security Investigations NorCal Special Agent in Charge Tatum King. “Of particular importance, the significant quantity of narcotics seized by this HSI Bakersfield-led investigation ensured that the narcotics would not enter the drug distribution supply chain and inevitably harm the public. We are proud to be part of the team making our communities safer.”

This case is the product of an investigation by Homeland Security Investigations, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Customs and Border Protection, the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret Service, the Bakersfield Police Department, the Kern County Sheriff's Office, the Shafter Police Department, the Kern County Probation Department, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the California Department of Motor Vehicles, and the California Highway Patrol. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Christopher D. Baker and Laura J. Berger are prosecuting the case.

If convicted of the charged offenses, each defendant faces a statutory mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison up to a maximum of life in prison, and a \$10 million fine. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. The charges are only allegations; the defendants are



presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at [www.justice.gov/OCDETF](http://www.justice.gov/OCDETF).

## Protection

### **GOP senators seek Hunter Biden gun incident information from law enforcement (FOX News)**

[FOX News](#) [3/26/2021 3:06 PM, Tyler Olson, 11408K, Neutral, Primary]

Two Republican senators are asking multiple law enforcement agencies about their alleged involvement in a 2018 incident when a gun belonging to Hunter Biden, the son of President Biden, temporarily went missing.

Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Ron Johnson, R-Wis., sent letters inquiring about the involvement of the United States Secret Service (USSS), FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in the aftermath of the incident. Their queries are in response to Politico reporting that the Secret Service inserted itself into the response, which the Secret Service denied in a statement to Fox News.

"On Feb. 24, in response to a query from Politico, the Secret Service provided an on the record statement clearly denying agency involvement in an alleged Delaware gun store incident," the Secret Service said in a statement to Fox News. "The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described."

A source with knowledge of the police report about the Oct. 23, 2018 incident told Fox News that it indicated that Hallie Biden, the widow of President Biden's late son Beau, who was in a relationship with Hunter at the time, threw a gun owned by Hunter in a dumpster behind a market that is near a school.

A firearm transaction report reviewed by Fox News indicates that Hunter Biden purchased a gun earlier that month.

The owner of the market confirmed to Fox News that the Delaware State Police were called to the market on Oct. 23, 2018, and that it shared surveillance footage with police.

"We did the right thing and called the police," the market's owner said.

"After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden's purchase of the firearm," Grassley and Johnson wrote. "The owner of the gun store reportedly 'refused to supply the paperwork' to the USSS agents due to suspicion that 'the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime.'"

The senators continued: "According to this report, a 'law enforcement official' claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware 'kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice

president's security.' If true, USSS must explain to Congress why such informal actions were taken and whether they were necessary in light of the circumstances."

The Secret Service protects the former vice presidents and their spouses for six months after they leave office, which means at this time no Biden family members would have been under the agency's protection. The agency maintains this was the case and denies any involvement.

The Delaware State Police referred Fox News to the Delaware Attorney General's Office when asked about an Oct. 23, 2018 incident involving Hunter Biden, saying that the investigation had been referred to the state AG. The state police said Fox News would need to file a public records request to obtain the police report.

The Blaze first reported on the incident last year. Both The Blaze and Politico reported that nobody was charged or assaulted as a result of the incident.

Politico reported that the gun was eventually found by a man who searches the market's trash for items to recycle.

### **Senators ask Secret Service director to explain role in Hunter Biden gun incident (New York Post)**

[New York Post](#) [3/26/2021 4:41 PM, Steven Nelson, 5012K, Neutral, Secondary]  
Republican senators are demanding answers from the US Secret Service, the FBI and the ATF after reports this week about a 2018 incident involving a gun belonging to first son Hunter Biden.

The Secret Service publicly denied taking any role in attempting to find the missing gun or asking a gun shop to hand over Firearms Transaction Record papers for the gun, on which Hunter allegedly lied about his drug use, which would be a crime.

"In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency's involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden's firearm no later than April 8, 2021," Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) wrote to Secret Service Director James Murray.

The Republican senators note that Hunter Biden was not supposed to have Secret Service protection at the time of the bizarre incident, which occurred after Hunter's girlfriend Hallie Biden, the widow of his brother Beau, tossed the weapon into the trash behind a grocery store.

Johnson and Grassley wrote that, according to a Politico report, "a 'law enforcement official' claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware 'kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security.' If true, USSS must explain to Congress why such informal actions were taken and whether they were necessary in light of the circumstances."

The letters to the FBI and to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were similar.

The Secret Service flatly denied that it was involved in the incident.

“U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident,” the agency said Thursday.

A White House official said, “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.”

Hunter Biden on Friday joined his father aboard Air Force One for a weekend trip to Delaware.

Grassley and Johnson co-authored a September report that detailed alleged conflicts of interest involving Hunter Biden’s overseas work — including in China and Ukraine — while his father was vice president. The report claimed a firm linked to Hunter Biden received \$3.5 million from Elena Baturina, the widow of former Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov, for unknown reasons.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday, in response to a question from The Post, that she was “not familiar with the report at all.”

### **Hunter Biden texts contradict claims Secret Service wasn’t involved in gun case (New York Post)**

[New York Post](#) [3/26/2021 3:26 PM, Emma-Jo Morris, Bruce Golding, 5012K, Neutral, Secondary]

Hunter Biden sent a text message that said the Secret Service responded after his handgun disappeared in 2018 — contradicting the agency’s assertion that it wasn’t involved, The Post has learned.

In a lengthy message sent the following year, President Biden’s son described the situation in detail, saying his former sister-in-law-turned-lover, Hallie Biden, tossed the firearm into a trash bin outside Janssen’s Market, a gourmet grocery store in Wilmington, Del.

“She stole the gun out of my trunk lock box and threw it in a garbage can full to the top at Janssens [sic]. Then told me it was my problem to deal with,” Hunter wrote.

“Then when the police the FBI the secret service came on the scene she said she took it from me because she was scared I would harm myself due to my drug and alcohol problem and our volatile relationship and that she was afraid for the kids.”

The Jan. 29, 2019, message adds: “Really not joking the cop kept me convinced that Hallie was implying she was scared of me.”

In another message, sent closer to the incident, Hunter described the handgun as “my 38.”

“Took from lock box of truck and put it IN PapER BAG AND Threw it in trash can at local high end grocer. For no reason,” he wrote on Dec. 6, 2018.

“And I freaked when I saw it was missing 10 minutes after she took it and when she went back to get it after I scared the s—t out of her it was gone which led to state police investigation of me. True story.”

Both messages are contained on a hard drive obtained by The Post that holds the contents of a damaged laptop computer that was left at Wilmington repair shop by Hunter in April 2019 and never retrieved.

The Macbook Pro laptop was later seized by the FBI, apparently as part of what Hunter last year said is an investigation into his “tax affairs” by the Delaware US Attorney’s Office.

On Thursday, Politico reported that the incident involving Hunter’s .38-caliber revolver took place on Oct. 23, 2018, and that the firearm was fished out of the trash and surrendered several days later by an older man who found it while searching for recyclable items.

During the course of an investigation into its disappearance, Secret Service agents approached the owner of the gun store where Hunter bought it 11 days earlier and asked for paperwork related to the purchase, Politico said, citing two sources familiar with the matter.

The store owner refused the request, suspecting the Secret Service wanted to cover up Hunter’s ownership if the gun were later used in a crime, Politico said.

The owner later gave the documents to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which regulates gun sales, Politico said.

Law enforcement officials told Politico that any Secret Service involvement — either on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative — would be inappropriate because the incident was being investigated by the Delaware State Police and the FBI.

In a statement Thursday, the Secret Service denied any role in investigating the missing gun.

“U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident,” the agency said.

The Secret Service doubled down on that statement on Friday, saying, The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described.

The White House on Friday said it was standing by a Thursday statement that said, “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.

The White House also said Thursday, “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.”

Photos posted on Twitter on Friday afternoon showed Hunter, his wife Melissa Cohen and their baby son preparing to board Air Force One with President Biden for a flight to Delaware.

Hunter sent the text messages to former celebrity psychiatrist Keith Ablow, a onetime Fox

News contributor whose Massachusetts medical license was suspended in 2019 and later expired.

The Massachusetts Board of Medicine labeled him “an immediate and serious threat to the public health, safety and welfare” over allegations that he “engaged in sexual activity and boundary violations with multiple patients, diverted controlled substances from patients, engaged in disruptive behavior, including displaying and pointing a firearm on multiple occasions in a manner that scared an employee, and procured his license renewal fraudulently.”

Hunter also sent the 2019 message to Hallie, with whom he has acknowledged having had an intimate relationship following the death of her husband, his older brother Beau Biden, and while estranged from his now ex-wife, Kathleen Buhle.

According to a July 2019 profile in the New Yorker, Hunter and Hallie broke up several months after they began living together in August 2017, after which he moved to Los Angeles in early 2018.

Hallie didn't immediately return messages left at two phone numbers listed in her name and Hunter's lawyer also didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Ablow declined to comment.

### **[CT] Crowds turn out to greet VP Kamala Harris in New Haven & West Haven (Post-Chronicle)**

[Post-Chronicle](#) [3/26/2021 10:05 PM, Mark Zaretsky, Ethan Fry, Ben Lambert, 24K, Neutral, Secondary]

You almost didn't have to ask Maya Cedor, 6, and her brother Dresden, 8, what was so special about Vice President Kamala Harris flying into Tweed New Haven Regional Airport to visit New Haven and West Haven that would cause their family to wait for hours just to catch a glimpse of her limo driving by.

All you had to do was read the sign sketched out on the blackboard Maya held: “My VP looks like me!!”

OK, it was Maya's mother, Gayathri Cedor — whose family was among about 150 people gathered along Burr and Dean streets to watch Harris' plane land and hope for a glimpse — who spelled things out on the blackboard. But in their family, it's even more applicable.

The kids are half African-American, half South Indian-American, two of the same ethnicities that are part of Harris' makeup.

“We live here in New Haven” and “I'm just excited for the kids to see her,” said Cedor, who took her kids out of their remote learning at Nathan Hale School — with an email to their teachers — so they could be there.

Why?

“She's the first woman to be vice president,” said Dresden, who held a whiteboard that read, “Welcome to New Haven.”

“We’ll make up the classes,” said his mom, speaking moments before Harris touched down.

When Air Force 2, Harris’ plane, landed at 2:26 p.m. — nearly an hour later than the most recently-announced arrival time — Katie Conner, who lives on Burr Street across the street from Tweed, was gently cradling her newborn daughter, Elizabeth, 6 months, who rocked in front of her in a sling around her mom’s neck.

“My daughter’s only 6 months old, and I thought this might be a once-in-a-lifetime thing for her,” Conner said. Even if Elizabeth doesn’t remember it, Katie Conner will be able to tell her about it.

For Conner, “It makes a big difference” that Harris is a woman. Last November, “I watched her give her victory speech and I thought, “That could be my daughter in 30 or 40 years.”

Thretha Green of West Haven could barely contain her joy as she streamed her first-ever Facebook Live video of Harris’ plane landing.

“I’m just excited,” said Green, a trauma therapist who grew up in New Haven. “She’s here to represent for our urban towns, for people who have suffered from COVID-19” and she was glad to see Harris and President Joe Biden addressing some of the problems in the country.

“It’s just amazing,” said Green, also president of the National Association of Negro Professional Women’s Clubs’ New Haven chapter and co-chairwoman of the Greater New Haven NAACP’s Criminal Justice Committee. “I took a lunch break just to see it.”

Not everyone there at Tweed was a Harris or Biden fan.

Anthony Laudano confided earlier that he voted for former President Donald Trump, but after Harris’ plane landed, he held his son, Anthony Jr., and whispered in his ear, “The vice president, buddy! This is history!

“He’s going to be the vice president one day,” Laudano said.

While one crowd was waiting at Tweed, another was forming across town near the New Haven Boys and Girls Club on Columbus Avenue in the Hill neighborhood, where Harris was engaging in a roundtable discussion as part of her first stop.

About an hour-and-a-half before Harris’ scheduled arrival at the Boys and Girls Club, New Havener Angela Brown and her daughter Jadyn stood at the corner of Columbus and Howard avenues hoping to see the vice president.

“I wish that more youth could be here,” Brown said.

Brown wore a button remembering a family friend killed in the Hill in 2014. Brown herself said she was shot on Dixwell Avenue in 1991. Urban violence “is a big, big issue with me,” she said.

She said she hoped Harris will “actually press on the issues and actually ask what can be done?”



"We're all human at the end of the day. We all deal with the same issues," she said.

Lifelong New Haven resident Timothy Little held a sign that said "STOP EVICTIONS, CANCEL RENT."

The Cedar Street resident said he's worried about being evicted from his apartment next month after losing two fast-food jobs due to the pandemic. "I want to be heard. This is the major issue in Connecticut right now. What am I going to do?"

Hill resident Luz Ramos brought her 7-year-old granddaughter in the hopes they could see Harris.

"When she became vice president it was a very heartfelt time for us," Ramos, who immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico in 1997, said. "It's very important to show our kids they can achieve anything."

Activists from Unidad Latina en Accion also were on hand to welcome Harris.

Director John Lugo said the time to act on immigration reform is now, when Democrats control the White House and Congress.

"This is the time to do it, but they have to have the guts and the courage to pass immigration reform," Lugo said.

In West Haven, a crowd slowly gathered on Washington Avenue to watch Harris arrive at the West Haven Child Development Center, eventually numbering about 50 people.

Patty Horvath said she wanted to see the motorcade. In the past, she saw Bill Clinton and Barack Obama on Martha's Vineyard. But such visits are uncommon in West Haven.

"It's very exciting for West Haven to have her," said Horvath.

Donna Middleton said she wanted to see a "historical moment," also noting the relative rarity of something like this happening in town.

"Hopefully, she'll come back again," said Middleton.

Asked why she was there, Rachale Scaranuzzo nodded at her daughter, Sofia, who exclaimed that she also wanted to be president or vice president someday.

"It's great for her to see someone in charge, making decisions that'll affect us," said Scaranuzzo.

Soon after 4:15 p.m., the motorcade came by. Cops on motorcycles led the way for large black SUVs, adorned with tiny American flags. The crowd cheered and whooped in excitement.

Back at Tweed, Burr Street neighbors Dashayla Miller and Jessica Ferraro were strolling along with Ferraro's son, Tim, 3, in a stroller, as snipers wearing camouflage uniforms climbed to the top of the Tweed administration building's former control tower to check out

the angles.

Why were Miller and Ferraro there?

“Obviously, the vice president is coming — our first female and African-American vice president,” they said. “This is history — something — something I don’t want to miss.”

Ferraro lives right at the corner of Burr Street and Fort Hale Road, directly across from Tweed’s main entrance. Minutes earlier, she had ordered a group of Trump-flag-waving Trump supporters off her property. They returned while she was out walking.

“It’s history,” she said of Harris’ visit. “It’s the first black woman vice president. I’m just so glad to be here!”

Moments later, they ran into two other neighbors, Laura McHugh and her wife, Lisa Ventura McHugh.

“I love Harris — love her” and “what she stands for,” said McHugh. “It’s good for a female to be up where she is.”

Michelle Cabaldon normally would be working in her position as head of school at High School in the Community in New Haven. But Friday, she was at Tweed, telling the story of Harris’ arrival on Instagram for her students to follow.

“It’s not often that we get to see a president or vice president in person,” Cabaldon said. Plus, “the woman part — and the woman of color part — is important. As you know, the majority of New Haven is minority, and it’s important for them to know you can be anything you want.”

Michelle Clary-Butler, director of the threatened East Shore Senior Center, which could be closed under the more austere of Mayor Justin Elicker’s two budget proposals, came out to support Harris — but also to post signs reminding her and anyone else who passed by that “Seniors Matter.”

“I’m ecstatic! I think it’s great for our city,” Clary-Butler said as she posted a temporary “Welcome Vice President Kamala Harris” sign near the entrance to the airport. “It’s just historic. It’s just emotional. This is the first — and who knows what’s to come.”

Other signs nearby mentioned the senior center, itself.

“I’m trying to save it,” she said.

Across the street from her — in front of Ferraro’s house, a group of Trump supporters were waving their flag before Ferraro told them to leave.

“We’re getting ready for 2024,” said Morris Cove resident George Williams.

A couple doors down along Burr Street, Charles Curry also identified himself as a Trump supporter. “I wish it wasn’t her” arriving, Curry said of Harris. “I wish it was Trump. I love that man.”

Maribel Gomez, 37, of East Haven, came with her mother, Maria Rodriguez, a native of Ecuador, and her daughters Camila, 13, and Abigail, 5.

"The fact that she's a woman" is a big thing, said Gomez, who was born in Ecuador but raised in Massachusetts and works for the state Juvenile Court in Bridgeport. "It gives an opportunity to have something to look forward to. It gives a woman an opportunity to look to the future — and she's a person of color!"

Clem DeLucia, who lives in New Haven and grew up right across Burr Street from the airport, said that when the late President John F. Kennedy came in the early 1960s, "the Secret Service used the closet in my bedroom as a lookout point."

Anna Brazzell of East Haven brought her 14-year-old daughter Angela with to see the vice president arrive.

"I mainly brought her here so she can see Air Force 2 and hopefully catch a glimpse of the vice president," said Anna Brazzell, who works at Tweed for American Airlines. "We're just excited. I've never seen Air Force 2."

Beyond that, "I'm pretty excited. ... It is pretty interesting to know" that the vice president "is a woman," Brazzell said as Gov. Ned Lamont and U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona strolled in front of the Tweed administration building a couple of hundred feet away as they waited for Harris to land. "To me, this empowers a lot of women. Now I can show my daughter, 'You can do it, too.'"

Trump supporters Robert and Michelle Canter of East Haven carried a plywood sign that read, "Americans First," which they held atop the Tweed fence along Dean Street.

"We need to support people here before we send money to other countries," said Robert Canter, a self-described conservative. "\$86 million to the border? Support Americans first!"

**[CT] "Help is here: " VP Harris visits New Haven childcare providers, touts stimulus (Yale Daily News)**

[Yale Daily News](#) [3/28/2021 10:38 PM, Christian Robles, 17K, Neutral, Secondary]

On Friday, Vice President Kamala Harris and other elected officials visited two local childcare providers during a one-day visit to New Haven.

The stops formed part of Harris's efforts to promote the new administration's \$1.9 trillion stimulus which aims to support childcare facilities, reduce child poverty and assist public schools more broadly. The visit, a part of the "Help is Here" tour, follows President Joe Biden's March 12 signing of the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion spending package that includes federal aid for state and local governments, one-time \$1,400 checks for single tax-filers, a temporarily expanded child tax credit for the 2021 tax season and money to help school districts reopen, among other provisions. The bill passed the House with a 219-212 vote and the Senate with a 50-49 vote.

Harris and other prominent federal and state officials stopped by the Boys & Girls Club of New Haven and the West Haven Child Development Center on their visit. New Haven is slated to receive at least \$94 million in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan.

"We are having this conversation to be clear about the challenge and crises we are facing as a country that in many ways has been accelerated by the pandemic," Harris said just before a roundtable discussion with state and federal leaders at the Boys & Girls Club. "This is a moment to leapfrog over what otherwise might have been incremental change. To actually fast forward and address some of the longstanding issues that have affected our children."

Air Force Two landed at the Elm City's Tweed Airport at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Friday. Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, U.S. House Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-New Haven) and Jahana Hayes (D-Waterbury) along with the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona greeted Harris.

According to Harris chief spokesperson Symone Sanders, the visit was also her last stop on the "Help is Here" tour. The Biden-Harris administration launched the "Help is Here" tour on March 16 to highlight how the American Rescue Plan benefits U.S. families. Administration officials previously visited Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Jacksonville and other U.S. cities in the nationwide tour.

Upon landing, Harris departed for the Boys & Girls Club of New Haven, where she offered remarks for the White House pool press before having a closed-door discussion with federal and state leaders about children's issues. Harris then answered questions from the pool press. Shortly thereafter, the vice president departed for the West Haven Child Development Center where she offered brief remarks for staff and visited a classroom of 14 three- to five-year-olds.

During that visit Peter Velz, the Director of Press Operations for the Vice President, taught the classroom of children that the proper way to pronounce Harris's first name is "COMMA-la," not "Ka-MA-la."

Harris talks stimulus, policy

At the Boys & Girls Club, the vice president highlighted three key areas of the American Rescue Plan: child poverty, childcare and learning loss recovery.

Harris said that the \$1.9 trillion package seeks to reduce child poverty in America by half through policies such as the expanded child tax credit, which would give \$3,600 per child under six and \$3,000 per child between seven and 18 annually. Pre-pandemic, the credit amounted to \$2,000 per child.

Local efforts in favor of the child tax credit increase long precede the American Rescue Plan. New Haven's DeLauro has continuously advocated for the increase since first introducing a similar proposal 18 years ago. She has made frequent media appearances since and recently published a piece in TIME Magazine to promote the policy. The expanded child tax credit is currently temporary, but DeLauro stated Friday that she is committed to making it permanent.

Harris said that investment in childcare facilities is of particular importance during the pandemic. She noted that childcare centers not only help children but also working-class mothers and the economy more broadly.

At the West Haven center, she made similar remarks, stating that two million women have left the workforce since the start of the pandemic and that childcare support will help women return to work.

During Harris's visit, Lamont announced his plans to use \$210 million in federal stimulus money to invest in early childcare programs statewide. Under Lamont's plan, \$50 million of the \$210 million would go to the state's Care 4 Kids program, which supports parents enrolled in higher education or a workforce training program, and another \$120 million would fund "operational stabilization grants" for struggling childcare businesses.

The American Rescue Plan provides \$122 billion in elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds, also known as ESSER funds — federal dollars that school districts nationwide will be able to spend on school reopening, academic acceleration and socio-emotional support for students. While at the West Haven center, Harris stated that the investment will help alleviate learning loss and address the "recent history of inadequately funding our schools."

At the Boys & Girls Club, the roundtable of federal and state leaders discussed the increase in the number of reported cases of child neglect in Connecticut during the pandemic and the mental health toll that the emergency has had on children.

New Haveners react to Harris's visit

New Haven community members came out to the streets in droves to see the Harris's motorcade. Some brought welcoming messages, others protest signs.

Ward 3 Alder Ron C. Hunt, who represents the Hill neighborhood where the Boys & Girls Club is located, waited at the intersection of Howard Avenue and Columbus Avenue with constituents to see the motorcade. He told the News that was excited about Harris's decision to tour the childcare center and the American Rescue Plan more broadly.

"I'm excited because [the Hill is a community] where there is Black and brown. We've been suffering a lot — even prior to the pandemic," Hunt told the News. "Now there's light at the end of the tunnel with the help that the federal government has sent our way."

Hunt said that his constituents often suffer from food insecurity, high unemployment and housing access issues during the pandemic, adding that 25 percent of the residents in the Hill neighborhood are food insecure. He believes federal spending will help alleviate some of those issues. Hunt added that Harris' visit shows that the New Haven community's organizing efforts for the Biden-Harris ticket last fall were not in vain and that the administration's stimulus package will help the community.

David Allen, an East Haven resident who saw Air Force Two at Tweed, agreed with Hunt that the American Rescue Plan has supported New Haven families. Allen told the News that he is currently unemployed but that the \$1,400 stimulus check he received from the federal government has helped him pay expenses.

White House pool reporters Daniela Altimara of the Hartford Courant and Emilie Munson of Hearst Media's Washington Desk covered the day's visits and recounted seeing some supporters of former President Donald Trump waving Trump 2020 flags along Harris'

motorcade route. At Tweed Airport, a Trump supporter was spotted holding an “Americans 1st” sign, in reference to Trump’s campaign slogan. The supporter later left the airport in a golf cart spray-painted in colors of the American flag.

At the Boys & Girls Club, members of Unidad Latina en Acción held a sign urging the Biden-Harris administration to immediately halt deportations. ULA Director John Lugo explained in an interview with the New Haven Register that the group’s presence was to call for action on immigration reform. Despite having initially halted some deportations for their first 100 days in office, the Biden-Harris administration has continued to deport thousands of undocumented immigrants, a policy that has been met with nationwide controversy.

Harris’s secret service agents picked up pizzas from Sally’s Apizza in Wooster Square at around 3:30 pm. Later in the evening, they visited Zuppardi’s of West Haven.

**[CT] Vice President Kamala Harris got another dose of CT’s famed pizza, in West Haven (Register Citizen)**

[Register Citizen](#) [3/27/2021 1:02 PM, Peter Yankowski, 26K, Neutral, Secondary]  
Lori Zuppardi thought her nephew was joking when he told her the Secret Service was waiting at the curb to pick up pizza.

The co-owner of Zuppardi’s Apizza on Union Avenue was another local pizzeria paid a visit by Vice President Kamala Harris’ security detail during Harris’ visit to New Haven and West Haven Friday. Harris staffers also picked up 15 pies from the Elm City’s famed Sally’s Apizza, the legendary house of New Haven-style “abeetz” on Wooster Street.

In West Haven, Harris visited the West Haven Child Development Center.

What was the Harris team’s order in West Haven? Ten pies in total, according to Zuppardi — mozzarella and sausage; mozzarella and pepperoni; and mozzarella with onion, pepper and mushroom.

Zuppardi said she added an 11th pie that had just come out of the oven. “Had I known it was them, you know I would have thrown in a fresh clam pizza,” she said, reached by phone Saturday.

She did not get to meet Harris, just two Secret Service agents who identified themselves as part of the vice president’s security team. After her nephew told her the two agents had arrived to pick up the order, she came out to meet the two men - wearing wired earpieces, naturally - whom she described as very nice.

Another worker delivered the pies to the security team’s car curbside.

“Coming from a business that’s owned by two women, having our vice president have our pizza, I mean, that’s pretty special,” said Zuppardi. She co-owns the business with her sister, Cheryl Zuppardi Pearce, but many members of their family are involved in the business in one form or another.

“The first thing we did after they left, we texted the kids,” she said. “For such a close Italian family this is such a huge thing,” she added.



She said she was happy when Harris was elected, the first woman and first woman of color to be vice president in the nation's history.

"Again, being a woman — seeing a need for some female leadership, it was a great thing," she said.

And: "We do feel that the vice president has excellent taste in pizza," Zuppardi said.

**[DE] As Biden adjusts to White House life, Wilmington beckons (NBC News)**

[NBC News](#) [3/26/2021 4:13 PM, Monica Alba, Carol E. Lee, Kristen Welker and Mike Memoli, 4745K, Neutral, Primary]

Joe Biden has wanted to be president for most of his life. But now that he lives at the White House, he often just wants to go home.

After more than two months in the executive mansion, the president and first lady Jill Biden are still adjusting to their new life in Washington and missing Delaware more than they imagined, according to people close to the couple.

Whenever possible, the Bidens have made clear they would like to spend the weekend away from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Of 10 so far, they've gone to Wilmington or Camp David for six, with an additional trip planned but scrapped at the last minute.

The president is also navigating the larger security complement necessary to protect them and its implications on any travel. And overall, he appears to be struggling to adapt to the increased restrictions and bigger staff that come with the job.

"It's just against the ethos of who he's been," one person close to Biden said.

The confines of the White House, with butlers and housekeepers always waiting on them, have made the Bidens' Delaware homes much more inviting and comfortable by comparison, another source said.

Biden, who said it felt like he was "going home" as he first approached the gates as president on Inauguration Day, has since himself conceded the White House is a "magnificent building" but one that has taken some adjustments.

Escaping to Delaware allows Biden to unwind and reset in a more relaxing place with his grandchildren, which is a huge priority for him, according to a White House official. Family time is also paramount for him. When in Wilmington, the president often visits the graves of his son Beau, daughter Naomi and first wife Neilia at his local parish.

The home the Bidens built there has a dock and access to a small lake, where they often enjoy morning coffee, while the White House residence feels more like a "museum" to the president than anything else, according to those familiar with his thinking.

Of course, Biden's itch to escape the Oval Office for more familiar and comfortable terrain during off-hours isn't unique. President George W. Bush spent a considerable amount of time at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, throughout his eight years in office. President Barack Obama enjoyed trips to Hawaii and Martha's Vineyard. And President Donald Trump traveled frequently to his properties in New Jersey and Florida, which raised concerns

about his ability to profit from the presidency.

Trump's jaunts to his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, also incurred an extra cost because of the property's proximity to international waters, which required Coast Guard protection.

So far, Biden has gone home on more weekends than his predecessors at this point in their presidencies — a throwback to his time as senator, when Delaware's proximity allowed him to make the near-daily trip back.

His regular commute from Wilmington to Washington when the Senate was in session became an important part of his political brand, something that highlighted both his commitment to his family and also allowed him to argue that, despite more than three decades in the Senate, he had never truly become a creature of Washington.

"I started going back and forth every single day so I could be home in Wilmington every night with my two young boys as a single dad after I lost my wife," he said at a campaign rally last fall.

When he was vice president, Biden returned to Delaware on weekends fairly regularly, without much scrutiny; his every movement was not documented by a full-time press pool, the way a president's is. At first, he traveled from Washington to Delaware on Air Force Two, before convincing the Secret Service to allow him to travel on Amtrak from time to time.

As president, travel back to his home state is far more complicated.

The overall cost of Biden's weekend Wilmington trips is not yet known. Senior officials stress the relatively short distance to Delaware but the security footprint required to accompany any presidential movement is massive. Every trip necessitates a lengthy motorcade, along with local law enforcement and dozens of staffers and press who join aboard Air Force One.

That's one reason Marine One has been used for some of the flights to Wilmington; it's a lot easier to fire up than the larger jets, and makes for a smaller footprint.

Camp David has also been suggested by advisers as a better alternative for weekend getaways. The Bidens have gone there twice since the inauguration.

The White House has repeatedly found itself asked to explain the president's decision to travel so frequently when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently advises against nonessential travel due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"The president lives in Wilmington. It's his home," press secretary Jen Psaki said in a recent briefing. "That's where he's lived for many, many years."

Psaki also pointed to the president's ability to take private aircraft wherever he goes, and the fact that both the Bidens and most of their staffers have been vaccinated. "I think most Americans would see that as a unique circumstance," she said.

Recently, Biden has even asked advisers whether he can take the train home again; for now, that idea has been vetoed for security purposes.

The journey home may be more complicated for Biden now — but for him, Wilmington remains as close as ever, both physically and mentally.

“In our family, the values we share, the character we strive for, the way we view the world, it all comes from home,” Biden said in an emotional farewell there before his swearing-in. “It all comes from Delaware.”

## Network TV News Coverage

### **[CT] Harris Visits Connecticut (Eyewitness News at 4:00pm)**

[\(B\) Eyewitness News at 4:00pm](#) [3/26/2021 4:03 PM, Matt McFarland]

For hours, people lined up along the fence for Vice President Harris’ arrival. Air Force Two was delayed slightly due to weather. Secret Service, US Marshals, state and local police were set up around the airport.

### **[KY] Estill County Deputies Report Counterfeit Money (WKYT This Morning at 8:00 AM)**

[\(B\) WKYT This Morning at 8:00 AM](#) [3/28/2021 8:05 AM, Staff]

Deputies in Estill County are warning people to watch out for fake money. The sheriff’s office shared photos of the counterfeit bills that they say they have gotten a lot of calls about them.

## Headlines

### **The Washington Post**

(3/27/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden administration fires most Homeland Security Advisory Council members](#)  
[Tornadoes leave six dead in Alabama and Georgia; residents take stock of storm destruction](#)

[Pelosi taps commander of D.C. Guard to become House sergeant-at-arms](#)  
[Deadly Marine Corps disaster at sea was ‘tragic’ and ‘preventable,’ investigation finds](#)  
[As states expand vaccine eligibility, universities make a push to inoculate all students](#)

(3/28/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden is betting on bigger government. The pandemic may be helping him.](#)  
[The popularity of Congress is at its highest level in more than a decade as stimulus checks hit bank accounts](#)  
[Suez Canal mishap puts battered supply chains under more pressure](#)  
[As Pandemic Upends Teaching, Fewer Students Want to Pursue It](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[Family groups crossing border in soaring numbers point to next phase of crisis](#)  
[‘Vaccine passports’ are on the way, but developing them won’t be easy](#)  
[Biden walks the union line, making a play for blue-collar workers](#)  
[Biden to unveil major new spending plans as Democrats eye bigger role for government](#)  
[A Suez Canal village, like the world, grapples with the giant ship stuck in its backyard](#)

## **The New York Times**

(3/27/2021 6:00 AM)

[For Biden, a New Virus Dilemma: How to Handle a Looming Glut of Vaccine](#)  
[Far-Right Extremists Move From 'Stop the Steal' to Stop the Vaccine](#)  
[After the Tornadoes, Small Towns Grieve for Lost Lives and Wrecked Homes](#)  
[Officials Try to Sway Biden Using Intelligence on Potential for Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan](#)

(3/28/2021 6:00 AM)

[Under Biden, Democrats Are Poised to Raise Taxes on Business and the Rich](#)  
[As Pandemic Upends Teaching, Fewer Students Want to Pursue It](#)  
[A Collapse Foretold: How Brazil's Covid-19 Outbreak Overwhelmed Hospitals](#)  
[Dozens Are Gunned Down in 'Day of Shame' for Myanmar](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

['All Hands on Deck': When Vaccinating Black People Is a Communal Effort](#)  
[Can New Gun Violence Research Find a Path Around the Political Stalemate?](#)  
[How 2 Legislative Tacticians Scored Big Wins on Child Poverty in the Stimulus](#)  
[Inside Myanmar's Army: 'They See Protesters as Criminals'](#)  
[As Militants Seize Mozambique Gas Hub, a Dash for Safety Turns Deadly](#)

## **The Wall Street Journal**

(3/27/2021 6:00 AM)

[Border Crossings by Migrant Children to Rise Sharply, U.S. Estimates Show](#)  
[Ghost-Gun Concerns Prompt Feds to Meet With Firearms Makers](#)  
[S&P 500 Rallies 1.7%, Closes Week at Record](#)  
[Suez Canal Efforts to Free Stuck Ship Make Fresh Progress Late Friday](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden Plans to Split Spending Plan in Two](#)  
[In a Texas Border Town, Migrant Families Sleep Under a Bridge as Local Resources Are Strained](#)  
[NRA to Aggressively Lobby Against Gun Measures, Despite Its Financial Woes](#)  
[New Trade Representative Says U.S. Isn't Ready to Lift China Tariffs](#)

## **ABC News**

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[Why a 4th COVID-19 wave may look different than previous surges](#)  
[Expelled from US at night, migrant families weigh next steps](#)  
[Funerals become scenes of Myanmar resistance, more violence](#)

## **CBS News**

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden expresses confidence that "rational" gun control can pass evenly-divided Senate](#)  
[Mammoth cargo ship blocking Suez Canal partially refloated](#)  
[WHO-led inquiry ends with even more questions than it began with on coronavirus origin](#)

## **CNN**

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[Global shipping was in chaos even before the Suez blockage. Shortages and higher prices loom](#)

[Philippine fighters fly over Chinese flotilla in South China Sea](#)

[Anguish in Myanmar after weekend of 'outrageous' bloodshed](#)

### **Fox News**

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[WHO's inquiry into COVID-19 outbreak 'highly chaperoned,' says ex-NSC official](#)

[Ever Given, container ship stuck in Suez Canal, 'partially refloated'](#)

[North Korea snaps back at Biden over criticism of missile launches](#)

### **NBC News**

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[With no specifics, White House says it's working on access to migrant centers](#)

[Changed hearts and minds': Biden's funding offer shifts Medicaid expansion debate](#)

[Suez Canal ship Ever Given partially refloated after huge effort to unblock key global trade route](#)

## **Washington Schedule**

### **President**

[The White House](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

9:50 AM The President and The Vice President receive the President's Daily Brief

10:00 AM In-Town Pool Call Time

11:00 AM Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and public health officials

12:30 PM Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki

1:30 PM The President and The Vice President receive a COVID-19 briefing

2:10 PM The President delivers remarks on the COVID-19 response and the state of vaccinations; The Vice President also attends

### **Vice President**

[The White House](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

See source link. Schedule not yet available.

### **Senate**

[Senate](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

11:00 a.m.: Convene for a pro forma session.

### **House of Representatives**

[House of Representatives](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

There are no public events scheduled today.

**{End of Report}**



# SECRET SERVICE NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the United States Secret Service

By TechMIS

[www.TechMIS.com](http://www.TechMIS.com)

[Mobile User Copy](#)

**TO: Secret Service**

**DATE: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:00 AM ET**

## Top News

Justice Department Takes Action  
Against COVID-19 Fraud (United States  
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Justice Dept. has charged 474 people  
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million in covid-related fraud schemes  
(Washington Post)..... 6

Nearly 500 People Charged With Covid  
'Fraud Schemes', DOJ Says (Forbes). 7

Nearly 500 charged with pandemic-  
related fraud: DOJ (The Hill)..... 8

[VA] Virginia Beach brothers arrested  
for Capitol riot charges (WTKR) ..... 8

[FL] Fort Myers Business Owner  
Convicted At Trial For COVID Relief  
Fraud (United States Department of  
Justice)..... 10

[MO] Missouri District Cancels Classes  
Due to Malware Attack (Campus Safety  
Magazine) ..... 11

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[CT] Feds: Hartford man who bought  
guns with counterfeit money out of state  
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[NY] Man Nabbed With Heroin,  
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[PA] Police Seeking ID Of Two Accused  
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[TX] Waggoner National Bank warns of  
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[CA] Arrests Made for Trafficking  
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Methamphetamine out of Bakersfield  
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## Protection

GOP senators seek Hunter Biden gun  
incident information from law  
enforcement (FOX News) ..... 16

Senators ask Secret Service director to  
explain role in Hunter Biden gun  
incident (New York Post) ..... 17



**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (BAL)  
**To:** STEVEN STANFORD (INV)  
**Subject:** RE: USSS News Briefing (3-29-21)  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 2:03:00 PM

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Thank you.

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**From:** STEVEN STANFORD (INV) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 2:02 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) (NWK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (BAL)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: USSS News Briefing (3-29-21)

Gents,

Please see the attached regarding our conversation later today, specifically the articles regarding HB's lost weapon.

Thanks,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**From:** JEFFREY ADAMS (CMR) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 6:47 AM  
**To:** dirstaff <dirstaff@uss.s.dhs.gov>; CMR-clips-list <CMR-clips-list@uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: USSS News Briefing (3-29-21)

Good morning,

Please reference the attached USSS Daily News Brief for March 29, 2021.

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**From:** USSS Daily - TechMIS <uss.s@techmis.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 6:44 AM  
**To:** noreply@techmis.com  
**Subject:** USSS News Briefing (3-29-21)



# SECRET SERVICE

# NEWS BRIEFING

Prepared for the United States Secret Service

By TechMIS

[www.TechMIS.com](http://www.TechMIS.com)

[Mobile User Copy](#)

**TO: Secret Service**

**DATE: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:00 AM ET**

## Top News

[Justice Department Takes Action Against COVID-19 Fraud \(United States Department of Justice\)](#)

[Justice Dept. has charged 474 people with trying to steal more than \\$569 million in covid-related fraud schemes \(Washington Post\)](#)

[Nearly 500 People Charged With Covid 'Fraud Schemes', DOJ Says \(Forbes\)](#)

[Nearly 500 charged with pandemic-related fraud: DOJ \(The Hill\)](#)

[\[VA\] Virginia Beach brothers arrested for Capitol riot charges \(WTKR\)](#)

[\[FL\] Fort Myers Business Owner Convicted At Trial For COVID Relief Fraud \(United States Department of Justice\)](#)

[\[MO\] Missouri District Cancels Classes Due to Malware Attack \(Campus Safety Magazine\)](#)

## Investigations

[\[CT\] Feds: Hartford man who bought guns with counterfeit money out of state sentenced \(Register Citizen\)](#)

[\[NY\] Man Nabbed With Heroin, Numerous Forged Credit Cards On Long Island, Police Say \(Daily Voice\)](#)

[\[PA\] Police Seeking ID Of Two Accused Of Using Counterfeit Money \(Levittown Now\)](#)

[\[TX\] Waggoner National Bank warns of counterfeit bills in Vernon \(KAUZ\)](#)

[\[CA\] Arrests Made for Trafficking Fentanyl and Hundreds of Pounds of Methamphetamine out of Bakersfield \(United States Department of Justice\)](#)

## Protection

[GOP senators seek Hunter Biden gun incident information from law enforcement \(FOX News\)](#)

[Senators ask Secret Service director to explain role in Hunter Biden gun incident \(New York Post\)](#)

[Hunter Biden texts contradict claims Secret Service wasn't involved in gun case \(New York Post\)](#)

[\[CT\] Crowds turn out to greet VP Kamala Harris in New Haven & West Haven \(Post-Chronicle\)](#)

[\[CT\] "Help is here: " VP Harris visits New Haven childcare providers, touts stimulus \(Yale Daily News\)](#)

[\[CT\] Vice President Kamala Harris got another dose of CT's famed pizza, in West Haven \(Register Citizen\)](#)

[\[DE\] As Biden adjusts to White House life, Wilmington beckons \(NBC News\)](#)

### **[Network TV News Coverage](#)**

[\[CT\] Harris Visits Connecticut \(Eyewitness News at 4:00pm\)](#)

[\[KY\] Estill County Deputies Report Counterfeit Money \(WKYT This Morning at 8:00 AM\)](#)

### **[Headlines](#)**

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[The New York Times](#)

[The Wall Street Journal](#)

[ABC News](#)

[CBS News](#)

[CNN](#)

[Fox News](#)

[NBC News](#)

### **[Washington Schedule](#)**

[President](#)

[Vice President](#)

[Senate](#)

[House of Representatives](#)

## **Top News**

### **Justice Department Takes Action Against COVID-19 Fraud (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/26/2021 10:23 AM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

The Department of Justice announced an update today on criminal and civil enforcement

efforts to combat COVID-19 related fraud, including schemes targeting the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program and Unemployment Insurance (UI) programs.

As of today, the Department of Justice has publicly charged 474 defendants with criminal offenses based on fraud schemes connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. These cases involve attempts to obtain over \$569 million from the U.S. government and unsuspecting individuals through fraud and have been brought in 56 federal districts around the country. These cases reflect a degree of reach, coordination, and expertise that is critical for enforcement efforts against COVID-19 related fraud to have a meaningful impact and is also emblematic of the Justice Department's response to criminal wrongdoing.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is actively participating in the Department of Justice's efforts to hold accountable those who have illegally lined their pockets during the COVID-19 pandemic. This office has utilized all available legal authorities to stop coronavirus related fraud schemes, including civil injunctions to stop ongoing frauds, and criminal indictments to bring to justice those who have taken advantage of the pandemic to victimize their fellow citizens. We will continue to devote resources to addressing this abhorrent behavior, and anyone engaged in these kinds of schemes can expect to see continuing, robust criminal and civil enforcement action.

"The Department of Justice has led an historic enforcement initiative to detect and disrupt COVID-19 related fraud schemes," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "The impact of the department's work to date sends a clear and unmistakable message to those who would exploit a national emergency to steal taxpayer-funded resources from vulnerable individuals and small businesses. We are committed to protecting the American people and the integrity of the critical lifelines provided for them by Congress, and we will continue to respond to this challenge."

"To anyone thinking of using the global pandemic as an opportunity to scam and steal from hardworking Americans, my advice is simple – don't," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Nicholas L. McQuaid of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "No matter where you are or who you are, we will find you and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law."

"We will not allow American citizens or the critical benefits programs that have been created to assist them to be preyed upon by those seeking to take advantage of this national emergency," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Brian M. Boynton of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "We are proud to work with our law enforcement partners to hold wrongdoers accountable and to safeguard taxpayer funds."

"On the anniversary of the CARES Act, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas renews its commitment to pursue the fraudsters who steal from a system designed to provide help to deserving individuals and businesses suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," said U.S. Attorney Ashley C. Hoff. "Working closely with IRS Criminal Investigation and our other law enforcement partners, we will redouble our efforts to identify and vigorously prosecute anyone committing fraud in relation to the CARES Act financial benefit programs."

In March 2020, Congress passed a \$2.2 trillion economic relief bill known as the

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act designed to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of Americans who are suffering the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Anticipating the need to protect the integrity of these taxpayer funds and to otherwise protect Americans from fraud related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Justice immediately stood up multiple efforts dedicated to identifying, investigating, and prosecuting such fraud. Leveraging data analysis capabilities and partnerships developed through its vast experience combatting economic crime and fraud on government programs, the Justice Department's response to COVID-19 related fraud serves as a model for proactive, high-impact white-collar enforcement, and demonstrates our agility in responding to new and emerging threats. This rapid and nationwide response enabled the Justice Department to quickly ensure accountability for wrongdoing amid a national crisis and sent a forceful message of deterrence during an ongoing crisis. The multifaceted and multi-district approach to enforcement during this national health emergency continues and is expected to yield numerous additional criminal and civil enforcement actions in the coming months.

On criminal matters, the Justice Department's efforts to combat COVID-19 related fraud schemes have proceeded on numerous fronts, including:

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) fraud: Prominent among the department's efforts have been cases brought by the Criminal Division's Fraud Section involving at least 120 defendants charged with PPP fraud. The cases involve a range of conduct, from individual business owners who have inflated their payroll expenses to obtain larger loans than they otherwise would have qualified for, to serial fraudsters who revived dormant corporations and purchased shell companies with no actual operations to apply for multiple loans falsely stating they had significant payroll, to organized criminal networks submitting identical loan applications and supporting documents under the names of different companies. Most charged defendants have misappropriated loan proceeds for prohibited purposes, such as the purchase of houses, cars, jewelry, and other luxury items. In one case, *U.S. v. Dinesh Sah*, in the Northern District of Texas, the defendant applied for 15 different PPP loans to eight different lenders, using 11 different companies, seeking a total of \$24.8 million. The defendant obtained approximately \$17.3 million and used the proceeds to purchase multiple homes, jewelry, and luxury vehicles. In another case, *U.S. v. Richard Aivazyan, et al.*, in the Central District of California, eight defendants applied for 142 PPP and EIDL loans seeking over \$21 million using stolen and fictitious identities and sham companies, and laundered the proceeds through a web of bank accounts to purchase real estate, securities, and jewelry.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) fraud: The department has also focused on fraud against the EIDL program, which was designed to provide loans to small businesses, agricultural and non-profit entities. Fraudsters have targeted the program by applying for EIDL advances and loans on behalf of ineligible newly-created, shell, or non-existent businesses, and diverting the funds for illegal purposes. The department has responded, primarily through the efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado and their partners at the U.S. Secret Service, acting swiftly to seize loan proceeds from fraudulent applications, with \$580 million seized to date and seizures ongoing. The EIDL Fraud Task Force in Colorado, comprised of personnel from five federal law enforcement agencies and federal prosecutors, is investigating a broad swath of allegedly fraudulently loans and their applicants. It is working to identify individual wrongdoers and networks of fraudsters appropriate for prosecution.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than \$860 billion in federal funds has been appropriated for UI benefits through September 2021. Early investigation and analysis indicate that international organized criminal groups have targeted these funds by using stolen identities to file for UI benefits. Domestic fraudsters, ranging from identity thieves to prison inmates, have also committed UI fraud. In response, the department established the National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force, a prosecutor-led multi-agency task force with representatives from more than eight different federal law enforcement agencies. Additionally, the department is hiring Assistant U.S. Attorneys in multiple U.S. Attorney's Offices whose focus will be UI fraud prosecutions. Since the start of the pandemic, over 140 defendants have been charged and arrested for federal offenses related to UI fraud. In one case, U.S. v. Leelynn Danielle Chytka, in the Western District of Virginia, a defendant recently pleaded guilty for her role in a scheme that successfully stole more than \$499,000 in UI benefits using the identities of individuals ineligible for UI, including a number of prisoners.

Through the department's International Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (ICHIP) program, ICHIP advisors have provided assistance and case-based mentoring to foreign counterparts around the globe to help detect, investigate and prosecute fraud related to the pandemic. The ICHIPs have helped counterparts combat cyber-enabled crime (e.g., online fraud) and intellectual property crime, including fraudulent and mislabeled COVID-19 treatments and sales of counterfeit pharmaceuticals. ICHIPs conducted webinars for foreign prosecutors and law enforcement in Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America on how to take down fraudulent COVID-19 websites. These webinars addressed methods for finding the registrar for a particular domain and requesting a voluntary takedown as well as the U.S. legal processes necessary for obtaining a court order that would bind a U.S. registrar. This has resulted in the take down of multiple online COVID-19 scams and significant seizures of counterfeit medicines and medical supplies such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and other illicit goods.

The department has also brought actions to combat coronavirus-related fraud schemes targeting American consumers. With scammers around the world attempting to sell fake and unlawful cures, treatments, and personal protective equipment, the department has brought dozens of civil and criminal enforcement actions to safeguard Americans' health and economic security. The department has prosecuted or secured civil injunctions against dozens of defendants who sold products — including industrial bleach, ozone gas, vitamin supplements, and colloidal silver ointments — using false or unapproved claims about the products' abilities to prevent or treat COVID-19 infections. The department has also worked to shutter hundreds of fraudulent websites that were facilitating consumer scams, and it has taken scores of actions to disrupt financial networks supporting such scams. The department is also coordinating with numerous agency partners to prevent and deter vaccine-related fraud.

The department is also using numerous civil tools to address fraud in connection with CARES Act programs. For example, in the Eastern District of California, the department obtained the first civil settlement for fraud involving the Paycheck Protection Program, resolving civil claims under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA) and the False Claims Act (FCA) against an internet retail company and its president and chief executive officer arising from false statements to federally insured banks to influence those banks to approve, and the SBA to guarantee, a PPP loan. FIRREA allows the government to impose civil penalties for violations of enumerated



federal criminal statutes, including those that affect federally-insured financial institutions. The FCA is the government's primary civil tool to redress false claims for federal funds and property involving a multitude of government operations and functions. The FCA permits private citizens with knowledge of fraud against the government to bring a lawsuit on behalf of the United States and to share in any recovery. Such whistleblower complaints have been on the rise as unscrupulous actors take advantage of vulnerabilities created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the new government programs disbursing federal relief, and whistleblower cases will continue to be an essential source of new leads to help root out the misuse and abuse of taxpayer funds.

Indictments and other criminal charges referenced above are merely allegations, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The unprecedented pace and tempo of these efforts is made possible only through the diligent work of a wide range of Justice Department partners, including the Criminal Division's Fraud Section and Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section, the Civil Division's Commercial Litigation Branch (Fraud Section) and Consumer Protection Branch, U.S. Attorneys' Offices throughout the country, and law enforcement partners from the FBI, Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, U.S. Secret Service, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Offices of Inspectors General from the Small Business Administration, Department of Homeland Security, Social Security Administration, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal Housing Finance Agency and Federal Reserve Board, Food and Drug Administration's Office of Criminal Investigations, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Special Inspector General for Pandemic Relief, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, OCDETF Fusion Center and OCDETF's International Organized Crime Intelligence and Operations Center.

**Justice Dept. has charged 474 people with trying to steal more than \$569 million in covid-related fraud schemes (Washington Post)**

[Washington Post](#) [3/26/2021 9:55 AM, Matt Zapotosky, 13890K, Positive, Primary]

The Justice Department has charged 474 people over the past year with trying to swipe more than \$569 million by using criminal fraud schemes connected to the coronavirus pandemic and seized at least \$580 million in civil proceedings, officials announced Friday, demonstrating how taxpayer-funded programs meant to ease the economic burden of the crisis have become susceptible to scammers.

The department said it has seen fraud attempts connected to several government aid programs. The Criminal Division's Fraud Section, for example, has charged at least 120 people in connection with fraud of the Paycheck Protection Program, a taxpayer-subsidized loan program regulated by the Small Business Administration, which has long been of concern because of how program funds were disbursed with relatively little oversight.

The department said it had also seen immense fraud in connection with the Economic Injury Disaster Loans program, and, along with the Secret Service and U.S. attorney's office in Colorado, had seized \$580 million of possibly stolen money from that program through administrative procedures. That money, authorities said, is separate from the funds explicitly tied to criminal charges.

Also, the Justice Department said it had found business owners inflating payroll expenses to get Paycheck Protection Program loans larger than what they would have qualified for, as well as “serial fraudsters” reviving defunct corporations or purchasing shell companies with no operations to apply for large loans.

In one case in Texas, the department said, a man pleaded guilty to submitting 15 fake applications under various business names to try to obtain \$24.8 million in loans, when none of the businesses had employees or paid the wages he claimed they did. Most of those charged, the department said, spent the government aid on houses, cars, jewelry and other luxury items.

“The Department of Justice has led an historic enforcement initiative to detect and disrupt COVID-19 related fraud schemes,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. “The impact of the department’s work to date sends a clear and unmistakable message to those who would exploit a national emergency to steal taxpayer-funded resources from vulnerable individuals and small businesses. We are committed to protecting the American people and the integrity of the critical lifelines provided for them by Congress, and we will continue to respond to this challenge.”

The department said it had also seen significant fraud in connection with unemployment insurance, the use of which ballooned during the pandemic.

The department said it had charged more than 140 people with such fraud since the start of the pandemic, and it had found organized, international criminal groups trying to apply for the funds using stolen identities, as well as more run-of-the-mill fraudsters in the United States.

That the department is seeing such a massive quantity of fraud efforts is not necessarily surprising, given the scope of the pandemic and the amount of money the government has made available in aid. Early in the pandemic, Congress passed a \$2 trillion relief bill known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or Cares Act. This month, lawmakers approved a \$1.9 trillion relief plan.

Officials have seen such abuses during other disasters and economic crises, perhaps most comparably with the 2008 Troubled Asset Relief Program, which doled out hundreds of billions of dollars. That program’s inspector general’s office, which remains active, says its investigations have resulted in the recovery of \$11 billion.

### **Nearly 500 People Charged With Covid ‘Fraud Schemes’, DOJ Says (Forbes)**

[Forbes](#) [3/26/2021 10:08 AM, Melissa Holzberg, 11217K, Positive, Primary]

The Department of Justice has charged 474 people with fraud in connection to “schemes” targeting Covid-19 relief and “attempts to obtain over \$569 million” from the government and “unsuspecting individuals,” the department announced Friday.

Cases have been brought in 56 federal districts, and focus on attempts to defraud the Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and Unemployment Insurance programs.

“At least” 120 people have been charged with PPP fraud including “business owners who have inflated their payroll expenses”, people who “revived dormant corporations” and

“organized criminal networks submitting identical loan applications.”

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado and the Secret Service seized \$580 million from loan proceeds from “fraudulent applications” to the EIDL program.

Over 140 people have been charged and arrested for “federal offenses related to” unemployment insurance fraud.

Various laws have been enacted since March 2020 to fund Covid-19 relief. The government has allocated over \$600 billion to the Paycheck Protection Program and over \$500 billion in expanded unemployment benefits.

“The impact of the department’s work to date sends a clear and unmistakable message to those who would exploit a national emergency to steal taxpayer-funded resources from vulnerable individuals and small businesses,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said.

A man from Florida is being accused of a \$1.5 million Covid-19 fraud scheme where he allegedly stole retirement home residents’ identities, including his mother’s. According to prosecutors, Jeremie Saintvil used the identities of eight people to open credit lines and funnel money through a Wells Fargo Account. He’s also accused of submitting PPP applications using inactive or fake businesses.

**Nearly 500 charged with pandemic-related fraud: DOJ (The Hill)**

[The Hill](#) [3/27/2021 11:07 PM, Jordan Williams, 2406K, Positive, Secondary]

Nearly 500 people have been charged with coronavirus-related fraud, according to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The DOJ said in a statement on Friday that it has charged 474 defendants with criminal offenses over fraud schemes across 56 federal districts.

At least 120 defendants have been charged with fraud related to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a provision of the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act aimed at helping small businesses keep workers on their payrolls. The department also said that more than 140 defendants have been charged with unemployment insurance fraud.

The DOJ also said that the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Colorado and the Secret Service have seized more than \$580 million in proceeds from fraudulent applications for the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) program. Those were designed for small businesses and agricultural and nonprofit entities.

On top of that, the DOJ has brought civil and criminal enforcement actions against scams targeting American consumers, including those that sold products using false or unapproved claims about their abilities to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

“The impact of the department’s work to date sends a clear and unmistakable message to those who would exploit a national emergency to steal taxpayer-funded resources from vulnerable individuals and small businesses,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.

“We are committed to protecting the American people and the integrity of the critical

lifelines provided for them by Congress, and we will continue to respond to this challenge,” he said

The department ramped up its pandemic fraud efforts after Congress last March passed the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act, which provided assistance to Americans who were struggling as the pandemic progressed in its early days.

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan passed earlier this month expanded unemployment benefits through September, provided more funding for the PPP program, and extended the EIDL program.

**[VA] Virginia Beach brothers arrested for Capitol riot charges (WTKR)**

[WTKR](#) [3/26/2021 11:58 AM, Staff, 28K, Positive, Secondary]

Two men were arrested on March 24 in Chesapeake on charges stemming from the Capitol riot that took place on January 6.

Eric Von Bernewitz and Paul Von Bernewitz were arrest by FBI agents after they got a tip in January identifying individuals that were allegedly inside the Capitol at the time of the incidents.

Court documents said the tipster (Witness 1) provided screenshots of Facebook posts from Witness 2, a female who claimed her brother was inside the Capitol Building on January 6. Witness 1 told officials that Witness 2 posted on Facebook saying she was in touch with her brother through FaceTime while the brother was inside the Capitol.

Witness 1 provided screenshots of Witness 2's Facebook posts and a conversation to law enforcement. The posts from Witness 2 conveyed her perception that the riot was not chaotic or crazy, though noting a window was broken and her brother relayed there was tear gas. She further explained her brother communicated with her through FaceTime while he was in the Capitol building and she said her brother and others were there to support contesting election results of certain states.

In addition to the Facebook posts, Witness 1 provided identifying information for Witness 2 and her brothers. Court documents said that although Witness 1 did not know Witness 2's brothers or which brother Witness 2 referred to in her Facebook posts, Witness 1 located information about Witness 2's two brothers on the internet and identified them as Eric Von Bernewitz and Paul Von Bernewitz who live in Virginia Beach.

On January 19, Special Agents from FBI Norfolk interviewed Eric Von Bernewitz with his lawyer on the phone. Court documents said he admitted that he and his brother entered the Capitol Building on January 6.

Eric explained that he and his brother drove together to Washington D.C. and according to Eric, Paul went with him for protection because Eric's right arm is paralyzed. Eric allegedly said that they entered the Capitol Building from the Northwest corner in the front and went to the Northeast corner in the back. Court documents then say Eric stated that he turned off his phone before entering the U.S. Capitol because it was low on battery in case he later needed it to find his brother. Court documents claim Eric said he got caught up in the excitement of the crowd, went in the Capitol Building unexpectedly, and left within ten minutes.

On January 21, Special Agents from FBI Norfolk interviewed Paul with his lawyer on the phone. Paul admitted that he and his brother Eric both entered the Capitol Building. Court documents claim Paul explained that his brother asked him to go and he agreed so that he could take care of his brother, partially due to his brother's disability. According to Paul he and his brother attended a rally, during which the crowd decided to go to the Capitol building. Outside of the Capitol, the crowd began to push toward an open door. Paul said that he further advised that he and his brother were in the Capitol for a short period of time, estimating less than ten minutes.

Court documents said Paul explained that he took approximately four photos inside the Capitol Building and later deleted them as is his normal practice to delete items from his phones. Eventually more police arrived and forced the crowd back outside through the same door which they had entered the building.

Court documents explained, "Based on the foregoing, your affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that Eric Von Bernewitz and Paul Von Bernewitz violated 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) and (2), which makes it a crime to (1) knowingly enter or remain in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority to do; and (2) knowingly, and with intent to impede or disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions, engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct in, or within such proximity to, any restricted building or grounds when, or so that, such conduct, in fact, impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions; or attempts or conspires to do so. For purposes of Section 1752 of Title 18, a "restricted building" includes a posted, cordoned off, or otherwise restricted area of a building or grounds where the President or other person protected by the Secret Service, including the Vice President, is or will be temporarily visiting; or any building or grounds so restricted in conjunction with an event designated as a special event of national significance.

Your affiant submits there is also probable cause to believe that Eric Von Bernewitz and Paul Von Bernewitz violated 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) and (G), which makes it a crime to willfully and knowingly (D) utter loud, threatening, or abusive language, or engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct, at any place in the Grounds or in any of the Capitol Buildings with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress or either House of Congress, or the orderly conduct in that building of a hearing before, or any deliberations of, a committee of Congress or either House of Congress; and (G) parade, demonstrate, or picket in any of the Capitol Buildings."

#### **[FL] Fort Myers Business Owner Convicted At Trial For COVID Relief Fraud (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/26/2021 5:13 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

A federal jury today found Casey David Crowther (35, Fort Myers) guilty of bank fraud, making a false statement to a lending institution, and two counts of money laundering. Crowther faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison for the bank fraud and false statement charges, and up to 10 years in federal prison for each money laundering charge. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

According to evidence presented at trial, Crowther obtained a \$2.1 million Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan by falsely stating that he intended to use the money to make payroll and pay for rent and utilities for his company Target Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. However, Crowther intended to use the money to enrich himself and, once the loan

was obtained, quickly used the proceeds to make a series of personal purchases including a nearly \$700,000 boat and a \$100,000 payment to a former business partner. Crowther concealed the scheme by providing false explanations for the expenditures to his bank, calling the boat “equipment” and the payment to his partner as “payroll.” To ensure that he did not need to pay the loan back under the terms of the PPP program, Crowther added multiple family members to his company’s payroll who did not actually perform work. Crowther also created 39 fake employees, along with fake identification documents including Social Security cards, in an attempt to show that his company was using the funds appropriately on payroll.

Prior to trial, Crowther had pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud and one count of making a false statement to a financial institution related to a mortgage fraud scheme. In that scheme, Crowther created false bank statements to justify a loan he had used to purchase a nearly \$1.3 million waterfront house in St. James City, Florida.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Trent Reichling and Michael V. Leeman.

**[MO] Missouri District Cancels Classes Due to Malware Attack (Campus Safety Magazine)**

[Campus Safety Magazine](#) [3/26/2021 6:41 AM, Robin Hattersley-Gray, 7K, Neutral, Secondary]

A malware attack forced the Park Hill School District to cancel classes on Monday and Tuesday.

Early on Monday morning, Park Hill officials posted a message on the district’s Facebook page announcing the attack, which took down the district’s critical systems, reports KMBC. The schools were forced to close because the affected systems could impact safety.

The district apologized for its last-minute notice of the cancellation of classes. In many cases, students were already on their way to school before the school closure announcement.

The attack happened on the first day of full-time learning for all students in a year, reports FOX4. The problems were initially discovered when parents had difficulty logging into the district’s “Schoolology” program on Sunday evening. The initial attack is believed to have happened on Sunday morning.

The FBI and U.S. Secret Service are helping district officials investigate the malware attack.

Students taking in-person and virtual classes returned to school on Wednesday, reports KSHB.

The district said it hopes no personal information was stolen during the attack.

Park Hill’s ordeal is just the latest attack on K-12 school districts across the country. Earlier this month, Buffalo (New York) Public Schools canceled all remote classes due to a ransomware attack that caused “unanticipated interruption to BPS District network systems.” In late November, Baltimore County Public Schools were forced to close for three days due to a ransomware attack.



On March 16, the FBI issued a warning of an uptick in ransomware targeting educational institutions in 12 states and the U.K., spanning K-12, higher education and seminaries.

Before that in December, U.S. cybersecurity officials warned K-12 educators of an increase in cyberattacks designed to exploit and disrupt distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Investigations

### **[CT] Feds: Hartford man who bought guns with counterfeit money out of state sentenced (Register Citizen)**

[Register Citizen](#) [3/27/2021 9:47 PM, Peter Yankowski, 26K, Positive, Secondary]

A 32-year-old Hartford man has been sentenced to more than four years in prison after federal authorities allege he traveled back and forth to North Dakota to illegally purchase guns.

Standford Smith, also known as “Pops” was sentenced Friday to 55 months in prison followed by four years of supervised release during a videoconference appearance before U.S. District Judge Alvin W. Thompson, the U.S. attorney’s office for the District of Connecticut said.

In October, Smith pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to unlawfully transport firearms in interstate commerce. He also pleaded guilty to a cocaine distribution charge, after the U.S. attorney’s office said he was arrested with crack he intended to distribute while on pretrial release.

Smith’s arrest stems from a joint investigation by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and East Haven police into a drug trafficking group “operating out of the Mayberry Village housing complex in East Hartford,” a news release said.

Authorities allege Smith traveled to North Dakota with other members of the group where they stole one gun by force and bought others with counterfeit money. They claim he also traveled to North Dakota again that year to acquire another gun.

Investigators recovered two of the guns and traced them back to North Dakota after one was used in a shooting in East Hartford.

“To date, investigators have traced at least nine firearms that were obtained in North Dakota and transported to Connecticut. Some of the guns have been used in shootings in the Hartford area,” a press release said.

Smith was arrested in June 2018 and later released on bond. He was arrested weeks later “after he was found in possession of crack cocaine that he intended to distribute,” the release said.

He has been in custody since his second arrest.

### **[NY] Man Nabbed With Heroin, Numerous Forged Credit Cards On Long Island, Police Say (Daily Voice)**

[Daily Voice](#) [3/26/2021 8:30 AM, Kathy Reakes, Positive, Secondary]

An out-of-state man has been arrested on Long Island for alleged drug possession and having numerous forged credit cards and card templates, as well as other charges.

Frank Randolph, age 33, of Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, was arrested around 10 p.m., Wednesday, March 23, in Hicksville, said the Nassau County Police.

According to detectives, as part of Operation Natalie, Nassau County's War Against Opioids, officers while on patrol, spotted a black Hyundai Sonata traveling southbound on South Oyster Bay Road, commit multiple traffic violations.

After stopping the vehicle, Randolph parked the vehicle, got out, and began to walk away from officers while making a movement toward his front right pants pocket, police said.

Officers found a black knife in his front right pants pocket and attempted to safely secure the knife.

Randolph then became verbally combative with officers, refusing to comply with their commands, and actively resisted arrest, police said.

After a brief struggle, Randolph was placed into custody.

An investigation was conducted with the U.S. Secret Service, the state Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center.

Randolph was found to be in possession of the following items:

46 glassine envelopes containing a substance believed to be heroin

A substance believed to be methamphetamine

Drug paraphernalia

Equipment to manufacture and fabricate fraudulent documents

Re-encoded forged credit cards

109 blank credit card templates

22 blank chip credit cards

Three credit card reading devices

Equipment for fabricating identifications and credit cards

Personal account information of an unknown victim

A forged Rhode Island driver's license

54 governmental ID holograms belong to various states

A blank Social Security Card

Randolph was charged with:

Three counts of possession of a controlled substance

Six counts of possession of a forged instrument

Four counts of possession of forgery device

Criminal possession of a hypodermic instrument

False impersonation

Obstructing governmental administration

Multiple traffic infractions

He will be arraigned on Wednesday, March 25, in Mineola.

**[PA] Police Seeking ID Of Two Accused Of Using Counterfeit Money (Levittown Now)**

[Levittown Now](#) [3/26/2021 8:00 AM, Staff, Neutral, Secondary]

The Falls Township Police Department is seeking information that will aid them in identifying two people are accused of using counterfeit \$100 bill.

The two suspects used the counterfeit bill at the Home Depot on Commerce Boulevard, police said.

The two left in a newer-model black Volvo hatchback.

Anyone with information has been asked to contact Officer Victoria Crosier with any information at 215-949-9100 ext: 438 or at [v.crosier@fallstwp.com](mailto:v.crosier@fallstwp.com).

**[TX] Waggoner National Bank warns of counterfeit bills in Vernon (KAUZ)**

[KAUZ](#) [3/26/2021 4:13 PM, Staff, 2K, Neutral, Secondary]

Buyers should beware of this scam involving hard-to-spot counterfeit bills.

The Waggoner National Bank said they have received two counterfeit \$100 bills which appear and feel authentic and even passed the retailer's pen test. However, they did not pass the detection machine at a bank. The illegitimate currency was examined and bank officials said the bills are a reproduction of a "Series 1977" \$100 bill and have the exact same serial number.

The estimated lifespan for \$100 bills is nearly 23 years so authorities said they generally don't see this denomination currency older than 1996.

"Private businesses are free to develop their own policies on whether to accept cash unless there is a state law that says otherwise," said the Waggoner National Bank on Facebook.

Waggoner National Bank wants to remind businesses there is no federal mandate requiring

a business to accept cash.

The Vernon Police Department said anyone who comes in possession of these bills please contact the authorities.

**[CA] Arrests Made for Trafficking Fentanyl and Hundreds of Pounds of Methamphetamine out of Bakersfield (United States Department of Justice)**

[United States Department of Justice](#) [3/26/2021 5:00 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary]

Eight people were arrested in Kern County today following a months-long investigation into a Bakersfield-based drug trafficking organization that attempted to smuggle hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine and fentanyl, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced. A ninth defendant is in custody in Chico, California.

The defendants are scheduled to make an initial appearance in Fresno before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jennifer L. Thurston on Monday, March 29, at 2:30 p.m.

Those charged in the federal criminal complaint unsealed today are: Omar Alberto Navarro, 38, of Arvin; David Delgado Gonzalez, 37, of Bakersfield; Amayrani Jared Arreguin, 24, of Bakersfield; Lizette Mendez, 31, of Delano; Mayra Guadalupe Galvan, 31, of Delano; Miguel Angel Martinez, 26, of Bakersfield; Randal Jason Newell, 41, of Bakersfield; Daniel Armendariz Mercado, 31, of Bakersfield, and James Scott Gordon, 47, of Chico.

According to court documents, Navarro oversaw the wide-ranging drug trafficking organization from Bakersfield. Mendez, Galvan, Newell, and others transported narcotics for the organization. Between September and December 2020, those drivers were intercepted by law enforcement who seized a total of more than 380 pounds of methamphetamine and more than eight pounds of fentanyl that were concealed in their vehicles. On Dec. 27, 2020, Martinez was stopped by law enforcement on Interstate 5 as he attempted to smuggle 18 pounds of methamphetamine from Bakersfield to Texas. Also in December 2020, Mercado and Gordon purchased large amounts of methamphetamine from other members of the drug trafficking organization with the intent to distribute the narcotics to customers.

“The success of this operation highlights the importance and necessity of law enforcement partnerships across the spectrum,” said Homeland Security Investigations NorCal Special Agent in Charge Tatum King. “Of particular importance, the significant quantity of narcotics seized by this HSI Bakersfield-led investigation ensured that the narcotics would not enter the drug distribution supply chain and inevitably harm the public. We are proud to be part of the team making our communities safer.”

This case is the product of an investigation by Homeland Security Investigations, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Customs and Border Protection, the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret Service, the Bakersfield Police Department, the Kern County Sheriff's Office, the Shafter Police Department, the Kern County Probation Department, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the California Department of Motor Vehicles, and the California Highway Patrol. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Christopher D. Baker and Laura J. Berger are prosecuting the case.

If convicted of the charged offenses, each defendant faces a statutory mandatory minimum

penalty of 10 years in prison up to a maximum of life in prison, and a \$10 million fine. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. The charges are only allegations; the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at [www.justice.gov/OCDETF](http://www.justice.gov/OCDETF).

## Protection

### **GOP senators seek Hunter Biden gun incident information from law enforcement (FOX News)**

[FOX News](#) [3/26/2021 3:06 PM, Tyler Olson, 11408K, Neutral, Primary]

Two Republican senators are asking multiple law enforcement agencies about their alleged involvement in a 2018 incident when a gun belonging to Hunter Biden, the son of President Biden, temporarily went missing.

Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Ron Johnson, R-Wis., sent letters inquiring about the involvement of the United States Secret Service (USSS), FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in the aftermath of the incident. Their queries are in response to Politico reporting that the Secret Service inserted itself into the response, which the Secret Service denied in a statement to Fox News.

"On Feb. 24, in response to a query from Politico, the Secret Service provided an on the record statement clearly denying agency involvement in an alleged Delaware gun store incident," the Secret Service said in a statement to Fox News. "The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described."

A source with knowledge of the police report about the Oct. 23, 2018 incident told Fox News that it indicated that Hallie Biden, the widow of President Biden's late son Beau, who was in a relationship with Hunter at the time, threw a gun owned by Hunter in a dumpster behind a market that is near a school.

A firearm transaction report reviewed by Fox News indicates that Hunter Biden purchased a gun earlier that month.

The owner of the market confirmed to Fox News that the Delaware State Police were called to the market on Oct. 23, 2018, and that it shared surveillance footage with police.

"We did the right thing and called the police," the market's owner said.

"After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden's purchase of the firearm," Grassley and Johnson wrote. "The owner of the gun store reportedly 'refused to supply the paperwork' to the USSS agents due to suspicion that 'the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in

case it were to be involved in a crime.”

The senators continued: "According to this report, a 'law enforcement official' claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware 'kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security.' If true, USSS must explain to Congress why such informal actions were taken and whether they were necessary in light of the circumstances."

The Secret Service protects the former vice presidents and their spouses for six months after they leave office, which means at this time no Biden family members would have been under the agency's protection. The agency maintains this was the case and denies any involvement.

The Delaware State Police referred Fox News to the Delaware Attorney General's Office when asked about an Oct. 23, 2018 incident involving Hunter Biden, saying that the investigation had been referred to the state AG. The state police said Fox News would need to file a public records request to obtain the police report.

The Blaze first reported on the incident last year. Both The Blaze and Politico reported that nobody was charged or assaulted as a result of the incident.

Politico reported that the gun was eventually found by a man who searches the market's trash for items to recycle.

### **Senators ask Secret Service director to explain role in Hunter Biden gun incident (New York Post)**

[New York Post](#) [3/26/2021 4:41 PM, Steven Nelson, 5012K, Neutral, Secondary]

Republican senators are demanding answers from the US Secret Service, the FBI and the ATF after reports this week about a 2018 incident involving a gun belonging to first son Hunter Biden.

The Secret Service publicly denied taking any role in attempting to find the missing gun or asking a gun shop to hand over Firearms Transaction Record papers for the gun, on which Hunter allegedly lied about his drug use, which would be a crime.

"In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency's involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden's firearm no later than April 8, 2021," Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) wrote to Secret Service Director James Murray.

The Republican senators note that Hunter Biden was not supposed to have Secret Service protection at the time of the bizarre incident, which occurred after Hunter's girlfriend Hallie Biden, the widow of his brother Beau, tossed the weapon into the trash behind a grocery store.

Johnson and Grassley wrote that, according to a Politico report, "a 'law enforcement official' claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware 'kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security.' If true, USSS must explain to Congress why such informal actions were taken and whether they were necessary in light of the circumstances."

The letters to the FBI and to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives



were similar.

The Secret Service flatly denied that it was involved in the incident.

“U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident,” the agency said Thursday.

A White House official said, “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.”

Hunter Biden on Friday joined his father aboard Air Force One for a weekend trip to Delaware.

Grassley and Johnson co-authored a September report that detailed alleged conflicts of interest involving Hunter Biden’s overseas work — including in China and Ukraine — while his father was vice president. The report claimed a firm linked to Hunter Biden received \$3.5 million from Elena Baturina, the widow of former Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov, for unknown reasons.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday, in response to a question from The Post, that she was “not familiar with the report at all.”

### **Hunter Biden texts contradict claims Secret Service wasn’t involved in gun case (New York Post)**

[New York Post](#) [3/26/2021 3:26 PM, Emma-Jo Morris, Bruce Golding, 5012K, Neutral, Secondary]

Hunter Biden sent a text message that said the Secret Service responded after his handgun disappeared in 2018 — contradicting the agency’s assertion that it wasn’t involved, The Post has learned.

In a lengthy message sent the following year, President Biden’s son described the situation in detail, saying his former sister-in-law-turned-lover, Hallie Biden, tossed the firearm into a trash bin outside Janssen’s Market, a gourmet grocery store in Wilmington, Del.

“She stole the gun out of my trunk lock box and threw it in a garbage can full to the top at Jansens [sic]. Then told me it was my problem to deal with,” Hunter wrote.

“Then when the police the FBI the secret service came on the scene she said she took it from me because she was scared I would harm myself due to my drug and alcohol problem and our volatile relationship and that she was afraid for the kids.”

The Jan. 29, 2019, message adds: “Really not joking the cop kept me convinced that Hallie was implying she was scared of me.”

In another message, sent closer to the incident, Hunter described the handgun as “my 38.”

“Took from lock box of truck and put it IN PapER BAG AND Threw it in trash can at local high end grocer. For no reason,” he wrote on Dec. 6, 2018.

“And I freaked when I saw it was missing 10 minutes after she took it and when she went back to get it after I scared the s—t out of her it was gone which led to state police investigation of me. True story.”

Both messages are contained on a hard drive obtained by The Post that holds the contents of a damaged laptop computer that was left at Wilmington repair shop by Hunter in April 2019 and never retrieved.

The Macbook Pro laptop was later seized by the FBI, apparently as part of what Hunter last year said is an investigation into his “tax affairs” by the Delaware US Attorney’s Office.

On Thursday, Politico reported that the incident involving Hunter’s .38-caliber revolver took place on Oct. 23, 2018, and that the firearm was fished out of the trash and surrendered several days later by an older man who found it while searching for recyclable items.

During the course of an investigation into its disappearance, Secret Service agents approached the owner of the gun store where Hunter bought it 11 days earlier and asked for paperwork related to the purchase, Politico said, citing two sources familiar with the matter.

The store owner refused the request, suspecting the Secret Service wanted to cover up Hunter’s ownership if the gun were later used in a crime, Politico said.

The owner later gave the documents to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which regulates gun sales, Politico said.

Law enforcement officials told Politico that any Secret Service involvement — either on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative — would be inappropriate because the incident was being investigated by the Delaware State Police and the FBI.

In a statement Thursday, the Secret Service denied any role in investigating the missing gun.

“U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident,” the agency said.

The Secret Service doubled down on that statement on Friday, saying, The agency maintains there was no Secret Service involvement in the matter described.

The White House on Friday said it was standing by a Thursday statement that said, “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.

The White House also said Thursday, “President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service’s alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time.”

Photos posted on Twitter on Friday afternoon showed Hunter, his wife Melissa Cohen and

their baby son preparing to board Air Force One with President Biden for a flight to Delaware.

Hunter sent the text messages to former celebrity psychiatrist Keith Ablow, a onetime Fox News contributor whose Massachusetts medical license was suspended in 2019 and later expired.

The Massachusetts Board of Medicine labeled him “an immediate and serious threat to the public health, safety and welfare” over allegations that he “engaged in sexual activity and boundary violations with multiple patients, diverted controlled substances from patients, engaged in disruptive behavior, including displaying and pointing a firearm on multiple occasions in a manner that scared an employee, and procured his license renewal fraudulently.”

Hunter also sent the 2019 message to Hallie, with whom he has acknowledged having had an intimate relationship following the death of her husband, his older brother Beau Biden, and while estranged from his now ex-wife, Kathleen Buhle.

According to a July 2019 profile in the New Yorker, Hunter and Hallie broke up several months after they began living together in August 2017, after which he moved to Los Angeles in early 2018.

Hallie didn't immediately return messages left at two phone numbers listed in her name and Hunter's lawyer also didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Ablow declined to comment.

### **[CT] Crowds turn out to greet VP Kamala Harris in New Haven & West Haven (Post-Chronicle)**

[Post-Chronicle](#) [3/26/2021 10:05 PM, Mark Zaretsky, Ethan Fry, Ben Lambert, 24K, Neutral, Secondary]

You almost didn't have to ask Maya Cedor, 6, and her brother Dresden, 8, what was so special about Vice President Kamala Harris flying into Tweed New Haven Regional Airport to visit New Haven and West Haven that would cause their family to wait for hours just to catch a glimpse of her limo driving by.

All you had to do was read the sign sketched out on the blackboard Maya held: “My VP looks like me!!”

OK, it was Maya's mother, Gayathri Cedor — whose family was among about 150 people gathered along Burr and Dean streets to watch Harris' plane land and hope for a glimpse — who spelled things out on the blackboard. But in their family, it's even more applicable.

The kids are half African-American, half South Indian-American, two of the same ethnicities that are part of Harris' makeup.

“We live here in New Haven” and “I'm just excited for the kids to see her,” said Cedor, who took her kids out of their remote learning at Nathan Hale School — with an email to their teachers — so they could be there.

Why?

"She's the first woman to be vice president," said Dresden, who held a whiteboard that read, "Welcome to New Haven."

"We'll make up the classes," said his mom, speaking moments before Harris touched down.

When Air Force 2, Harris' plane, landed at 2:26 p.m. — nearly an hour later than the most recently-announced arrival time — Katie Conner, who lives on Burr Street across the street from Tweed, was gently cradling her newborn daughter, Elizabeth, 6 months, who rocked in front of her in a sling around her mom's neck.

"My daughter's only 6 months old, and I thought this might be a once-in-a-lifetime thing for her," Conner said. Even if Elizabeth doesn't remember it, Katie Conner will be able to tell her about it.

For Conner, "It makes a big difference" that Harris is a woman. Last November, "I watched her give her victory speech and I thought, 'That could be my daughter in 30 or 40 years.'"

Thretha Green of West Haven could barely contain her joy as she streamed her first-ever Facebook Live video of Harris' plane landing.

"I'm just excited," said Green, a trauma therapist who grew up in New Haven. "She's here to represent for our urban towns, for people who have suffered from COVID-19" and she was glad to see Harris and President Joe Biden addressing some of the problems in the country.

"It's just amazing," said Green, also president of the National Association of Negro Professional Women's Clubs' New Haven chapter and co-chairwoman of the Greater New Haven NAACP's Criminal Justice Committee. "I took a lunch break just to see it."

Not everyone there at Tweed was a Harris or Biden fan.

Anthony Laudano confided earlier that he voted for former President Donald Trump, but after Harris' plane landed, he held his son, Anthony Jr., and whispered in his ear, "The vice president, buddy! This is history!"

"He's going to be the vice president one day," Laudano said.

While one crowd was waiting at Tweed, another was forming across town near the New Haven Boys and Girls Club on Columbus Avenue in the Hill neighborhood, where Harris was engaging in a roundtable discussion as part of her first stop.

About an hour-and-a-half before Harris' scheduled arrival at the Boys and Girls Club, New Havener Angela Brown and her daughter Jadyn stood at the corner of Columbus and Howard avenues hoping to see the vice president.

"I wish that more youth could be here," Brown said.

Brown wore a button remembering a family friend killed in the Hill in 2014. Brown herself

said she was shot on Dixwell Avenue in 1991. Urban violence “is a big, big issue with me,” she said.

She said she hoped Harris will “actually press on the issues and actually ask what can be done?”

“We’re all human at the end of the day. We all deal with the same issues,” she said.

Lifelong New Haven resident Timothy Little held a sign that said “STOP EVICTIONS, CANCEL RENT.”

The Cedar Street resident said he’s worried about being evicted from his apartment next month after losing two fast-food jobs due to the pandemic. “I want to be heard. This is the major issue in Connecticut right now. What am I going to do?”

Hill resident Luz Ramos brought her 7-year-old granddaughter in the hopes they could see Harris.

“When she became vice president it was a very heartfelt time for us,” Ramos, who immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico in 1997, said. “It’s very important to show our kids they can achieve anything.”

Activists from Unidad Latina en Accion also were on hand to welcome Harris.

Director John Lugo said the time to act on immigration reform is now, when Democrats control the White House and Congress.

“This is the time to do it, but they have to have the guts and the courage to pass immigration reform,” Lugo said.

In West Haven, a crowd slowly gathered on Washington Avenue to watch Harris arrive at the West Haven Child Development Center, eventually numbering about 50 people.

Patty Horvath said she wanted to see the motorcade. In the past, she saw Bill Clinton and Barack Obama on Martha’s Vineyard. But such visits are uncommon in West Haven.

“It’s very exciting for West Haven to have her,” said Horvath.

Donna Middleton said she wanted to see a “historical moment,” also noting the relative rarity of something like this happening in town.

“Hopefully, she’ll come back again,” said Middleton.

Asked why she was there, Rachale Scaranuzzo nodded at her daughter, Sofia, who exclaimed that she also wanted to be president or vice president someday.

“It’s great for her to see someone in charge, making decisions that’ll affect us,” said Scaranuzzo.

Soon after 4:15 p.m., the motorcade came by. Cops on motorcycles led the way for large

black SUVs, adorned with tiny American flags. The crowd cheered and whooped in excitement.

Back at Tweed, Burr Street neighbors Dashayla Miller and Jessica Ferraro were strolling along with Ferraro's son, Tim, 3, in a stroller, as snipers wearing camouflage uniforms climbed to the top of the Tweed administration building's former control tower to check out the angles.

Why were Miller and Ferraro there?

"Obviously, the vice president is coming — our first female and African-American vice president," they said. "This is history — something — something I don't want to miss."

Ferraro lives right at the corner of Burr Street and Fort Hale Road, directly across from Tweed's main entrance. Minutes earlier, she had ordered a group of Trump-flag-waving Trump supporters off her property. They returned while she was out walking.

"It's history," she said of Harris' visit. "It's the first black woman vice president. I'm just so glad to be here!"

Moments later, they ran into two other neighbors, Laura McHugh and her wife, Lisa Ventura McHugh.

"I love Harris — love her" and "what she stands for," said McHugh. "It's good for a female to be up where she is."

Michelle Cabaldon normally would be working in her position as head of school at High School in the Community in New Haven. But Friday, she was at Tweed, telling the story of Harris' arrival on Instagram for her students to follow.

"It's not often that we get to see a president or vice president in person," Cabaldon said. Plus, "the woman part — and the woman of color part — is important. As you know, the majority of New Haven is minority, and it's important for them to know you can be anything you want."

Michelle Clary-Butler, director of the threatened East Shore Senior Center, which could be closed under the more austere of Mayor Justin Elicker's two budget proposals, came out to support Harris — but also to post signs reminding her and anyone else who passed by that "Seniors Matter."

"I'm ecstatic! I think it's great for our city," Clary-Butler said as she posted a temporary "Welcome Vice President Kamala Harris" sign near the entrance to the airport. "It's just historic. It's just emotional. This is the first — and who knows what's to come."

Other signs nearby mentioned the senior center, itself.

"I'm trying to save it," she said.

Across the street from her — in front of Ferraro's house, a group of Trump supporters were waving their flag before Ferraro told them to leave.



"We're getting ready for 2024," said Morris Cove resident George Williams.

A couple doors down along Burr Street, Charles Curry also identified himself as a Trump supporter. "I wish it wasn't her" arriving, Curry said of Harris. "I wish it was Trump. I love that man."

Maribel Gomez, 37, of East Haven, came with her mother, Maria Rodriguez, a native of Ecuador, and her daughters Camila, 13, and Abigail, 5.

"The fact that she's a woman" is a big thing, said Gomez, who was born in Ecuador but raised in Massachusetts and works for the state Juvenile Court in Bridgeport. "It gives an opportunity to have something to look forward to. It gives a woman an opportunity to look to the future — and she's a person of color!"

Clem DeLucia, who lives in New Haven and grew up right across Burr Street from the airport, said that when the late President John F. Kennedy came in the early 1960s, "the Secret Service used the closet in my bedroom as a lookout point."

Anna Brazzell of East Haven brought her 14-year-old daughter Angela with to see the vice president arrive.

"I mainly brought her here so she can see Air Force 2 and hopefully catch a glimpse of the vice president," said Anna Brazzell, who works at Tweed for American Airlines. "We're just excited. I've never seen Air Force 2."

Beyond that, "I'm pretty excited. ... It is pretty interesting to know" that the vice president "is a woman," Brazzell said as Gov. Ned Lamont and U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona strolled in front of the Tweed administration building a couple of hundred feet away as they waited for Harris to land. "To me, this empowers a lot of women. Now I can show my daughter, 'You can do it, too.'"

Trump supporters Robert and Michelle Canter of East Haven carried a plywood sign that read, "Americans First," which they held atop the Tweed fence along Dean Street.

"We need to support people here before we send money to other countries," said Robert Canter, a self-described conservative. "\$86 million to the border? Support Americans first!"

**[CT] "Help is here: " VP Harris visits New Haven childcare providers, touts stimulus (Yale Daily News)**

[Yale Daily News](#) [3/28/2021 10:38 PM, Christian Robles, 17K, Neutral, Secondary]

On Friday, Vice President Kamala Harris and other elected officials visited two local childcare providers during a one-day visit to New Haven.

The stops formed part of Harris's efforts to promote the new administration's \$1.9 trillion stimulus which aims to support childcare facilities, reduce child poverty and assist public schools more broadly. The visit, a part of the "Help is Here" tour, follows President Joe Biden's March 12 signing of the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion spending package that includes federal aid for state and local governments, one-time \$1,400 checks for single tax-filers, a temporarily expanded child tax credit for the 2021 tax season and money to help school districts reopen, among other provisions. The bill passed the House with a 219-

212 vote and the Senate with a 50-49 vote.

Harris and other prominent federal and state officials stopped by the Boys & Girls Club of New Haven and the West Haven Child Development Center on their visit. New Haven is slated to receive at least \$94 million in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan.

"We are having this conversation to be clear about the challenge and crises we are facing as a country that in many ways has been accelerated by the pandemic," Harris said just before a roundtable discussion with state and federal leaders at the Boys & Girls Club. "This is a moment to leapfrog over what otherwise might have been incremental change. To actually fast forward and address some of the longstanding issues that have affected our children."

Air Force Two landed at the Elm City's Tweed Airport at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Friday. Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, U.S. House Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-New Haven) and Jahana Hayes (D-Waterbury) along with the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona greeted Harris.

According to Harris chief spokesperson Symone Sanders, the visit was also her last stop on the "Help is Here" tour. The Biden-Harris administration launched the "Help is Here" tour on March 16 to highlight how the American Rescue Plan benefits U.S. families. Administration officials previously visited Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Jacksonville and other U.S. cities in the nationwide tour.

Upon landing, Harris departed for the Boys & Girls Club of New Haven, where she offered remarks for the White House pool press before having a closed-door discussion with federal and state leaders about children's issues. Harris then answered questions from the pool press. Shortly thereafter, the vice president departed for the West Haven Child Development Center where she offered brief remarks for staff and visited a classroom of 14 three- to five-year-olds.

During that visit Peter Velz, the Director of Press Operations for the Vice President, taught the classroom of children that the proper way to pronounce Harris's first name is "COMMA-la," not "Ka-MA-la."

Harris talks stimulus, policy

At the Boys & Girls Club, the vice president highlighted three key areas of the American Rescue Plan: child poverty, childcare and learning loss recovery.

Harris said that the \$1.9 trillion package seeks to reduce child poverty in America by half through policies such as the expanded child tax credit, which would give \$3,600 per child under six and \$3,000 per child between seven and 18 annually. Pre-pandemic, the credit amounted to \$2,000 per child.

Local efforts in favor of the child tax credit increase long precede the American Rescue Plan. New Haven's DeLauro has continuously advocated for the increase since first introducing a similar proposal 18 years ago. She has made frequent media appearances since and recently published a piece in TIME Magazine to promote the policy. The expanded child tax credit is currently temporary, but DeLauro stated Friday that she is

committed to making it permanent.

Harris said that investment in childcare facilities is of particular importance during the pandemic. She noted that childcare centers not only help children but also working-class mothers and the economy more broadly.

At the West Haven center, she made similar remarks, stating that two million women have left the workforce since the start of the pandemic and that childcare support will help women return to work.

During Harris's visit, Lamont announced his plans to use \$210 million in federal stimulus money to invest in early childcare programs statewide. Under Lamont's plan, \$50 million of the \$210 million would go to the state's Care 4 Kids program, which supports parents enrolled in higher education or a workforce training program, and another \$120 million would fund "operational stabilization grants" for struggling childcare businesses.

The American Rescue Plan provides \$122 billion in elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds, also known as ESSER funds — federal dollars that school districts nationwide will be able to spend on school reopening, academic acceleration and socio-emotional support for students. While at the West Haven center, Harris stated that the investment will help alleviate learning loss and address the "recent history of inadequately funding our schools."

At the Boys & Girls Club, the roundtable of federal and state leaders discussed the increase in the number of reported cases of child neglect in Connecticut during the pandemic and the mental health toll that the emergency has had on children.

New Haveners react to Harris's visit

New Haven community members came out to the streets in droves to see the Harris's motorcade. Some brought welcoming messages, others protest signs.

Ward 3 Alder Ron C. Hunt, who represents the Hill neighborhood where the Boys & Girls Club is located, waited at the intersection of Howard Avenue and Columbus Avenue with constituents to see the motorcade. He told the News that was excited about Harris's decision to tour the childcare center and the American Rescue Plan more broadly.

"I'm excited because [the Hill is a community] where there is Black and brown. We've been suffering a lot — even prior to the pandemic," Hunt told the News. "Now there's light at the end of the tunnel with the help that the federal government has sent our way."

Hunt said that his constituents often suffer from food insecurity, high unemployment and housing access issues during the pandemic, adding that 25 percent of the residents in the Hill neighborhood are food insecure. He believes federal spending will help alleviate some of those issues. Hunt added that Harris' visit shows that the New Haven community's organizing efforts for the Biden-Harris ticket last fall were not in vain and that the administration's stimulus package will help the community.

David Allen, an East Haven resident who saw Air Force Two at Tweed, agreed with Hunt that the American Rescue Plan has supported New Haven families. Allen told the News

that he is currently unemployed but that the \$1,400 stimulus check he received from the federal government has helped him pay expenses.

White House pool reporters Daniela Altimara of the Hartford Courant and Emilie Munson of Hearst Media's Washington Desk covered the day's visits and recounted seeing some supporters of former President Donald Trump waving Trump 2020 flags along Harris' motorcade route. At Tweed Airport, a Trump supporter was spotted holding an "Americans 1st" sign, in reference to Trump's campaign slogan. The supporter later left the airport in a golf cart spray-painted in colors of the American flag.

At the Boys & Girls Club, members of Unidad Latina en Acción held a sign urging the Biden-Harris administration to immediately halt deportations. ULA Director John Lugo explained in an interview with the New Haven Register that the group's presence was to call for action on immigration reform. Despite having initially halted some deportations for their first 100 days in office, the Biden-Harris administration has continued to deport thousands of undocumented immigrants, a policy that has been met with nationwide controversy.

Harris's secret service agents picked up pizzas from Sally's Apizza in Wooster Square at around 3:30 pm. Later in the evening, they visited Zuppardi's of West Haven.

**[CT] Vice President Kamala Harris got another dose of CT's famed pizza, in West Haven (Register Citizen)**

[Register Citizen](#) [3/27/2021 1:02 PM, Peter Yankowski, 26K, Neutral, Secondary]  
Lori Zuppardi thought her nephew was joking when he told her the Secret Service was waiting at the curb to pick up pizza.

The co-owner of Zuppardi's Apizza on Union Avenue was another local pizzeria paid a visit by Vice President Kamala Harris' security detail during Harris' visit to New Haven and West Haven Friday. Harris staffers also picked up 15 pies from the Elm City's famed Sally's Apizza, the legendary house of New Haven-style "abeetz" on Wooster Street.

In West Haven, Harris visited the West Haven Child Development Center.

What was the Harris team's order in West Haven? Ten pies in total, according to Zuppardi — mozzarella and sausage; mozzarella and pepperoni; and mozzarella with onion, pepper and mushroom.

Zuppardi said she added an 11th pie that had just come out of the oven. "Had I known it was them, you know I would have thrown in a fresh clam pizza," she said, reached by phone Saturday.

She did not get to meet Harris, just two Secret Service agents who identified themselves as part of the vice president's security team. After her nephew told her the two agents had arrived to pick up the order, she came out to meet the two men - wearing wired earpieces, naturally - whom she described as very nice.

Another worker delivered the pies to the security team's car curbside.

"Coming from a business that's owned by two women, having our vice president have our

pizza, I mean, that's pretty special," said Zuppardi. She co-owns the business with her sister, Cheryl Zuppardi Pearce, but many members of their family are involved in the business in one form or another.

"The first thing we did after they left, we texted the kids," she said. "For such a close Italian family this is such a huge thing," she added.

She said she was happy when Harris was elected, the first woman and first woman of color to be vice president in the nation's history.

"Again, being a woman — seeing a need for some female leadership, it was a great thing," she said.

And: "We do feel that the vice president has excellent taste in pizza," Zuppardi said.

**[DE] As Biden adjusts to White House life, Wilmington beckons (NBC News)**

[NBC News](#) [3/26/2021 4:13 PM, Monica Alba, Carol E. Lee, Kristen Welker and Mike Memoli, 4745K, Neutral, Primary]

Joe Biden has wanted to be president for most of his life. But now that he lives at the White House, he often just wants to go home.

After more than two months in the executive mansion, the president and first lady Jill Biden are still adjusting to their new life in Washington and missing Delaware more than they imagined, according to people close to the couple.

Whenever possible, the Bidens have made clear they would like to spend the weekend away from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Of 10 so far, they've gone to Wilmington or Camp David for six, with an additional trip planned but scrapped at the last minute.

The president is also navigating the larger security complement necessary to protect them and its implications on any travel. And overall, he appears to be struggling to adapt to the increased restrictions and bigger staff that come with the job.

"It's just against the ethos of who he's been," one person close to Biden said.

The confines of the White House, with butlers and housekeepers always waiting on them, have made the Bidens' Delaware homes much more inviting and comfortable by comparison, another source said.

Biden, who said it felt like he was "going home" as he first approached the gates as president on Inauguration Day, has since himself conceded the White House is a "magnificent building" but one that has taken some adjustments.

Escaping to Delaware allows Biden to unwind and reset in a more relaxing place with his grandchildren, which is a huge priority for him, according to a White House official. Family time is also paramount for him. When in Wilmington, the president often visits the graves of his son Beau, daughter Naomi and first wife Neilia at his local parish.

The home the Bidens built there has a dock and access to a small lake, where they often enjoy morning coffee, while the White House residence feels more like a "museum" to the

president than anything else, according to those familiar with his thinking.

Of course, Biden's itch to escape the Oval Office for more familiar and comfortable terrain during off-hours isn't unique. President George W. Bush spent a considerable amount of time at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, throughout his eight years in office. President Barack Obama enjoyed trips to Hawaii and Martha's Vineyard. And President Donald Trump traveled frequently to his properties in New Jersey and Florida, which raised concerns about his ability to profit from the presidency.

Trump's jaunts to his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, also incurred an extra cost because of the property's proximity to international waters, which required Coast Guard protection.

So far, Biden has gone home on more weekends than his predecessors at this point in their presidencies — a throwback to his time as senator, when Delaware's proximity allowed him to make the near-daily trip back.

His regular commute from Wilmington to Washington when the Senate was in session became an important part of his political brand, something that highlighted both his commitment to his family and also allowed him to argue that, despite more than three decades in the Senate, he had never truly become a creature of Washington.

"I started going back and forth every single day so I could be home in Wilmington every night with my two young boys as a single dad after I lost my wife," he said at a campaign rally last fall.

When he was vice president, Biden returned to Delaware on weekends fairly regularly, without much scrutiny; his every movement was not documented by a full-time press pool, the way a president's is. At first, he traveled from Washington to Delaware on Air Force Two, before convincing the Secret Service to allow him to travel on Amtrak from time to time.

As president, travel back to his home state is far more complicated.

The overall cost of Biden's weekend Wilmington trips is not yet known. Senior officials stress the relatively short distance to Delaware but the security footprint required to accompany any presidential movement is massive. Every trip necessitates a lengthy motorcade, along with local law enforcement and dozens of staffers and press who join aboard Air Force One.

That's one reason Marine One has been used for some of the flights to Wilmington; it's a lot easier to fire up than the larger jets, and makes for a smaller footprint.

Camp David has also been suggested by advisers as a better alternative for weekend getaways. The Bidens have gone there twice since the inauguration.

The White House has repeatedly found itself asked to explain the president's decision to travel so frequently when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently advises against nonessential travel due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.



“The president lives in Wilmington. It’s his home,” press secretary Jen Psaki said in a recent briefing. “That’s where he’s lived for many, many years.”

Psaki also pointed to the president’s ability to take private aircraft wherever he goes, and the fact that both the Bidens and most of their staffers have been vaccinated. “I think most Americans would see that as a unique circumstance,” she said.

Recently, Biden has even asked advisers whether he can take the train home again; for now, that idea has been vetoed for security purposes.

The journey home may be more complicated for Biden now — but for him, Wilmington remains as close as ever, both physically and mentally.

“In our family, the values we share, the character we strive for, the way we view the world, it all comes from home,” Biden said in an emotional farewell there before his swearing-in. “It all comes from Delaware.”

## Network TV News Coverage

### [CT] Harris Visits Connecticut (Eyewitness News at 4:00pm)

[\(B\) Eyewitness News at 4:00pm](#) [3/26/2021 4:03 PM, Matt McFarland]

For hours, people lined up along the fence for Vice President Harris’ arrival. Air Force Two was delayed slightly due to weather. Secret Service, US Marshals, state and local police were set up around the airport.

### [KY] Estill County Deputies Report Counterfeit Money (WKYT This Morning at 8:00 AM)

[\(B\) WKYT This Morning at 8:00 AM](#) [3/28/2021 8:05 AM, Staff]

Deputies in Estill County are warning people to watch out for fake money. The sheriff’s office shared photos of the counterfeit bills that they say they have gotten a lot of calls about them.

## Headlines

### The Washington Post

(3/27/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden administration fires most Homeland Security Advisory Council members](#)

[Tornadoes leave six dead in Alabama and Georgia; residents take stock of storm destruction](#)

[Pelosi taps commander of D.C. Guard to become House sergeant-at-arms](#)

[Deadly Marine Corps disaster at sea was ‘tragic’ and ‘preventable,’ investigation finds](#)

[As states expand vaccine eligibility, universities make a push to inoculate all students](#)

(3/28/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden is betting on bigger government. The pandemic may be helping him.](#)

[The popularity of Congress is at its highest level in more than a decade as stimulus checks hit bank accounts](#)

[Suez Canal mishap puts battered supply chains under more pressure](#)

[As Pandemic Upends Teaching, Fewer Students Want to Pursue It](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[Family groups crossing border in soaring numbers point to next phase of crisis](#)  
[‘Vaccine passports’ are on the way, but developing them won’t be easy](#)  
[Biden walks the union line, making a play for blue-collar workers](#)  
[Biden to unveil major new spending plans as Democrats eye bigger role for government](#)  
[A Suez Canal village, like the world, grapples with the giant ship stuck in its backyard](#)

### **The New York Times**

(3/27/2021 6:00 AM)

[For Biden, a New Virus Dilemma: How to Handle a Looming Glut of Vaccine](#)  
[Far-Right Extremists Move From ‘Stop the Steal’ to Stop the Vaccine](#)  
[After the Tornadoes, Small Towns Grieve for Lost Lives and Wrecked Homes](#)  
[Officials Try to Sway Biden Using Intelligence on Potential for Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan](#)

(3/28/2021 6:00 AM)

[Under Biden, Democrats Are Poised to Raise Taxes on Business and the Rich](#)  
[As Pandemic Upends Teaching, Fewer Students Want to Pursue It](#)  
[A Collapse Foretold: How Brazil’s Covid-19 Outbreak Overwhelmed Hospitals](#)  
[Dozens Are Gunned Down in ‘Day of Shame’ for Myanmar](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[‘All Hands on Deck’: When Vaccinating Black People Is a Communal Effort](#)  
[Can New Gun Violence Research Find a Path Around the Political Stalemate?](#)  
[How 2 Legislative Tacticians Scored Big Wins on Child Poverty in the Stimulus](#)  
[Inside Myanmar’s Army: ‘They See Protesters as Criminals’](#)  
[As Militants Seize Mozambique Gas Hub, a Dash for Safety Turns Deadly](#)

### **The Wall Street Journal**

(3/27/2021 6:00 AM)

[Border Crossings by Migrant Children to Rise Sharply, U.S. Estimates Show](#)  
[Ghost-Gun Concerns Prompt Feds to Meet With Firearms Makers](#)  
[S&P 500 Rallies 1.7%, Closes Week at Record](#)  
[Suez Canal Efforts to Free Stuck Ship Make Fresh Progress Late Friday](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden Plans to Split Spending Plan in Two](#)  
[In a Texas Border Town, Migrant Families Sleep Under a Bridge as Local Resources Are Strained](#)  
[NRA to Aggressively Lobby Against Gun Measures, Despite Its Financial Woes](#)  
[New Trade Representative Says U.S. Isn’t Ready to Lift China Tariffs](#)

### **ABC News**

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[Why a 4th COVID-19 wave may look different than previous surges](#)  
[Expelled from US at night, migrant families weigh next steps](#)  
[Funerals become scenes of Myanmar resistance, more violence](#)

### **CBS News**

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[Biden expresses confidence that "rational" gun control can pass evenly-divided Senate](#)  
[Mammoth cargo ship blocking Suez Canal partially refloated](#)  
[WHO-led inquiry ends with even more questions than it began with on coronavirus origin](#)

## **CNN**

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[Global shipping was in chaos even before the Suez blockage. Shortages and higher prices loom](#)

[Philippine fighters fly over Chinese flotilla in South China Sea](#)

[Anguish in Myanmar after weekend of 'outrageous' bloodshed](#)

## **Fox News**

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[WHO's inquiry into COVID-19 outbreak 'highly chaperoned,' says ex-NSC official](#)

[Ever Given, container ship stuck in Suez Canal, 'partially refloated'](#)

[North Korea snaps back at Biden over criticism of missile launches](#)

## **NBC News**

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

[With no specifics, White House says it's working on access to migrant centers](#)

[Changed hearts and minds': Biden's funding offer shifts Medicaid expansion debate](#)

[Suez Canal ship Ever Given partially refloated after huge effort to unblock key global trade route](#)

# **Washington Schedule**

## **President**

[The White House](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

9:50 AM The President and The Vice President receive the President's Daily Brief

10:00 AM In-Town Pool Call Time

11:00 AM Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and public health officials

12:30 PM Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jen Psaki

1:30 PM The President and The Vice President receive a COVID-19 briefing

2:10 PM The President delivers remarks on the COVID-19 response and the state of vaccinations; The Vice President also attends

## **Vice President**

[The White House](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

See source link. Schedule not yet available.

## **Senate**

[Senate](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

11:00 a.m.: Convene for a pro forma session.

## **House of Representatives**

[House of Representatives](#)

(3/29/2021 6:00 AM)

There are no public events scheduled today.

**{End of Report}**

**From:** [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**To:** [ANTHONY ORNATO \(TNG\)](#)  
**Subject:** Radio transcript  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 2:13:22 PM

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Story many of you been waiting for it to the end of the show but I wanna be able to talk about it show the story broke last week in political Tara Paul Mary and then Shrek in I'll let it go and I'll have this in the show notes in my sources Incident father trashcan a man searching for recycle bowls and eventually All right and I didn't OK the book of all the books I federal law-enforcement I got a ton of emails about the Secret Service hunter Biden story totally get it because folks again it's not important for me to be first it's important for me to be right so I did a lot of homework and homework got a lot of different perspectives heard a lot of things I'm gonna tell you what and you can read it again in the newsletter today is that Hunter Biden had a fight with his brothers widower he was having a romantic relationship at the time don't even try to figure that out that's it and his brother is deceased brother why after this dispute apparently took a firearm Hunter had and discarded it nearest supermarket my trashcan in Delaware some sources then told politico that the weapon which was purchased pursuant to the filling out of a 4473 anytime you go to federal Firesteel you have to fill out a 4473 are you on drugs I filled it out There were some narcotics drug use wondering how we answer that question apparently to get it he had to fill out that he wasn't at the time I don't know he's gonna have to explain that someday but reportedly that 4473 political saying you follow me if this doesn't make sense Joe stop in here service agents went to the gun shop we're Hunter Biden purchased farm and filled out that form and they tried to get access to the foreman were denied by the federal firearms dealer who rob a dealer who rob OK the boys are the bomb time there and I really want to fix it but the book was not particularly clock kind of some of their procedures when things go wrong messed up I'm hearing from extremely reliable sources I wouldn't pass them on and ruin my reputation otherwise and it is a lien I have to apologize to you later and I did a lot of homework on this stream Lee reliable sources were pretty unimpeachable on the matter never happen throwing away the garbage can service and I average on everything that never steered me wrong if it turns out later that did happen the story is proven true I will absolutely correct it on the year but I would be remiss in doing you a huge disservice if I did not tell you that folks the people who are telling me this never happened are extremely credible and I've never let me down and by the way I've never apologize when they screwed something up what happened they were like all right they're telling me this never happened at the Secret Service ad and saying it never happened I get a lot of you don't believe that and that's fine my guys are telling me that there is no way that this story happened they did not go in there and do that they had no involvement with this at all we'll see but I trust them

Cathy L. Milhoan  
Director of Communications  
U.S. Secret Service

(b) (6)

Main: [\(202\) 406-5708](#)

Direct: [\(202\) 406-](#) (b) (6)

Cell: [\(202\)](#) (b) (6)



(b) (5), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**From:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 2, 2020 12:38 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (WIL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Article

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** November 2, 2020 at 12:36:00 PM EST  
**To:** "JAMES HENRY (PHL)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Cc:** "STEVEN STANFORD (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)> "DOUGLAS  
HENDERSON (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Article

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "LEONZA NEWSOME III (DEP)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Date:** November 2, 2020 at 11:51:04 AM EST  
**To:** "MICHAEL D AMBROSIO (INV)" <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Subject:** Article

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/source-hunter-bidens-gun-was-taken-by-hallie-biden-in-2018-thrown-into-a-supermarket-garbage-can-went-missing-and-no-arrests-were-made>

Thanks,  
Leon

Leon Newsome  
Deputy Director



**From:** [BENJAMIN KRAMER \(IGL\)](#)  
**To:** [FARON PARAMORE \(DEP\)](#)  
**Cc:** [JEREMY SHERIDAN \(INV\)](#); [ROBERT NOVY \(IGL\)](#); (b) (6) (LEG); (b) (6) (IGL); (b) (6)  
(b) (6) (IGL); [CATHERINE MILHOAN \(CMR\)](#)  
**Subject:** [DRAFT] FW: USSS\_Draft\_reply\_v3  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 4:25:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021-03-25 CEG RHJ to USSS \(Hunter Biden Weapon\) Highlight.pdf](#)  
[v.iii \(CAF.LEG tc.acc\) USSS Draft Reply \(3.29.21\).docx](#)

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**DRAFT/DELIBERATIVE**

Sir,

Reference is made to the attached 3/25/21 letter from Sen. Grassley and Sen. Johnson regarding a request for all records relating to our agency's reported involvement in an alleged October 2018 incident with respect to "Hunter Biden's firearm" (the letters specific "request" has been highlighted).

Per today's discussions, (b) (5)

(b) (5), (b) (6)

Accordingly, please review and advise on Front Office clearance of the response letter.

Once cleared, CAF will provide the letter to the Member offices (note: CAF will also Cc: DHS/OLA).

Thank you and let me know of any issues, questions, or additional needs,

Ben

(202) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) \*cell

*pronouns: he/him*

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**From:** (b) (6) (LEG) (b) (6) @uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 29, 2021 3:21 PM  
**To:** BENJAMIN KRAMER (IGL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6) (IGL)>  
<(b) (6) @uss.s.dhs.gov>; (b) (6) (IGL) (b) (6) @uss.s.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** USSS\_Draft\_reply\_v3

Hello all,

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks,

(b) (6)

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2021

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

Mr. James. M. Murray  
Director  
U.S. Secret Service

Dear Director Murray:

A recent press report detailed an October 2018 incident where a firearm owned by Hunter Biden was discarded in a “trash can behind a grocery store” across from a high school.<sup>1</sup>

After the firearm was discarded, the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) allegedly became involved and sought paperwork from the Federal Firearm Licensee (FFL) connected to Hunter Biden’s purchase of the firearm.<sup>2</sup> The owner of the gun store reportedly “refused to supply the paperwork” to the USSS agents due to suspicion that “the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter’s ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime.”<sup>3</sup> The gun store owner reportedly provided the paperwork to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.<sup>4</sup> According to the report, neither Joe Biden nor Hunter Biden was a Secret Service protectee at that time.<sup>5</sup> However, according to this report, a “law enforcement official” claimed that Secret Service agents in Delaware “kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president’s security.”<sup>6</sup> If true, USSS must explain to Congress why such informal actions were taken and whether they were necessary in light of the circumstances.

In addition, at the time of the October 2018 incident, the FBI reportedly “responded to the scene”; however, it is unclear what actions, if any, the FBI took.<sup>7</sup>

In light of the recent press report, please provide all records relating to your agency’s involvement in the alleged October 2018 incident with respect to Hunter Biden’s firearm no later than April 8, 2021. Further, USSS failed to fully respond to our October 20, 2020, letter relating to emails that reference travel plans for Hunter Biden involving USSS agents one year after

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<sup>1</sup> Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, *Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden’s gun*, Politico (March 25, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> According to USSS records, Hunter Biden enrolled as a protectee starting in January 2009 and declined USSS protection after July 8, 2014. See S. Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Aff. & S. Comm. on Fin., *Hunter Biden, Burisma, and Corruption: The Impact on U.S. Government Policy and Related Concerns* at 31 (Sept. 2020), [https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HSGAC\\_Finance\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HSGAC_Finance_Report_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, *Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden’s gun*, Politico (March 25, 2021).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

Hunter Biden's protection ended. We continue to expect a complete response to that letter and ask that you produce all requested records no later than April 8, 2021.

Should you have questions, please contact Joshua Flynn-Brown of Senator Grassley's Committee staff at 202-224-5225 and Brian Downey and Scott Wittmann of Senator Johnson's Subcommittee staff at 202-224-3721. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Johnson  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee  
on Investigations

(b)

(5)

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (PHL)  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @comcast.net  
**Subject:** FW: Politico article/media inquiries  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 7:30:00 PM

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**From:** JAMES HENRY (PHL) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:05 PM  
**To:** phl-all <phl-all@usss.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Politico article/media inquiries

Good afternoon,

For your awareness, I just wanted to share the below article which was published by Politico today. Should you receive any national or local media inquiries regarding this story, please direct them to the Office of Communications and Media Relations email at [usssmediainquiry@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:usssmediainquiry@usss.dhs.gov). Please follow up with an email to me and ASACs (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for our awareness.

Thank you,

**James M. Henry**  
**Special Agent in Charge**  
**U.S. Secret Service**  
**Philadelphia Field Office**  
**215** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**[DE] Sources: Secret Service inserted itself into case of Hunter Biden's gun (Politico)**

[Politico](#) [3/25/2021 4:30 AM, Tara Palmeri and Ben Schreckinger, Neutral, Secondary]

On Oct. 23, 2018, President Joe Biden's son Hunter and daughter in law Hallie were involved in a bizarre incident in which Hallie took Hunter's gun and threw it in a trash can behind a grocery store, only to return later to find it gone.

Delaware police began investigating, concerned that the trash can was across from a high school and that the missing gun could be used in a crime, according to law enforcement officials and a copy of the police report obtained by POLITICO.

But a curious thing happened at the time: Secret Service agents approached the owner of the store where Hunter bought the gun and asked to take the paperwork involving the sale, according to two people, one of whom has firsthand knowledge of the episode and the other was briefed by a Secret Service agent after the fact.

The gun store owner refused to supply the paperwork, suspecting that the Secret Service officers wanted to hide Hunter's ownership of the missing gun in case it were to be involved in a crime, the two people said. The owner, Ron Palmieri, later turned over the papers to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which oversees federal gun laws.

The Secret Service says it has no record of its agents investigating the incident, and Joe Biden, who was not under protection at the time, said through a spokesperson he has no knowledge of any Secret Service involvement.

Days later, the gun was returned by an older man who regularly rummages through the grocery's store's trash to collect recyclable items, according to people familiar with the situation.

The incident did not result in charges or arrests.

But the alleged involvement of the Secret Service remains a mystery. One law enforcement official said that at the time of the incident, individual Secret Service agents at the agency's offices in Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia kept an informal hand in maintaining the former vice president's security. The person cited an instance in 2019 when the Wilmington office of the Secret Service called the Delaware State Police to arrange security for a public appearance by Biden.

The Secret Service declined to answer a question about whether it had informal involvement in Biden's security during this period.

Asked whether the Secret Service requested state police security for Biden during the period when he was not under the agency's protection, a Delaware State Police spokesman said, "I have reached out to our sergeant who oversees the Executive Protection Unit with the Delaware State Police. He is unaware of any such requests or services provided."

Any involvement by the Secret Service on behalf of the Biden family or on its own initiative would be inappropriate interference in an incident that was already being investigated by Delaware State Police with the involvement of the FBI, according to law enforcement officials.

POLITICO obtained copies of the Firearms Transaction Record and a receipt for the gun dated Oct. 12, 2018.

Hunter responded "no" to a question on the transaction record that asks, "Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?" Five years earlier, he had been discharged from the Navy Reserve after testing positive for cocaine, and he and family members have spoken about his history of drug use.

Lying on the form is a felony, though prosecutions for it are exceedingly rare.

Neither Hallie Biden nor George Mesires, a lawyer for Hunter Biden, responded to requests for comment.

The gun-store incident occurred during a period after Hunter Biden's administrative discharge from the Naval Reserves for his positive cocaine test and his subsequent divorce from his first wife, Kathleen. At the time of the gun incident, Hunter was in a romantic relationship with Hallie, the widow of his late brother Beau.



The incident began when Hallie searched Hunter's pickup, which was parked at her home in Wilmington, because of unspecified "suspicions she had," according to the Delaware State Police report. Inside the truck, she found a .38 revolver.

Hallie took the gun to Janssen's Market, a nearby high-end grocery store where the Bidens are longtime regular customers. There, she tossed the gun, wrapped in a black shopping bag, into a trash bin outside of the store.

Later that day, Hallie informed Hunter of what she had done, and he instructed her to retrieve the gun, according to the police report. When Hallie returned to the grocery store, she found that the gun was missing from the garbage bin and reported the issue to the store. Police received calls from the store's general manager, Paula Janssen, and from another person, according to the report.

The missing gun caused heightened concern, according to the police report, because the grocery store sits across the street from Alexis I. du Pont High School.

Arriving on the scene, Delaware State Police retrieved security camera footage from the store and interviewed Janssen, the store manager. "We complied with the police and gave them whatever security footage we could," Janssen told POLITICO.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to the scene, according to people familiar with the situation. At the time, the FBI was monitoring Hunter Biden as part of an investigation that remains ongoing and that currently focuses on his taxes. The FBI declined to comment.

In addition to questioning Hallie, police called Hunter to the scene, where he was questioned outside the store's loading dock area and explained he used the gun for target practice, according to the report.

At one point, two of Janssen's employees, described by the police report as "Mexican males," walked past the loading dock area, and Hunter told a police officer that the store had some suspicious people working for it. Asked if he was referring to those two staffers, Hunter responded, "Yea, prolly illegal," according to the report.

When a police officer asked Hunter whether the gun had been used in a crime, the officer reported that Hunter "became very agitated with me and asked me if I was intentionally trying to make him mad," according to the report.

When the officer asked Hunter whether he had been doing drugs or drinking heavily, he responded, "Listen, it isn't like that. I think she believes I was gonna kill myself," according to the report.

An officer asked Hunter whether he had called his father about the incident before he arrived. Hunter responded, "I have never called my dad for anything," according to the police report.

After being questioned, Hunter retrieved the case for the gun — which included the gun's serial number — from Hallie's house and returned to the grocery store to hand it over to police, according

to the report.

While police questioned Hunter and Hallie, two Secret Service agents arrived at the store where Hunter had purchased the gun, StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply in Wilmington, according to the two people familiar with the incident. The agents showed their badges and identification cards to Palmieri, the store's owner, and asked to take possession of the Firearms Transaction Record that Hunter had filled out to buy the gun earlier that month, according to the people familiar with the incident.

Palmieri refused to hand over the transaction record to the Secret Service agents because such records fall under the purview of the ATF. The Secret Service agents left without the records, according to the people familiar with the case. Later that day, the ATF arrived at the store to inspect the records.

Palmieri declined to comment on the episode.

ATF spokesperson Andre Miller referred questions to the Delaware State Police. Jason Hatchell, a spokesman for the Delaware State Police, said any questions about the incident would have to be filed through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The Delaware State Police previously rejected POLITICO's FOIA request for records related to the incident last November.

The incident has received scant attention, save for a report on the conservative website The Blaze that focused on the state police decision not to file charges against either Hunter or Hallie.

A Secret Service spokesperson said the agency has no record of involvement in the incident: "U.S. Secret Service records confirm that the agency did not provide protection to any member of the Biden family in 2018, and that the Secret Service had no involvement in this alleged incident."

Biden and his family members had been under around-the-clock protection by the Secret Service during his eight years as vice president from 2009 to 2017. Biden's Secret Service detail resumed in March 2020 after he locked up the Democratic presidential nomination.

A White House spokesperson said Biden was not aware of any Secret Service involvement in the episode: "President Biden did not have any knowledge of, or involvement in, the Secret Service's alleged role in this incident, and neither he nor any family member was a protectee at that time."

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