

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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July 11, 2017

Mr. Donald J. Trump, Jr.
The Trump Organization
725 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Mr. Jared Kushner
Senior Advisor to the President
The White House
1650 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Paul Manafort
Davis Manafort Inc.
211 N. Union St. #250
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Trump, Mr. Kushner, and Mr. Manafort:

I am writing with regard to recent reports that in June 2016 you met with Natalia Veselnitskaya, a Kremlin-connected Russian lawyer during the 2016 presidential campaign on the promise of damaging information about Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.¹

Today, Mr. Trump, Jr. publicly released one email chain related to this meeting, showing that the offer of damaging material came from the Russian government through an intermediary and was “part of Russia and its government’s support for Mr. Trump.”²

Our country has a fundamental principle that a foreign adversary should not and cannot interfere with our sacred elections. Your decision to take this meeting raises significant questions about your judgment and your respect for the very principles that our democracy has been founded upon. Furthermore, I am concerned that you failed to disclose this meeting to the authorities or the public for almost a year, even when the President and his team repeatedly denied any contact between the campaign and Russia.

¹ *Trump’s Son Met With Russian Lawyer After Being Promised Damaging Information on Clinton*, New York Times (July 9, 2017) (online at www.nytimes.com/2017/07/09/us/politics/trump-russia-kushner-manafort.html).

² @DonaldTrumpJr Twitter (July 11, 2017) (online at <https://twitter.com/DonaldTrumpJr/status/884789839522140166>).

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Congress now has a constitutional duty to investigate, and to ask the serious questions that are raised by your actions, such as whether you or other members of the Trump team had other undisclosed contacts with Russians in order to seek or obtain derogatory information on the Democratic nominee. We also need more information about whether and when Mr. Kushner disclosed his foreign contacts, including this meeting, on his security clearance application.

June 9, 2016 Meeting with Goldstone and Veselnitskaya at Trump Tower

Mr. Trump, Jr. issued a statement confirming that the three of you had a meeting on June 9, 2016, at Trump Tower. Mr. Trump, Jr. explained: “I was asked to have a meeting by an acquaintance I knew from the 2013 Miss Universe pageant with an individual who I was told might have information helpful to the campaign.” Mr. Trump, Jr. further stated that he invited Mr. Manafort and Mr. Kushner to join the meeting, and that they did attend.³

British tabloid journalist Rob Goldstone confirmed to media outlets that he was the acquaintance who set up and attended the meeting with the Russian lawyer, and that he did so on behalf of his client, Russian pop star Emin Agalarov, whose father, Aras Agalarov, partnered with President Trump on the Moscow Miss Universe pageant.⁴ Mr. Goldstone stated to press that he had been passed information that the Russian lawyer had “information regarding illegal campaign contributions to the DNC which she believed Mr. Trump Jr. might find important.”⁵ He also stated that Mr. Trump, Jr. “agreed to squeeze the meeting into a tight schedule.”⁶

According to the *New York Times*, three individuals described that Mr. Goldstone sent an email to Mr. Trump, Jr. before the meeting that informed him that “the Russian government was the source of the potentially damaging information.”⁷ Following those public reports, Mr. Trump, Jr. released that email chain today, which began with Mr. Goldstone emailing Mr. Trump, Jr. the following:

Emin just called and asked me to contact you with something very interesting. The Crown prosecutor of Russia met with his father Aras this morning and in their meeting offered to provide the Trump campaign with some official documents and information that would incriminate Hillary and her dealings with Russia and would be very useful to

³ *Donald Trump Jr. 's Two Different Explanations for Russian Meeting*, New York Times (July 9, 2017) (online at www.nytimes.com/2017/07/09/us/donald-trump-jrs-two-different-explanations-for-russian-meeting.html).

⁴ *Trump Jr. Was Told in Email of Russian Effort to Aid Campaign*, New York Times (July 10, 2017) (online at www.nytimes.com/2017/07/10/us/politics/donald-trump-jr-russia-email-candidacy.html).

⁵ *Email to Trump Jr. Said Meeting Could Yield Damaging Information About Clinton As Part of Russian Plan, People Familiar With It Say*, Washington Post (July 11, 2017) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/world/kremlin-denies-knowing-of-donald-trump-jr-meeting-with-russian-lawyer-during-2016-campaign/2017/07/10/c2bfee34-6566-11e7-a1d7-9a32c91c6f40_story.html).

⁶ *Trump Jr. Admits He Wanted Info on Hillary Clinton from Russian Lawyer*, Associated Press (July 11, 2017) (online at <http://time.com/4852612/trump-jr-hillary-clinton-russian-lawyer-info/>).

⁷ *Trump Jr. Was Told in Email of Russian Effort to Aid Campaign*, New York Times (July 10, 2017) (online at www.nytimes.com/2017/07/10/us/politics/donald-trump-jr-russia-email-candidacy.html).

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your father. This is obviously very high level and sensitive information but is part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump – helped along by Aras and Emin. ... I can also send this info to your father via Rhona, but it is ultra sensitive so wanted to send to you first.⁸

Less than 20 minutes later, Mr. Trump, Jr. responded:

Thanks Rob I appreciate that. I am on the road at the moment but perhaps I just speak to Emin first. Seems we have some time and if it's what you say I love it especially later in the summer.⁹

In a June 7 email, Mr. Goldstone wrote that his client suggested an in-person meeting with a "Russian government attorney who is flying over from Moscow for this Thursday."¹⁰

That email chain—setting up the meeting for 4 pm on June 9 at Trump Tower, and also including Mr. Goldstone's original email—ultimately appears to have been forwarded from Mr. Trump, Jr. to Mr. Kushner and Mr. Manafort on June 8.¹¹

While Mr. Goldstone denied any involvement of the Russian government when he spoke with press, he confirmed that he sent an email to Mr. Trump, Jr. describing what information the lawyer was supposed to share at the meeting.¹² An attorney for Mr. Trump, Jr. also confirmed that Mr. Goldstone sent Mr. Trump, Jr. an email before the meeting, stating: "Robert Goldstone contacted Don Jr. in an email and suggested that people had information concerning alleged wrongdoing by Democratic Party front-runner, Hillary Clinton, in her dealings with Russia."¹³

The *New York Times* has reported that Ms. Veselnitskaya is a Russian lawyer whose "activities and associations had previously drawn the attention of the F.B.I.," and that "Ms. Veselnitskaya's clients include a state-owned businesses and a senior government official's son, whose company was under investigation in the United States at the time of the meeting."¹⁴

⁸ @DonaldTrumpJr Twitter (July 11, 2017) (online at <https://twitter.com/DonaldTrumpJr/status/884789839522140166>).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ @DonaldTrumpJr Twitter (July 11, 2017) (online at <https://twitter.com/DonaldTrumpJr/status/884789418455953413>).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Trump Jr. Was Told in Email of Russian Effort to Aid Campaign*, New York Times (July 10, 2017) (online at www.nytimes.com/2017/07/10/us/politics/donald-trump-jr-russia-email-candidacy.html).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Trump's Son Met With Russian Lawyer After Being Promised Damaging Information on Clinton*, New York Times (July 9, 2017) (online at www.nytimes.com/2017/07/09/us/politics/trump-russia-kushner-manafort.html).

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In a statement to the press, Mr. Trump, Jr. explained that during the meeting it became clear to him that “the claims of potentially helpful information were a pretext for the meeting,” and that Ms. Veselnitskaya’s “true agenda” was to lobby him on the issues of Russian adoption and the Magnitsky Act.¹⁵ Mr. Trump, Jr.’s tweet further confirmed that his intent in agreeing to the meeting was to obtain derogatory information about Secretary Clinton, stating: “Obviously I’m the first person on a campaign to ever take a meeting to hear info about an opponent ... went nowhere but had to listen.”¹⁶

It is not yet clear whether any other individuals attended the meeting on June 9, 2016. It is also not yet clear whether you received any emails or information about the meeting before or after it occurred.

Goldstone’s Russian Client—Emin Agalrov

Mr. Goldstone’s Russian client Emin Agalrov and his father, Aras Agalarov, have maintained close ties to President Trump and his family since 2013, when the Agalarovs and other investors paid \$14 million to stage the Miss Universe Pageant in Moscow.¹⁷

In 2013, the elder Agalarov reportedly “knew Trump admired the Russian president, so he spoke to Kremlin contacts to set up a meeting.”¹⁸ When the meeting could not be scheduled, Russian President Vladimir Putin reportedly sent a gift and a note to President Trump and “enlisted Aras Agalarov’s daughter, and Emin’s sister Sheila Agalarova, to personally deliver the gift to the Miss Universe offices in New York.”¹⁹ President Trump appeared in a music video for Emin Agalarov in 2013.²⁰

In recent interviews, Emin Agalarov has “described an ongoing relationship with the Trump family, including post-election contact with the president himself.” He has reportedly

¹⁵ *Donald Trump Jr. ’s Two Different Explanations for Russian Meeting*, New York Times (July 9, 2017) (online at www.nytimes.com/2017/07/09/us/donald-trump-jrs-two-different-explanations-for-russian-meeting.html).

¹⁶ @DonaldJTrumpJr Twitter (July 10, 2017) (online at <https://twitter.com/DonaldJTrumpJr/status/884395618784993280>).

¹⁷ *Inside Trump’s Financial Ties to Russia and His Unusual Flattery of Vladimir Putin*, Washington Post (June 17, 2016) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/inside-trumps-financial-ties-to-russia-and-his-unusual-flattery-of-vladimir-putin/2016/06/17/dbdcaac8-31a6-11e6-8ff7-7b6c1998b7a0_story.html).

¹⁸ *High-Rollers, Risk-Takers And Rule-Benders: Donald Trump’s Unorthodox Roster Of Overseas Business Partners*, Washington Post (Jan. 13, 2017) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/classic-apps/high-rollers-risk-takers-and-rule-benders-donald-trumps-unorthodox-roster-of-overseas-business-partners/2017/01/13/73797ab6-cc37-11e6-b8a2-8c2a61b0436f_story.html).

¹⁹ *So Trump DOES Have A Connection To Russia! How President-Elect Made Cameo In 2013 Russian Pop Video Made By Son of Russian Billionaire*, Daily Mail (Jan. 11, 2017) (online at www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4111828/How-Donald-appeared-Russian-pop-singer-s-music-video-deciding-hold-2013-Miss-Universe-pageant-Moscow.html).

²⁰ *Trump and Putin Tried to Meet in Moscow Three Years Ago: Source*, NBC News (July 28, 2016) (online at www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/trump-putin-tried-meet-moscow-three-years-ago-source-n619006).

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said that “he has maintained contact with the Trump family since the election and has exchanged messages with Donald Trump Jr. as recently as January; and that President Trump himself sent a handwritten note to the Agalarovs in November after they congratulated him on his victory.”²¹

He has also reportedly stated, “As soon as Mr. Trump got elected, we sent congratulations letters, to which they replied, and we exchanged texts.”²² He also stated, “Now that he ran and was elected, he does not forget his friends.”²³

Request for Documents

So that we may better understand your June 9, 2016 meeting at Trump Tower, as well as your contacts with Russian individuals during the campaign and transition, please provide the following documents no later than July 25, 2017:

1. All documents and communications regarding or relating to setting up the June 9, 2016 meeting;
2. all communications and records of communications involving or referencing Mr. Goldstone, Emin Agalarov, Aras Agalarov, or Natalia Veselnitskaya;
3. all documents and communications regarding or relating to the June 9, 2016 meeting, including any documents and communications referring to or discussing the meeting, anything that occurred during the meeting, or any follow-up actions taken after the meeting;
4. all documents and communications regarding or relating to any contacts you had with Russian individuals, government officials, or business representatives during the 2016 presidential campaign and presidential transition;
5. all documents and communications regarding or relating to any attempts or actions that you took or that you are aware of to obtain derogatory information about Secretary Clinton from a foreign nation or foreign national; and
6. all documents and communications regarding or relating to Mr. Kushner’s security clearance application and his reporting of his contacts, travel, or meetings with foreign nationals or foreign government officials.

²¹ *Exclusive: Powerful Russian Partner Boasts of Ongoing Access to Trump Family*, Forbes (Mar. 20, 2017) (online at www.forbes.com/sites/noahkirsch/2017/03/20/russian-billionaire-family-trump-ties-ongoing).

²² *In Trump They Trust: Inside the Global Web of Partners Cashing In on the President*, Forbes (Mar. 20, 2017) (online at www.forbes.com/sites/danalexander/2017/03/20/in-trump-they-trust-inside-the-global-web-of-partners-cashing-in-on-the-president).

²³ *Exclusive: Powerful Russian Partner Boasts of Ongoing Access to Trump Family*, Forbes (Mar. 20, 2017) (online at www.forbes.com/sites/noahkirsch/2017/03/20/russian-billionaire-family-trump-ties-ongoing).

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Thank you for your prompt cooperation with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, prominent "E" at the beginning and a flourish at the end.

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member