

### governmentattic.org

"Rummaging in the government's attic"

Description of document: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Emails

containing the phrase 60 Minutes between January 20 and February 6, 2025 in email accounts of FCC senior staff

Requested date: 06-February-2025

Release date: 29-July-2025

Posted date: 11-August-2025

Source of document: FOIA Request

Federal Communications Commission

45 L Street NE

Washington, D.C. 20554 ArkCase FOIA Portal

FOIA.gov

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### Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

July 29, 2025

#### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: FOIA Control No. 2025-000586

This letter responds to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request you submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) on February 6, 2025. Through your request, you seek:

A copy of each email (TO, FROM, and CC) containing the phrase "60 Minutes" for emails dating between January 20, 2025 and February 6, 2025, in the email accounts of each of the following individuals: Brendan Carr, Scott Delacourt, Greg Watson, Arpan Sura, Danielle Thumann, Erin Boone, Adam Chan, Anthony Patrone, Matt Mittelstaedt, Adam Jackman, and Stephanie Chambliss. Please omit news articles and compilations of news clippings. <sup>1</sup>

Your request has been assigned FOIA Control No. 2025-0005586 and was referred to the Office of General Counsel (OGC).

In response to your request, Commission staff undertook a search and located 85 responsive records, 47 of which, constituting 103 pages, are produced with this response. The remaining records are withheld in full for the reasons discussed below. Additionally, some material on the pages produced has been redacted due to the reasons discussed below.

Records responsive to your request are being withheld and redacted under FOIA Exemption 5, which protects certain inter-agency and intra-agency records that are normally considered privileged in the civil discovery context.<sup>2</sup> Among other things, Exemption 5 encompasses a deliberative process privilege intended to "prevent injury to the quality of agency decisions."<sup>3</sup> To fall within the scope of this privilege the agency records must be both predecisional and deliberative.<sup>4</sup> Predecisional records

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> FOIA Control No. 2025-000586 (Feb. 6, 2025).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> NLRB v. Sears Roebuck & Co., 421 U.S. 132, 150-51 (1975).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 151-52.

must have been "prepared in order to assist an agency decision maker in arriving at his decision." Deliberative records must be such that their disclosure "would expose an agency's decisionmaking process in such a way as to discourage candid discussion within the agency and thereby undermine the agency's ability to perform its functions."

We have withheld 37 records (and redacted material from the produced records) pursuant to the deliberative process privilege. These records/materials reflect predecisional, deliberative, and draft material, including draft letters, draft notices, and discussions and recommendations regarding draft documents, responses to media inquiries, and publication of material submitted to the Commission. We have determined that disclosure of this material would cause specific reasonably foreseeable harms to the deliberative process, which Exemption 5 is intended to protect. The withheld and redacted material implicate sensitive matters that require particular candor in the advice given to decision makers, which would be discouraged by the release of the advice. The withheld and redacted material also consist of deliberations involving the recent advice and recommendations of junior staff to more senior staff, the public exposure of which would foreseeably cause hesitation in offering candid opinions to superiors, resulting in self-censorship that would degrade the quality of agency decisions, as well as inhibit frank communications and the free exchange of ideas that the privilege is designed to protect.

We have also withheld one record under FOIA Exemption 7(A), which authorizes the withholding of "records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, the production of which could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings." The withheld record comprises investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes in an active Commission enforcement proceeding. While the Commission has made a transcript and video related to the proceeding public, 8 the withheld material is nonpublic, and release of it could reasonably be expected to interfere with FCC's conduct of the proceedings. We have determined that it is reasonably foreseeable that disclosure would harm the Commission's law enforcement activities, which Exemption 7 is intended to protect.

Further, records responsive to your request were redacted under FOIA Exemption 6 which protects "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." As applied to the instant case, we have redacted personal phone numbers, home addresses, and email addresses. Balancing the public's right to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Formaldehyde Inst. v. Dep't of Health and Human Servs., 889 F.2d 1118, 1122 (D.C. Cir. 1989); see also Coastal States Gas Corp. v. Dep't of Energy, 617 F.2d 854, 866 (D.C. Cir. 1980) ("In deciding whether a document should be protected by the privilege we look to whether the document is . . . generated before the adoption of an agency policy and whether . . . it reflects the give-and-take of the consultative process. The exemption thus covers recommendations, draft documents, proposals, suggestions, and other subjective documents . . .").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Formaldehyde Inst., 889 F.2d at 1122 (quoting Dudman Comme'ns Corp. v. Dep't of the Air Force, 815 F.2d 1565, 1568 (D.C. Cir. 1987)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> FCC Establishes MB Docket No. 25-73 and Comment Cycle for News Distortion Complaint Involving CBS Broadcasting Inc., License of WCBS, New York NY, MB Docket No. 25-73, Public Notice, DA 25-107 (MB Feb. 5, 2025).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6).

disclosure against the individual's right to privacy, we have determined that release of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. We have determined that it is reasonably foreseeable that disclosure would harm the privacy interests of the persons mentioned in these records, which Exemption 6 is intended to protect.

We are required by both the FOIA and the Commission's own rules to charge requesters certain fees associated with the costs of searching for, reviewing, and duplicating the sought after information. <sup>10</sup> To calculate the appropriate fee, requesters are classified as: (1) commercial use requesters; (2) educational requesters, non-commercial scientific organizations, or representatives of the news media; or (3) all other requesters. <sup>11</sup>

Pursuant to section 0.466(a)(8) of the Commission's rules, you have been classified for fee purposes under category (3) as an "all other requester." As an "all other requester," the Commission assesses charges to recover the full, reasonable direct cost of searching for and reproducing records that are responsive to the request; however, you are entitled to be furnished with the first 100 pages of reproduction and the first two hours of search time without charge under section 0.470(a)(3)(i) of the Commission's rules. Because the production in response to your request was provided in electronic form, and because of the timing of the Commission's response, "4" you will not be charged any fees.

If you consider this to be a denial of your FOIA request, you may seek review by filing an application for review with the Office of General Counsel. An application for review must be *received* by the Commission within 90 calendar days of the date of this letter. <sup>15</sup> You may file an application for review by mailing the application to Federal Communications Commission, Office of General Counsel, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554, or you may file your application for review electronically by e-mailing it to FOIA-Appeal@fcc.gov. Please caption the envelope (or subject line, if via e-mail) and the application itself as "Review of Freedom of Information Action."

If you would like to discuss this response before filing an application for review to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact the Commission's FOIA Public Liaison for assistance at:

FOIA Public Liaison
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Managing Director
Performance Evaluation and Records Management
45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554
202-418-0440

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A); 47 CFR § 0.470.

<sup>11 47</sup> CFR § 0.470.

<sup>12 47</sup> CFR § 0.466(a)(8).

<sup>13 47</sup> CFR § 0.470(a)(3)(i).

<sup>14 47</sup> CFR § 0.470(a)(3)(ii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> 47 CFR §§ 0.461(j), 1.115; 47 CFR § 1.7 (documents are considered filed with the Commission upon their receipt at the location designated by the Commission).

#### FOIA-Public-Liaison@fcc.gov

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through the Commission's FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road–OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
202-741-5770
877-684-6448
ogis@nara.gov
https://www.archives.gov/ogis

Sincerely,

/s/Kristi Thompson
Kristi Thompson
Attorney Advisor
Office of General Counsel

Enclosure

cc: FCC FOIA Office

From: Will Wiguist

To: Greg Watson; Katie Gorscak

Subject: RE: Press inquiries from this morning

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 3:56:00 PM

Attachments: image001.png

image002.png

Adding three more (not adding the full inquiries for space reasons but can of course)

#### **Politico – Interview Request on Cybersecurity**

Inquiry: "reaching out to request an interview, sometime in the coming weeks, with Chairman Carr on the subject of actions the agency may take to respond to the Chinese Salt Typhoon hacks. We reported last week on the chair's objections against former Chair Rosenworcel's efforts in this space, and would like to find out more about how he would like to approach the topic."

OMR: (b) (5)

#### **Broadband Breakfast**

Inquiry: "President Trump of course issued an executive order directing executive agencies to pause rulemakings, including pausing submissions to the Federal Register, until Trump appointees reviewed them. I know the FCC is an independent agency, but I'm curious if they agency is still planning to comply and if it would affect the cybersecurity order adopted on Jan. 16."

OMR Rec.:

#### **Bloomberg Law**

Inquiry: "We are currently working on a short story about [Nat. Sheriffs' Assoc. v. FCC, D.C. Cir., No. 25-1028, 1/17/25]. The petition for review challenges the FCC's new order regulating the 4.9 GHz radio band

used by public safety entities. Did the FCC issue a statement about the case that you can send me or would you like to comment on it now?"

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

From: Will Wiquist

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:59 PM

To: Greg Watson < Gregory. Watson@fcc.gov>; Katie Gorscak < Katie. Gorscak@fcc.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Press inquiries from this morning

Adding two additional inquiries (full inquiries below).

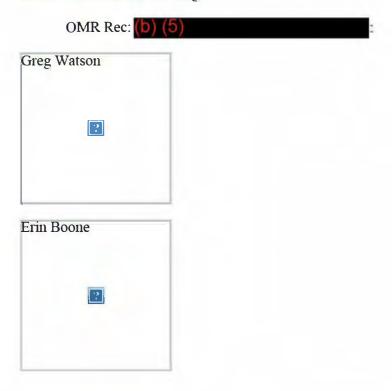
#### The Wrap

Inquiry: "I've seen some lawmakers calling for a CFIUS review of Paramount Global's pending \$8 billion merger with Skydance over Tencent's stake in the latter and was just curious if that's something the FCC is considering as it continues to review the transaction? Also, I know Brendan Carr has spoken about the "60 Minutes" complaint from the Center of American Rights potentially coming up in the review. Is Jessica Rosenworcel's recent denial of the petition something that would be reversed?"

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

#### Radio World

Inquiry: "I'm writing a summary for our website regarding Chairman Carr's new appointments, and I wanted to see if you had headshot images available of Delacourt, Watson and Boone, for use in our coverage?"



----Original Message----

From: Lucas Manfredi <a href="mailto:lucas.manfredi@thewrap.com">hewrap.com</a>>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:02 PM
To: MediaRelations < MediaRelations@fcc.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Lucas Manfredi: TheWrap Inquiry

Hello,

My name is Lucas Manfredi and I work with TheWrap. I've seen some lawmakers calling for a CFIUS review of Paramount Global's pending \$8 billion merger with Skydance over Tencent's stake in the latter and was just curious if that's something the FCC is considering as it continues to review the transaction? Also, I know Brendan Carr has spoken about the "60 Minutes" complaint from the Center of American Rights potentially coming up in the review. Is Jessica Rosenworcel's recent denial of the petition something that would be reversed? Thanks and I look forward to speaking with you!

Lucas Manfredi

From: Nicholas Langan <nicholas.langan@futurenet.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:11 PM

**To:** MediaRelations <a href="mailto:MediaRelations@fcc.gov">MediaRelations@fcc.gov</a>>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Follow-up for Chariman Carr's appointments

Good afternoon to you,

My name is Nick Langan and I am a writer with Radio World. I'm writing a summary for our website regarding Chairman Carr's new appointments, and I wanted to see if you had headshot images available of Delacourt, Watson and Boone, for use in our coverage?

I very much appreciate your time.

Thank you so much, Nick Langan Content Producer



From: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:46 PMTo: Katie Gorscak < Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov>Cc: Will Wiquist < Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov>

Subject: RE: Press inquiries from this morning

Green = approve

No highlight = ignore

From: Katie Gorscak <a href="mailto:Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov">Kent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:15 PM</a>
To: Greg Watson <a href="mailto:Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov">Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov</a>
Cc: Will Wiquist <a href="mailto:Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov">Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov</a>
Subject: Press inquiries from this morning

Hello, Greg:

Per our earlier conversation, we are holding on responding to any press inquiries for the time being. Below please find the most recent press inquiries to OMR. Summaries and recommendations are below. Below that are the full inquiries.

#### Capitol Forum – on deadline ("next few hours")

Inquiry: "I wanted to touch base with a question regarding an emergency petition the Responsible Enterprises Against Consumer Harassment filed yesterday with the Commission seeking to stay the effective date on the new one-to-one rule. The petition is based on President Trump's executive order asking agencies to "consider"

postponing for 60 days from the date of this memorandum the effective date for any rules that have been published in the Federal Register, or any rules that have been issued in any manner but have not taken effect." Would granting the petition and a stay on the rule require a full commission vote or could Chairman Carr take such action himself?

OMR(b) (5)

The Macomb (Michigan) Daily –

Inquiry: "Can you tell me if any of the participants (in the cybersecurity pilot program) are from the Macomb County area?

**OMR Rec:** 

OMR confirm the factual answer with WCB and respond accordingly. Also send them this link to the information: https://www.fcc.gow/hccamen/ficcselacts-cynerescent

No additional comment offered

Deseret Magazine – on deadline for 1/23

**Inquiry**: "...regarding the scale of our undersea cables and internet infrastructure for a short magazine feature. The intention is to detail out what physically connects our digital lives with numerical figures and some accompanying context. Is there any way I could ask someone a few questions and get some stats regarding number of cables, or permits, or whatever best describes how this connectivity's works?"

OMR Rec: (b) (5) 
 From:
 Katie Gorscak

 To:
 Grea Watson

 Cc:
 Will Wiguist

Subject: RE: Press inquiries from this morning

Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 4:24:24 PM

Attachments: image001.png

image002.png

#### Got it. I can close those out.

From: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 4:23 PM
To: Katie Gorscak <Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov>
Cc: Will Wiquist <Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov>

Subject: RE: Press inquiries from this morning

For the ones asking for confirmation re: the broadcast items that have been released, you are welcome to respond with: "The Orders issued today are available at the links here: [ 3 links]."

Ignore any further request for comment.

From: Katie Gorscak <a href="mailto:Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov">Kent: Wednesday</a>, January 22, 2025 4:04 PM

To: Greg Watson <a href="mailto:Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov">Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov</a>

Cc: Will Wiquist <a href="mailto:Swill.Wiquist@fcc.gov">Swill.Wiquist@fcc.gov</a>

Subject: RE: Press inquiries from this morning

And some further press inquiries for today. For the broadcast items that were released, we've received about 10 inquiries asking for us to confirm. (b) (5)

#### Deadline

Inquiry: Ted Johnson here from Deadline. Do you know if Chairman Carr will be reviving complaints dismissed by his predecessor? Newsmax reported that the complaints against CBS, NBC and ABC, filed by the Center for American Rights, would be put back into active status.

#### **FOX News**

Inquiry: Can the FCC confirm that FCC Chairman Brendan Carr will reinstate the complaints against ABC, CBS and NBC in relation to the coverage of the presidential campaign? Newsmax first reported the news, and we're looking for confirmation.

#### The Hill

Inquiry: Wondering if someone there can confirm this reporting from Newsmax here: <a href="https://www.newsmax.com/newsmax-tv/fcc-chair-media/2025/01/22/id/1196050/">https://www.newsmax.com/newsmax-tv/fcc-chair-media/2025/01/22/id/1196050/</a>

#### The Wrap

Inquiry: I'm just looking to confirm this news that Brendan Carr is reversing Jessica Rosenworcel's dismissal of three complaints against CBS, NBC and ABC but not Fox.

From: Katie Gorscak

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 2:15 PM

To: Greg Watson <a href="mailto:square">Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov></a>

Cc: Will Wiquist <a href="mailto:square">SWill.Wiguist@fcc.gov></a>

Subject: RE: Press inquiries from this morning

And here are some additional ones that have come in since my last email.

#### **CBS News-White House Correspondent**

Inquiry: Would you be able to tell me how many FCC employees will be impacted by the OMB directive on DEI initiatives?

#### **New York Post**

Inquiry: Can the FCC confirm (on the record or on background) that the new chairman, Brendan Carr, is planning to reverse the decision to reject three complaints against ABC, NBC, CBS and FOX? Would the FCC like to provide a statement on this decision?

#### **Communications Daily**

Inquiry: Can you tell me if any FCC staff are being put on leave today following this <u>order</u> by Trump, and who they are and in what offices they work? Are any FCC departments or offices being terminated because of it or the DEI EO, such as the he Office of Workplace Diversity or the Office of Native Affairs and Policy, or the Office of Communications Business Opportunities?

#### **Light Reading**

Inquiry: Any chance Chairman Carr is doing interviews with the likes of Light Reading about 5G and spectrum yet?

#### **Communications Daily**

Inquiry: I'm hearing a rumor and seeing a newsmax <u>report</u> that three of the complaints against broadcast network owned stations that the bureaus dismissed last week (the ones against NBC, ABC and CBS) have been restored to pending status. Is that true? Does the chairman have a comment on why those three are being restored and not the one against Fox?

From: Katie Gorscak

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025 12:14 PM **To:** Greg Watson <a href="mailto:square"><a href="mailt

**Subject:** Press inquiries from this morning

Hello, Greg:

We've received several press inquiries from late yesterday/this morning

#### CNN

Inquiry: Can you confirm that the FCC has reversed the dismissal of complaints into ABC, NBC and CBS regarding coverage of President Trump?

#### **ABC Audio**

Inquiry: We're looking to confirm a Newsmax report that just crossed that Chairman Carr has reversed the dismissal of complaints that fmr Chair Rosenworcel announced last week.

#### Financial Times (deadline COB today)

Inquiry: We are planning to publish a piece on this now and I just wanted to check in on whether there are any updates on direct to device, and/or updated quotes you wish to provide? Note: This was a story that they reached out to work with on in December on direct-to-device and satellite services used by mobile network operators.

#### Chase Boyer, Ham Radio YouTuber/blogger, KI5IRE Ham Radio.

Inquiry: I am currently working on a story for my channel and blog related to the new changes in leadership at the FCC under the President Trump administration, and wanted to reach out and see if there might be any changes within the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) that might be expected to come under this new leadership. In particular, any new regulations to be expected to be added, existing regulations that may be removed, potential changes to the licensing process, any changes to frequency/band allocations for the amateur radio service, enforcement of violations, or anything else regarding the Amateur Radio Service, that I might want to inform my viewers about. Also, if possible, I would also be interested in a statement from the new leadership regarding their positions on the Amateur Radio Service, and what amateur radio operators in the United States should expect from this new leadership.

#### Politico:

Inquiry: I am a cybersecurity reporter for Politico, and my colleague John Sakellariadis and I are reaching out to request an interview, sometime in the coming weeks, with Chairman Carr on the subject of actions the agency may take to respond to the Chinese Salt Typhoon hacks. We reported last week on the chair's objections against former Chair Rosenworcel's efforts in this space, and would like to find out more about how he would like to approach the topic. If he has any time in the coming weeks and is willing to discuss this topic, we would love to sit down with him.

#### **Broadband Breakfast:**

Inquiry: Last night, President Trump of course issued an executive order directing executive agencies to pause rulemakings, including pausing submissions to the Federal Register, until Trump appointees reviewed them. I know the FCC is an

independent agency, but I'm curious if they agency is still planning to comply and if it would affect the cybersecurity order adopted on Jan. 16.

#### Bloomberg Law:

Inquiry: My names is Bernie Pazanowski and I'm a legal reporter with Bloomberg Law. We are currently working on a short story about the case noted in the subject line to this email. The petition for review challenges the FCC's new order regulating the 4.9 GHz radio band used by public safety entities. Did the FCC issue a statement about the case that you can send me or would you like to comment on it now? A short return email will suffice for our needs.

Also, here are some that remain pending from yesterday:

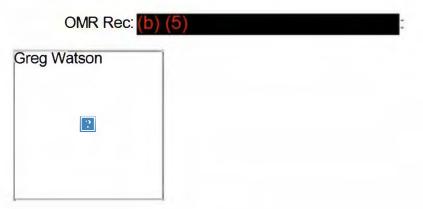
#### The Wrap

Inquiry: "I've seen some lawmakers calling for a CFIUS review of Paramount Global's pending \$8 billion merger with Skydance over Tencent's stake in the latter and was just curious if that's something the FCC is considering as it continues to review the transaction? Also, I know Brendan Carr has spoken about the "60 Minutes" complaint from the Center of American Rights potentially coming up in the review. Is Jessica Rosenworcel's recent denial of the petition something that would be reversed?"



#### Radio World

Inquiry: "I'm writing a summary for our website regarding Chairman Carr's new appointments, and I wanted to see if you had headshot images available of Delacourt, Watson and Boone, for use in our coverage?"



From: Deborah Caplan
To: Brendan Carr

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Review of Debates - etc

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 6:30:03 AM

[You don't often get email from (b) (6) Learn why this is important at <a href="https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification">https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification</a>]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Communications Commission. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trust the content to be safe. If you suspect this is a phishing attempt, please use the 'Report Message' feature in Microsoft Outlook or forward the email to the NSOC.

Mr. Carr

I respectfully disagree with your efforts to pursue ABC 60 minutes and Saturday night live over the debates. The moderators didn't fact check Harris as she was NOT spewing conspiracy theories — such as the Haitians were eating pets —

Re SNL — What is wrong with a little humor — I didn't see the episode — but come on —

This retribution is just a waste of tax payers \$ - is mean spirited — why not use the time and \$ for broadband access for low income communities

Thank you

Debby Caplan - a proud retired nurse practitioner - and daughter of a WW 2 Vet - who would be deeply disturbed by the current policies being set in place that will be trouncing on the freedoms he fought to defend

From: <u>Christopher Santini</u>
To: <u>Greq Watson</u>

Subject: FW: Pending FOIA Requests

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 1:29:34 PM
Attachments: American Oversight Request 2025-385.pdf

2025-000512.pdf

202 5-000535 FOIA Request.pdf

The attached FOIA requests just came to my attention and I will add them to the queue and for discussion tomorrow. At a high level, the requests are:

#### American Oversight:

- For the period beginning August 1, 2024:
  - Custodians:
    - Chairman
    - Commissioner Simington
    - Erin
    - Watson
  - Any Communications with several external organizations or individuals
  - SENT communications containing any of 10 provided terms (Elon, Musk, TikTok, CBS, 60 Minutes, NBC, SNL, Saturday Night Live, Truth Social, core political viewpoints)

#### • Brad Heath (Reuters)

- For the period beginning December 1, 2024
  - Custodian:
    - Chairman
  - Any communication that was sent/received containing the terms: "CBS" "ABC" "president" "president-elect" "Trump" "Biden" "NBC" "Harris" "Paramount" "Comcast" "Facebook" "Meta" or "NPR"



#### • Jake Swearingen, et al. (Business Insider)

- · Custodians:
  - TBD
- Records regarding the response to a FOIA request submitted by the State Democracy Defenders Fund concerning DOGE (this is a request that is in the queue but has not made its way for formal processing as of yet)

----Original Message----

From: Lori Alexiou <Lori.Alexiou@fcc.gov> Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 9:14 AM

To: Christopher Santini < Christopher Santini@fcc.gov>

Subject: RE: Pending FOIA Requests

Hi Chris,

I just did several searches for these emails but nothing came up. I think they came to me through ArkCase and I added them to the chart. I usually wait for Benish or Stephanie to send me the request after it has been assigned to forward to you. I don't have any information that these were sent to me either. So sorry they slipped through the cracks.

----Original Message----

From: Christopher Santini < Christopher Santini @fcc.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 8:18 PM To: Lori Alexiou <a href="Lori Alexiou@fcc gov">Lori Alexiou@fcc gov</a> Subject: RE: Pending FOIA Requests

Same thing for 2025-000512.

From: Christopher Santini

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 7:40 PM To: Lori Alexiou <a href="mailto:Lori.Alexiou@fcc.gov">Lori.Alexiou@fcc.gov</a>

Subject: Pending FOIA Requests

Hi Lori,

I see FOIA 2025-000385 and 2025-000535 on our chart but I can't seem to find any record of them in my emails. Could you check if you sent these to me? If so, could you please reforward them?

Thanks!

Christopher Santini

Special Counsel

Office of General Counsel

Federal Communications Commission

(202) 418-1724

christopher santini@fcc.gov <mailto:christopher.santini@fcc.gov>



December 19, 2024

#### VIA ONLINE PORTAL

Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE Washington, D.C. 20554 Submitted via online portal

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the implementing regulations of your agency, 47 C.F.R. § •.441--•.47•, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

#### Requested Records

American Oversight requests that your office produce the following records within twenty business days:

1. All calendars or calendar entries for the FCC officials listed below, including any calendars maintained on their behalf. We request that the calendars be produced in a format that includes all invitees, any notes, and all attachments. Please do not limit your search to electronic calendars; we request the production of any calendar—paper or electronic, whether on government-issued or personal devices—used to track or coordinate how FCC officials allocate time on public business.

#### Federal Communications Commission Officials:

- a. Commissioner Brendan Carr
- b. Chief of Staff Greg Watson
- c. Commissioner Nathan Simington
- d. Chief of Staff and Wireless Advisor Erin Boone
- 2. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) and all text messages or messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat, Lync, Skype, X.com (formerly Twitter) direct messages, Facebook messages, WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, Parler, Wickr, or Confide) between (a) the FCC officials listed above in part 1, and (b) any of the external individuals listed below, or anyone communicating on their behalf, such as an assistant or scheduler.

#### External Individuals and Entities:



- i. Elon Musk, Tom Zhu, Omead Afshar, Brandon Ehrhart or anyone else communicating on behalf of Tesla (tesla.com)
- ii. John Sullivan (john.sullivan@the-sl-lawfirm.com)
- iii. Judd Stone (judd@stonehilton.com)
- iv. Gwynne Shotwell, Michael Sagan, or anyone else communicating on behalf of SpaceX (spacex.com)
- v. Starlink (starlink.com)
- vi. Antonio Gracias or anyone else communicating on behalf of Valor Equity Partners (valorep.com)
- vii. President-Elect Donald Trump, and/or anyone communicating on his behalf and/or on behalf of Donald J. Trump for President 2024 and/or Trump Save America Joint Fundraising Committee (donaldjtrump.com, trump.com, trump.com, donaldtrump.com, 45office.com)
- viii. Howard Lutnick, Linda McMahon, Susie Wiles or anyone else communicating on behalf of the Trump Vance 2025 Transition Team (trumpvancetransition.com)
- ix. Presidential Transition Team (ptt.gov)
- x. Project 2025 (project2025.org)
- xi. The Republican National Committee (gop.com, rnc.org)
- xii. Paul Dans, Spencer Chretien, Troup Hemenway, Hans Von Spakovsky, or anyone else communicating on behalf of the Heritage Foundation (heritage.org, heritageaction.com)
- xiii. Adam Candeub (candeub (candeub (candeub))
- xiv. Gene Hamilton, or anyone else communicating on behalf of America First Legal (aflegal.org, athospr.com)
- xv. Alliance Defending Freedom (adflegal.org)

Please note that American Oversight does not seek, and that parts 2 of this request specifically exclude, the initial mailing of news clips or other mass-distribution emails. However, subsequent communications responding to or forwarding such emails are responsive to this request. For example, if a specific individual received a mass-distribution news clip email from the Alliance Defending Freedom that initial email would not be responsive to this request. However, if that specific individual forwarded that email to another individual with their own commentary, that subsequent message would be responsive to this request and should be produced.

3. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by the FCC officials listed above in part 1 and containing any of the search terms listed below.

#### Key Terms:

- A. Elon
- B. Musk
- C. TikTok
- D. CBS
- E. "6● Minutes"
- F. NBC

- G. SNL
- H. "Saturday Night Live"
- I. "Truth Social"
- J. "core political viewpoints"

In an effort to reduce the number of potentially responsive records to be processed and produced, American Oversight has limited part 3 of its request to emails sent by the listed officials. To be clear, however, American Oversight still requests that complete email chains be produced, displaying both sent and received messages. For example, both Commissioner Brendan Carr's response to an email containing a listed key term and the initial received message are responsive to this request and should be produced.

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from August 1, 2024, through the date the search is conducted.

#### Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the general public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is for noncommercial purposes.

American Oversight requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government." The public has a significant interest in what activities federal officials are taking to prepare for the changing administration. Records with the potential to shed light on this issue would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the federal government, including whether FCC Commissioners communicated with campaign officials during the lead up and aftermath of the 2024 election. American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide to FOIA requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records.

This request is for non-commercial purposes.<sup>3</sup> As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest. American Oversight's mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Bryan Metzger et al., Trump's new FCC pick is a win for Elon Musk, Business Insider (Nov. 18, 2024, 1:38 PM),

https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-brendan-carr-fcc-win-elon-musk-2024-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).<sup>4</sup>

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website. Examples reflecting this commitment to the public disclosure of documents and the creation of editorial content include the posting of records related to the first Trump Administration's contacts with Ukraine and analyses of those contacts; posting records and editorial content about the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; posting records received as part of American Oversight's "Audit the Wall" project to gather and analyze information related to the first Trump Administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and analyses of what those records reveal; the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department's process for issuing such waivers; and posting records and analysis of federal officials' use of taxpayer dollars to charter private aircraft or use government planes for unofficial business. 10

<sup>\*</sup>American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 98,300 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/">https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/</a> (last visited Dec. 17, 2024); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), <a href="https://x.com/weareoversight">https://x.com/weareoversight</a> (last visited Dec. 17, 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See generally News, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/blog.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Trump Administration's Contacts with Ukraine, American Oversight, <a href="https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine">https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See generally The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus, American Oversight, <a href="https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus">https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus</a>; see, e.g., CDC Calendars from 2018 and 2019: Pandemic-Related Briefings and Meetings, American Oversight, <a href="https://www.americanoversight.org/cdc-calendars-from-2018-and-2019-pandemic-related-briefings-and-meetings">https://www.americanoversight.org/cdc-calendars-from-2018-and-2019-pandemic-related-briefings-and-meetings</a>.

<sup>\*</sup> See generally Audit the Wall, American Oversight,
https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall; see, e.g., Border Wall
Investigation Report: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall, American Oversight,
https://www.americanoversight.org/border-wall-investigation-report-no-plans-nofunding-no-timeline-no-wall.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco's Recusal, American Oversight, <a href="https://www.americanoversight.org/document/doj-civil-division-response-noel-francisco-compliance">https://www.americanoversight.org/document/doj-civil-division-response-noel-francisco-compliance</a>; Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents, American Oversight, <a href="https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents">https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See generally Swamp Airlines: Chartered Jets at Taxpayer Expense, American Oversight, <a href="https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/swamp-airlines-private-jets-taxpayer-expense">https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/swamp-airlines-private-jets-taxpayer-expense</a>; see, e.g., New Information on Pompeo's 2017 Trips to His Home State,

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver.

#### Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other
  materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted.
  To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all
  prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to
  the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Federal Records Act and FOIA.<sup>11</sup> It is not adequate to rely on policies and procedures that require officials to move such information to official systems within a certain period of time; American Oversight has a right to records contained in those files even if material has not yet been moved to official systems or if officials have, by intent or through negligence, failed to meet their obligations.<sup>12</sup>
- Please use all tools available to your agency to conduct a complete and efficient search for potentially responsive records. Agencies are subject to governmentwide requirements to manage agency information electronically,<sup>13</sup> and many

American Oversight, <a href="https://www.americanoversight.org/new-information-on-pompeos-2017-trips-to-his-home-state">https://www.americanoversight.org/new-information-on-pompeos-2017-trips-to-his-home-state</a>.

<sup>11</sup> See Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy, 827 F.3d 145, 149–50 (D.C. Cir. 2016); cf. Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Kerry, 844 F.3d 952, 955–56 (D.C. Cir. 2016).

12 See Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy, No. 14-cv-765, slip op. at 8 (D.D.C. Dec. 12, 2016).

<sup>13</sup> Presidential Memorandum—Managing Government Records, 76 Fed. Reg. 75,423 (Nov. 28, 2011), <a href="https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/28/presidential-memorandum-managing-government-records">https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/28/presidential-memorandum-managing-government-records</a>; Office of Mgmt. & Budget, Exec. Office of the President, Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments & Independent Agencies, "Managing Government Records Directive," M-12-18 (Aug. 24, 2012), <a href="https://www.archives.gov/files/records-mgmt/m-12-18.pdf">https://www.archives.gov/files/records-mgmt/m-12-18.pdf</a>.

agencies have adopted the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Capstone program, or similar policies. These systems provide options for searching emails and other electronic records in a manner that is reasonably likely to be more complete than just searching individual custodian files. For example, a custodian may have deleted a responsive email from his or her email program, but your agency's archiving tools may capture that email under Capstone. At the same time, custodian searches are still necessary; agencies may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.

- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

#### Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Elizabeth Haddix at <a href="mailto:foia@americanoversight.org">foia@americanoversight.org</a> or (252) 359-7424 ext. 1031. Also, if American Oversight's

request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

/s/Elizabeth Haddix Elizabeth Haddix on behalf of American Oversight



# Request Information Letter 01/10/2025

Request Number: FCC-FOIA-2025-000512

Request Title: SDDF/FCC DOGE Records, 12/16/2024

Request Description: January 10, 2025 Federal Communications Commission

45 L Street NE; Room 4-233 Washington, DC 20554 Dear FOIA Officer.

We are writing to request records under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 et seq. and Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") regulations. Specifically, we request:

All records related to FOIA request submitted by the State Democracy Defenders Fund ("SDDF") on December 16, 2024, regarding communications between Elon Musk, Vivek Ramaswamy, or any agents acting on their behalf, concerning the Department of Government Efficiency ("DOGE"). This includes:

- 1. The complete FOIA request submitted by SDDF
- 2. Any correspondence between the FCC and SDDF regarding this request
- 3. Any internal FCC communications or documents regarding the processing of this request
- 4. Any documents produced in response to this request

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. We request a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. We are journalists for Business Insider, a major news publication that reaches millions of readers monthly. The requested records will be used to inform the public about matters of significant public interest regarding government transparency and oversight. This request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.

If you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact any of the undersigned requestors at the information provided below.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jake Swearingen

Deputy Editor, National Desk

Business Insider

One Liberty Plaza, 8th FL

New York, NY 10006

jswearingen@businessinsider.com

#### (b) (6)

Grace Kay

Correspondent

**Business Insider** 

One Liberty Plaza, 8th FL

New York, NY 10006

gkay@businessinsider.com

#### (b) (6)

Jack Newsham

Correspondent

Business Insider

One Liberty Plaza, 8th FL

New York, NY 10006

inewsham@businessinsider.com

#### (b) (6)

Requester Name: Jake Swearingen

Requester Title: Mr.

Requester Address: One Liberty Plaza NY NY

Phone Number: (b) (6)

Requester Email Address: jswearingen@businessinsider.com

Organization: Business Insider

Date Range for Record Search From: 12/16/2024 15:52 PM America/New\_York

Date Range for Record Search To: 01/10/2025 15:52 PM America/New York

Attachments:

Category: News Media

Delivery Method Of Response: Email

Request a Fee Waiver: Yes

Waiver Request Requires Reason: We request a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. We are journalists for Business Insider, a major news publication that reaches millions of readers monthly. The requested records will be used to inform the public about matters of significant public interest regarding government transparency and oversight. This request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.

Amount Willing to Pay (\$):

Delivered Date: 01/10/2025



# Request Information Letter 01/17/2025

Request Number: FCC-FOIA-2025-000535

Request Title: National FOIA Portal Request

Request Description: Please provide me with complete copies of any emails, text messages, SMS messages, MMS messages or other electronic messages sent or received by Commissioner Brendan Carr since Dec. 1, 2024 that include the following words or phrases: "CBS", "ABC", "president", "president-elect," "Trump", "Biden", "NBC", "Harris", "Paramount", "Comcast", "Facebook", "Meta", or "NPR".

Requester Name: Brad Heath

Requester Title:

Requester Address: 612 Oak Haven Dr. Falls Church VA

Phone Number: (b) (6)

Requester Email Address: brad.heath@tr.com

Organization: Reuters

Date Range for Record Search From:

Date Range for Record Search To:

Attachments: FOIA Request confirmation #1894936

Category: News Media

Delivery Method Of Response: Email

Request a Fee Waiver: No

Waiver Request Requires Reason:

Amount Willing to Pay (\$): \$100

Delivered Date: 01/17/2025

 From:
 Cristian Castro Rossel

 To:
 Brendan Carr

 Cc:
 Greg Watson; OnTeam

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Re: Commissioner Carr x Kara Swisher podcast?

**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 12:00:08 PM

You don't often get email from c.castro.rossel@voxmedia.com. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Communications Commission. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trust the content to be safe. If you suspect this is a phishing attempt, please use the 'Report Message' feature in Microsoft Outlook or forward the email to the NSOC.

Hi Chairman Carr — congratulations on your designation as Chair of the FCC. I'm sure you're incredibly busy, but I wanted to reach out once more to invite you to the On with Kara Swisher podcast.

There's obviously no shortage of topics to discuss, and I think you and Kara would have a smart, substantive and lively conversation. It would take 45-60 minutes, and we could record in-person or remotely.

Please let me know what you think — I'd be happy to jump on a call with your team and answer any questions they might have.

Best, Cristian

On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 1:26 PM Cristian Castro Rossel <a href="cc.castro.rossel@voxmedia.com">cc.castro.rossel@voxmedia.com</a> wrote:

Hi Commissioner Carr — bumping this email back up because I think you'd enjoy coming on the pod. I can guarantee a smart and thoughtful conversation where you'll have time to lay out your vision for the FCC at length, without having to deal with cable news-style screaming.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns — and I'd be happy to jump on a call with you or someone on your team.

Best, Cristian

On Tue, Nov 26, 2024 at 3:20 PM Cristian Castro Rossel <a href="mailto:cc.castro\_rossel@voxmedia.com">cc.castro\_rossel@voxmedia.com</a> wrote:

Hi Commissioner Carr,

I hope you're getting ready for a great Thanksgiving. I'm the editorial director of On with Kara Swisher, and I'm reaching out to invite you to the podcast to discuss your vision for the FCC.

Kara has been reporting on the tech industry for decades. She has a long track record of covering Section 230, both on On and on the Pivot podcast, and in 2107, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai came on Kara's former podcast, Recode Decode. This year, Bill Gates, Margrethe

Vestager, and Sen. Maria Cantwell have come on the podcast to discuss tech policy — and if you get a chance to listen, I think you'll find that Kara's reputation for being tough but fair is well deserved, and our interviews are always substantive.

Please let me know if you have any questions I can answer. We could do the interview the week of 12/9 or the week after. It would take an hour, and we could record remotely or inperson in Washington DC. Thanks for considering!

Best,
Cristian

Cristian Castro Rossel • Editorial Director, On with Kara Swisher Mobile: (b) (6)

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From: Alex Rogers
To: Greg Watson

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: FCC / FT

**Date:** Friday, January 31, 2025 10:46:37 AM

You don't often get email from alex.rogers@ft.com. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Communications Commission. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trust the content to be safe. If you suspect this is a phishing attempt, please use the 'Report Message' feature in Microsoft Outlook or forward the email to the NSOC.

#### Hi Greg,

I'm a *Financial Times* correspondent interested in the <u>Paramount merger</u> and would very much appreciate your insight into the following questions:

- Will Chairman Carr request that CBS hand over unedited transcripts of its interview with Kamala Harris?
- Will the commission evaluate the 60 Minutes interview as part of its review of the merger with Skydance?

I'd be happy to chat with you and / or Chairman Carr whenever you are available. Please feel free to reach me at the control of the control o

Best, Alex

P.S. Please find here my interviews with <u>Howard Lutnick</u>, <u>Scott</u> Bessent, <u>John Paulson</u>, <u>Liz Uihlein</u>, <u>Ken Langone</u>, <u>Robert Bigelow</u>, <u>Keith Rabois</u>, <u>Shervin Pishevar</u>, <u>Omeed Malik</u>, <u>Thomas Peterffy</u>, <u>JD Vance</u>, <u>Mitch McConnell and Leonard Leo</u>.

I've also written 'Big Reads' on Elon Musk, Donald Trump, and the politics of Silicon Valley. You can find all of my work here.

Alex Rogers

**US Business & Politics Correspondent** 





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From: James, Meg
To: Greg Watson

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: LA Times request: Chairman Carr's letter to CBS

**Date:** Friday, January 31, 2025 12:56:27 PM

You don't often get email from meg.james@latimes.com. Learn why this is important

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Hi Greg. Could you please provide the letter that Chairman Carr sent to Paramount / CBS News, requesting the 60 Minutes Kamala Harris transcript?

#### Thanks much

--

Meg James
Senior Entertainment Industry Writer
Los Angeles Times
2300 East Imperial Highway
El Segundo, California 90245

Cell: (b) (6)
Signal: (b) (6)

meg.james@latimes.com

https://www.latimes.com/people/meg-james

From: Shepardson, David (Reuters)

To: <u>Katie Gorscak</u>
Cc: <u>Greg Watson</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: 60 MINUTES demand

Date: Friday, January 31, 2025 3:22:08 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Communications Commission. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trust the content to be safe. If you suspect this is a phishing attempt, please use the 'Report Message' feature in Microsoft Outlook or forward the email to the NSOC.

Can you send me this demand for material from the FCC?

WSJ has story

David Shepardson
Correspondent
Reuters

Phone: +1 202 898 8324 Mobile: (b) (6)

david.shepardson@thomsonreuters.com

www.reuters.com

twitter.com/davidshepardson

1333 H Street NW Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005

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https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en/resources/disclosures.html

From: Cecilia Kang

To: Greg Watson; FCC Office of Media Relations; Michael Grynbaum

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Re: FCC letter to CBS

Date: Friday, January 31, 2025 3:34:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Communications Commission. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trust the content to be safe. If you suspect this is a phishing attempt, please use the 'Report Message' feature in Microsoft Outlook or forward the email to the NSOC.

+ Michael Grynbaum for comment/response. Thank you, Cecilia

On Fri, Jan 31, 2025 at 3:20 PM Cecilia Kang <a href="mailto:cecilia.kang@nytimes.com">cecilia.kang@nytimes.com</a> wrote:

Dear Greg and others in the FCC press office,

We understand that the F.C.C. sent a letter to CBS requesting the full transcript of former Vice President Kamala Harris' October interview on 60 Minutes.

Can you please comment on the letter and also include in a response if this is a common or unusual request? We would like to put in context if it is unusual to request raw work from a news organization.

Thank you, Cecilia Kang

--

Technology Reporter The New York Times Washington, D.C.

@ceciliakang

--

Technology Reporter The New York Times Washington, D.C.

(b) (6) @ceciliakang From: Katie Gorscak

To: <u>Brendan Carr; Greg Watson</u>

Cc: Will Wiguist

Subject: 01/31 media inquiries (late afternoon)

Date: Friday, January 31, 2025 4:05:56 PM

#### Good afternoon:

I wanted to give you a heads up that we've received several inquiries this afternoon (from News Nation, Bloomberg, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, L.A. Times) asking for the FCC to confirm that the agency has requested the full Kamala Harris 60 Minutes transcript from Paramount? If so, are there any other materials or components involved in the request? And what is the timeline for compliance?

| -      |         |         |          |         |            | <b>~</b> . |         |           |
|--------|---------|---------|----------|---------|------------|------------|---------|-----------|
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Thx.

Katie

 From:
 Erin Boone

 To:
 Brendan Carr

 Cc:
 Greq Watson

 Subject:
 FW: CBS request

**Date:** Friday, January 31, 2025 6:04:00 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

#### FYI

Erin Boone Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr Acting Chief, Media Bureau 202-418-0736 | erin.boone@fcc.gov

From: Deena Shetler < Deena. Shetler@fcc.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2025 4:52 PM **To:** Erin Boone < Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>

Subject: CBS request

Hi Erin,

Commissioner Gomez would like to know what has been sent to CBS to demand provision of the 60 Minutes transcript, meaning was this an LOI, subpoena or something else. She is also requesting a copy of that document.

Thanks,

Deena

### Deena M. Shetler

Chief of Staff and Legal Advisor | Office of Commissioner Anna M. Gomez Federal Communications Commission <a href="mailto:deena.shetler@fcc.qov">deena.shetler@fcc.qov</a>



From: Katie Gorscak

To: <u>Brendan Carr; Greq Watson</u>

Cc: Will Wiquist

Subject: Press inquiries- 2/3 a.m.

Date: Monday, February 3, 2025 12:16:26 PM

#### Good afternoon:

See below for this morning's press inquiries. We continue to get inquiries on the 60 Minutes inquiry as well as NPR & advertisements. Please let us know if there is interest in a reactive response or putting something out there on either of these topics.

#### -Katie

### Deadline (Ted Johnson)

Inquiry: Back in 2021, two Democrats, Anna Eshoo and Jerry McNerney, sent a letter to major distributors asking them if they planned to continue to carry Fox News, Newsmax and One America News, claiming that they were responsible for the spread of misinformation following the January 6 attack on the Capitol. Their letter generated an outcry, not just from Republicans but from groups like The Media Institute. Then Commissioner Carr said, in a press release, "A newsroom's decision about what stories to cover and how to frame them should be beyond the reach of any government official, not targeted by them."

In light of the inquiry into CBS News and 60 Minutes, I wanted to see what Chairman Carr sees as different in that situation, which the network has said is a First Amendment protected matter of editorial judgment.

#### NPR 1A (Michelle Harven)

Inquiry: We have tweaked the focus a bit after the news of the NPR and PBS investigation to talk about how the FCC regulates the media. Again, would love to have someone from the FCC involved in the conversation. Let me know if I can provide any more information.

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

### Washington Free Beacon (Chuck Ross)

Inquiry: I'm reaching out from the Washington Free Beacon, where I'm writing about Commissioner Carr's notification last week to NPR about an investigation into its ads. I was wondering if FCC might have some examples of ads that violate Section 399B, the statute at issue in the investigation. I'm writing a story that points out some examples of what seem to be violations of 399B, and NPR touts the success of its sponsorship ads to advertisers. But I'd like to fill out the story if possible with examples that FCC has also discovered. In lieu of specific examples, would FCC be able to provide more detail on how many ads or what types of ads have been flagged as possible 399B violations?

### Bloomberg News (Ryan Gallagher)

Inquiry: What is the status of this review that FCC announced last year regarding mobile network security? - <a href="https://www.fcc.gov/document/pshsb-seeks-comment-implementation-security-protocols">https://www.fcc.gov/document/pshsb-seeks-comment-implementation-security-protocols</a>

From: Katie Gorscak

To: Brendan Carr; Greg Watson; Adam Jackman

Cc: Will Wiguist

**Subject:** Time sensitive press inquiry - "The Story w/ Martha MacCallum" at Fox.

**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025 2:44:10 PM

#### Good afternoon:

I wanted to flag the following time sensitive press inquiry.

We've received two inquiries from the "The Story w/ Martha MacCallum" at Fox. One is from Jama Podell Vitale, Senior Producer for the show, Fox has reached out to see if the Chairman could join Martha tomorrow (Tuesday) in the 3pm est hour. Would this work for his busy schedule and if so, preferred location? Secondly, a second producer has reached out as they are

are covering the CBS 60 minutes Harris transcript story and wanted to see if they have turned over the transcript to the FCC yet.

Please let me know if you'd be interested in OMR getting in touch with her, or if you'd prefer we continue to stand down on these types of requests at this time.

Katie

From: Katie Gorscak

To: <u>Brendan Carr; Adam Jackman; Greg Watson</u>

Cc: Will Wiguist

Subject: Press inquiries, 2/3 p.m.

**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025 4:43:47 PM

#### Good afternoon:

Here are several more inquiries that came in in the last hour or so. Several are on some of the hot news topics, but there are a few toward the bottom that fall into some of the routine OMR inquiries we receive on process. Please let us know if we can move forward on engaging with any of those inquiries.

-Katie

#### Fox News Radio (Matthew Pascarella)

Inquiry: I am producer for FOX News Radio and the FOX News Rundown. We're a daily nationally syndicated radio show and FOX's flagship podcast. We saw Brendan Carr on FOX News today and were hoping he could do a follow up on the radio side to discuss the investigation into PBS and NPR's sponsorships. Any chance he's available via ZOOM tomorrow between 11:30 am et and 12:30 PM ET for about 12-15? This would be audio only.

#### **Voice of America (Liam Scott)**

Inquiry: I'm reaching out because I'm reporting on how the FCC has launched investigations into PBS and NPR; reinstated complaints against CBS, NBC and ABC that the previous FCC chairperson dismissed on the grounds of free speech; and requested raw material from CBS's 60 Minutes interview with Kamala Harris. I'm hoping an FCC representative can respond to the following that came up during my reporting:

- That media experts and former FCC members have expressed concern about the scope and rapid succession of these inquiries
- That they have expressed concern that the inquiries may be an attempt to intimidate news outlets, especially considering many of the involved outlets have faced criticism from President Donald Trump and his administration
- That some experts have called the moves partisan
- That during his presidential campaign, Trump threatened to weaponize the FCC to target outlets whose coverage he disliked

My deadline is tomorrow, Feb. 4 at 4:15 PM ET. Additionally, is Brendan Carr by any chance available for an interview this week about this?

#### Techcrunch (Becca Szkutak)

Inquiry: I hope you are doing well. I saw a <u>Semafor article</u> a few hours ago that said Adam Candeub will be general counsel of the FCC. I wanted to confirm if that was true and see if the department has any comment.

### Freelance reporter for AJE (Andy Hirschfeld)

Inquiry: I am currently working on a story about Trump and the press. I have a few questions for commissioner Carr. Can he hop on a phone call in the next day or two

to answer my questions?

OMR rec:

### TMZ (Dennis Broad)

Inquiry: TMZ would like to see if any complaints were filed regarding the airing of the 2025 Grammy Awards on 02/02/2025 and, if so, request the nature of the complaints.

OMR rec: (b) (5)

### Law360 (Christopher Cole)

Inquiry: Could we get any comment on this filing from ARCC, in particular the section(s) about tribal consent? (Note this relates to the Alaska Plan)

OMR rec: (b) (5)

### Law360 (Rachel Scharf)

Inquiry: Rachel Scharf here, LA courts reporter with Law360. I'm writing about the <u>congressional letter</u> sent to the FCC today regarding the faulty emergency alerts issued during the LA wildfires, and wondering if the agency has any comment.

OMR rec: (b) (5)

From: Brendan Carr
To: Adam Jackman

 Subject:
 FW: [EXTERNAL]: Media Query

 Date:
 Monday, February 3, 2025 5:11:00 PM

From: Liam Scott <LScott@voanews.com>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 5:09 PM
To: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]: Media Query

You don't often get email from <a href="mailto:lscott@voanews.com">lscott@voanews.com</a>. Learn why this is important

Hi Chairman Carr.

Thanks for your quick reply.

My apologies, but to clarify, will you be able to comment on the points I outlined in my email? Or are you by any chance available for an interview in the coming days?

Thanks so much.

Best, Liam

\_

Liam Scott

(b) (6)

Reporter, Press Freedom and Disinformation Voice of America

From: Brendan Carr < Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 5:02 PM
To: Liam Scott < LScott@voanews.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: Media Query

Thank you for your note, Liam. Will have some more actions on the broadcast side to share in the future.

- Brendan

From: Liam Scott < LScott@voanews.com>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 4:48 PM
To: Brendan Carr < Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Media Query

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Hi Chairman Carr. I hope you're well.

My name is Liam Scott, and I'm a reporter at VOA.

I'm reaching out because I'm reporting on how the FCC has launched investigations into PBS and NPR; reinstated complaints against CBS, NBC and ABC that the previous FCC chairperson dismissed on the grounds of free speech; and requested raw material from CBS's 60 Minutes interview with Kamala Harris.

I'm hoping you or an FCC representative can respond to the following that came up during my reporting:

- That media experts and current and former FCC commissioners have expressed concern about the scope and rapid succession of these inquiries
- That they have expressed concern that the inquiries may be an attempt to intimidate news outlets, especially considering many of the involved outlets have faced criticism from President Donald Trump and his administration
- That some experts have called the moves partisan
- That news outlets typically don't need to turn over reporting materials unless they are subpoenaed
- That during his presidential campaign, Trump threatened to weaponize the FCC to target outlets whose coverage he disliked

My deadline is tomorrow, Feb. 4, at 5 PM ET.

I would also be happy to talk about this in an interview, if possible.

Thank you. I appreciate your help.

Best, Liam Scott

Liam Scott

(b) (6)

Reporter, Press Freedom and Disinformation Voice of America

From: <u>James, Meq</u>

To: FCC Office of Media Relations; MediaRelations; Greq Watson

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: CBS "60 Minutes" complaint - raw transcripts

**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025 5:36:40 PM

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### Good afternoon, Greg, et al.

I'm reaching out to see whether CBS News has complied with the Chairman's Letter of Interest in its investigation of the complaint over alleged news distortion in the Kamala Harris "60 Minutes" interview from October 2024.

Could you please send a copy of Chairman Carr's 1/29 letter to CBS and any statements about next steps, including whether or not CBS has complied with his request.

Thank you in advance.

--

Meg James
Senior Entertainment Industry Writer
Los Angeles Times
2300 East Imperial Highway
El Segundo, California 90245

Cell: (b) (6)
Signal: (b) (6)

meg.iames@latimes.com

https://www.latimes.com/people/meg-james

From: Will Wiguist

To: Katie Gorscak; Elena Patton; Adam Jackman; Will Wiguist; Ismari Cueto

**Subject:** LA Times re: CBS "60 Minutes" complaint - raw transcripts

**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025 5:39:11 PM

From: James, Meg <meg.james@latimes.com>

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 5:36 PM

To: FCC Office of Media Relations <FCCOfficeofMediaRelations@fcc.gov>; MediaRelations

<MediaRelations@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: CBS "60 Minutes" complaint - raw transcripts

Good afternoon, Greg, et al.

I'm reaching out to see whether CBS News has complied with the Chairman's Letter of Interest in its investigation of the complaint over alleged news distortion in the Kamala Harris "60 Minutes" interview from October 2024.

Could you please send a copy of Chairman Carr's 1/29 letter to CBS and any statements about next steps, including whether or not CBS has complied with his request.

Thank you in advance.

--

Meg James
Senior Entertainment Industry Writer
Los Angeles Times
2300 East Imperial Highway

Cell: (b) (6)
Signal: (b) (6)

meg.iames@latimes.com

El Segundo, California 90245

https://www.latimes.com/people/meg-james

From: Shepardson, David (Reuters)

To: Grea Watson

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: 60 Minutes

**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025 8:52:13 PM

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We are trying to confirm that 60 Minutes has handed over the tapes and transcripts of the VP Harris interview

Are you able to confirm that?

David Shepardson
Correspondent
Reuters

Phone: +1 202 898 8324 Mobile: (b) (6)

david.shepardson@thomsonreuters.com

www.reuters.com

twitter.com/davidshepardson

1333 H Street NW Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005

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https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en/resources/disclosures.html

From: Adam Jackman

To: Will Wiguist; Ismari Cueto; Katie Gorscak; Elena Patton

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: USA TODAY - Requesting update on CBS / 60 Minutes probe - No Deadline Specified

**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:18:00 AM

# (b) (5)

From: Will Wiquist <Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov> Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:17 AM

**To:** Ismari Cueto <lsmari.Cueto@fcc.gov>; Katie Gorscak <Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov>; Elena Patton

<Elena.Patton@fcc.gov>; Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: USA TODAY - Requesting update on CBS / 60 Minutes probe - No Deadline

Specified

+Adam

### (b) (5)

From: Ismari Cueto <a href="mailto:smari.Cueto@fcc.gov">lsmari.Cueto@fcc.gov</a>>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:39 AM

**To:** Will Wiquist <a href="mailto:wiguist@fcc.gov">will.Wiquist@fcc.gov</a>; Katie Gorscak <a href="mailto:Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov">Katie Gorscak@fcc.gov</a>; Elena Patton

<Elena.Patton@fcc.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: USA TODAY - Requesting update on CBS / 60 Minutes probe - No Deadline

Specified

From: Crowley, Kinsey <KCrowley@gannett.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:30 AM **To:** MediaRelations <a href="mailto:MediaRelations@fcc.gov">MediaRelations@fcc.gov</a>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: USA TODAY requesting update on CBS / 60 Minutes probe

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Hi there, I hope this finds you well.

I am a reporter at USA TODAY and I am looking into reports that the FCC has received documentation from CBS in regards to a news distortion complaint over Kamala Harris' interview in October. Can you confirm? Would Chairman Brendan Carr like to elaborate on why he is reopening this complaint or any findings from the documentation?

Thank you,

Kinsey Crowley

<u>Trending News Reporter</u> **USA TODAY Network**<u>LinkedIn | X (Twitter)</u>

From: Terrell Richardson
To: Brendan Carr

Subject: Terrell Richardson has invited you to work together in "CBS-60 Minutes-News Distortion" folder on

Box

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:02:40 AM

Attachments: FolderShared@2x

box logo folder-shared-icon box logo dark



Go to Folder



# Terrell Richardson invited you to collaborate on: CBS-60 Minutes-News Distortion

- Inquiry1 Face the Nation (Broadcast) and Transcript20250203185203
- Inquiry3 60 Minutes (Broadcast) and Transcript20250203184307
- Other Unedited Footage
- TramscribedUneditedFootage
- TranscribedUnedited Interview (Audio-Only)20250203182405
- Unedited 60 Minute Interview\_Ver 2

Go to Folder

From: <u>Terrell Richardson</u>
To: <u>Adam Jackman</u>

Subject: Terrell Richardson has invited you to work together in "CBS-60 Minutes-News Distortion" folder on

Box

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:02:41 AM

Attachments: FolderShared@2x

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# Terrell Richardson invited you to collaborate on: CBS-60 Minutes-News Distortion

- Inquiry1 Face the Nation (Broadcast) and Transcript20250203185203
- Inquiry3 60 Minutes (Broadcast) and Transcript20250203184307
- Other Unedited Footage
- TramscribedUneditedFootage
- TranscribedUnedited Interview (Audio-Only)20250203182405
- Unedited 60 Minute Interview\_Ver 2

Go to Folder

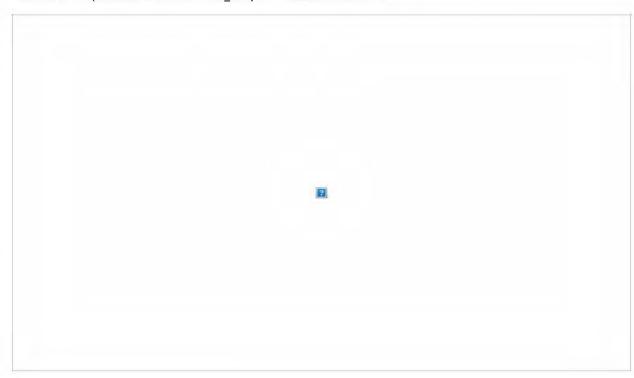
From: To: Cc: Subject: Date: Patrick Webre Brendan Carry Adam Jackman Erin Boone CBS Video in Box Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:18:36 AM image001.png

Attachments:

The Chairman and Adam have been given access to the Box account that contains the CBS files submitted to us last night.

Here is the link:  $\underline{\text{https://us-fcc.box.com/s/55n6dzua6qigo1u8pc63ulo9nfy0i3c3}}$ 

And below is a screenshot of where you can find the Unedited 60 Minutes interview video along with a pdf of the transcript. It's the first folder (Unedited 60 Minute Interview\_Ver2) in the screenshot with 2 files.

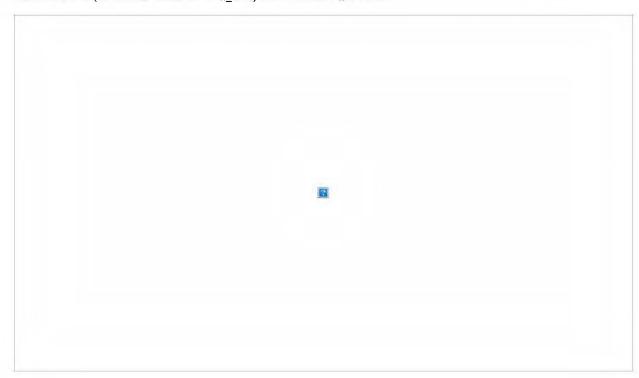


Patrick Webre Acting Chief, Enforcement Bureau From: To: Patrick, Webre

Affray Riordan; Terrell Richardson; Erin Boone CMRstaff; Tia Cromwell; Jason Schiavoni RE: Video for Chairman''s Office Subject: Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:21:50 AM

Attachments:

Below is a screenshot of where you can find the Unedited 60 Minutes interview video along with a pdf of the transcript. It's the first folder (Unedited 60 Minute Interview\_Ver2) in the screenshot with 2 files.



Patrick Webre Acting Chief, Enforcement Bureau

From: Jeffrey Riordan < Jeffrey.Riordan@fcc.gov> Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:20 AM

Cc: CMRstaff <CMRstaff@fcc.gov>; Tia Cromwell <Tia.Cromwell@fcc.gov>; Jason Schiavoni <Jason.Schiavoni@fcc.gov>

Subject: Re: Video for Chairman's Office

I see there are multiple files in multiple directories. I just spoke with Erin and they just want to upload the unedited interview video and transcript.

Can you tell us which video and PDF file that is so we can upload it?

From: Terrell Richardson < Terrell.Richardson@fcc.gov >

Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:12 AM

To: Patrick Webre <a href="mailto:Patrick Webre@fcc.gov">Patrick Webre@fcc.gov</a>; Jeffrey Riordan<a href="mailto:Leffrey.Riordan@fcc.gov">Leffrey.Riordan@fcc.gov</a>; Erin Boone <a href="mailto:Leftrey.Riordan@fcc.gov">Erin  $\textbf{Cc:} \ \ \mathsf{CMRstaff} \underbrace{\mathsf{CCMRstaff} \underline{\mathscr{O}\mathsf{fcc}.\mathsf{gov}}}_{\mathsf{Classif}}, \ \mathsf{Tia} \ \mathsf{Cromwell} \underbrace{\mathsf{CTia}. \underline{\mathsf{Cromwell}} \underline{\mathscr{O}\mathsf{fcc}.\mathsf{gov}}}_{\mathsf{Classif}}, \ \mathsf{Jason} \ \mathsf{Schiavoni} \underbrace{\mathsf{CJason}. \mathsf{Schiavoni}}_{\mathsf{Classif}} \underbrace{\mathsf{Cromwell}}_{\mathsf{Classif}} \underbrace{\mathsf{Cromwell}}_{\mathsf{Classif}} \underbrace{\mathsf{Classif}}_{\mathsf{Classif}} \underbrace{\mathsf{Clas$ 

Subject: RE: Video for Chairman's Office

As requested: https://us-fcc.box.com/s/55n6dzua6qigolu8pc63ulo9nfy0i3c3

\*\*\*For Internal Use ●nly\*\*\*

From: Patrick Webre <a href="mailto:Patrick\_Webre@fcc.gov">Patrick\_Webre@fcc.gov</a> Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:12 AM

To: Jeffrey Riordan <a href="mailto:series"><u>Leffrey Riordan@fcc.gov></u></a>; Erin Boone <a href="mailto:series"><u>Leffrey Riordan@fcc.gov></u></a>; Terrell Richardson <a href="mailto:series"><u>Leffrey Riordan@fcc.gov></u></a>; Erin Boone <a href=

Cc: CMRstaff < CMRstaff@fcc.gov>; Tia Cromwell < Tia.Cromwell@fcc.gov>; Jason Schiavoni < Jason, Schiavoni@fcc.gov>

Subject: RE: Video for Chairman's Office

Adding Terrell who can assist with that.

Thanks.

Patrick Webre

Acting Chief, Enforcement Bureau

From: Jeffrey Riordan <a href="mailto:Seffrey.Riordan@fcc.gov">Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:09 AM</a>

To: Erin Boone < Erin. Boone@fcc.gov >

 $\textbf{Cc:} \ CMRstaff \underline{<CMRstaff@fcc.gov>_;} \ Patrick \ Webre \underline{<Patrick.Webre@fcc.gov>_;} \ Tia \ Cromwell \underline{<Tia.Cromwell@fcc.gov>_;} \ Jason \ Schiavoni$ 

<Jason.Schiavoni@fcc.gov>

Subject: Re: Video for Chairman's Office

If the video and transcript are being loaded onto Box please share that link to download it with Tia and Jason and that would make it faster for them to get the video to YouTube.

From: Jeffrey Riordan <u><Jeffrey.Riordan@fcc.gov></u> Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:06 AM

To: Erin Boone < Erin, Boone@fcc,gov>

Cc: CMRstaff < CMRstaff @fcc.gov>; Patrick Webre < Patrick.Webre@fcc.gov>; Tia Cromwell < Tia.Cromwell@fcc.gov>; Jason Schiavoni

Schiavoni@fcc.gov>

Subject: Re: Video for Chairman's Office

That sounds like something we can do but I have a question.

Is the video already transcribed? If not we'll have to get it transcribed which will delay the process.

We can upload the video to YouTube and provide a link in the description to the transcript.

I'm adding in Jason and Via from our web feam who can

correct me if I'm wrong as well as give you an estimate on how long it would take.

Do you know how long the video is? That will have an impact on how long it takes to process the video through YT.

From: Erin Boone <u><Erin.Boone@fcc.gov></u>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:51 AM
To: Jeffrey Riordan <u><Jeffrey Riordan@fcc.gov></u>

Cc: CMRstaff < CMRstaff@fcc.gov>; Patrick Webre < Patrick. Webre@fcc.gov>

Subject: RE: Video for Chairman's Office

Jeff.

So I got more specific direction. We need not only the video posted to the FCC You Tube page, but also a link next to the video that will go to a pdf copy of a full transcript of the video we are posting.

video and the pdf transcript? Please let me know asap, and thanks very much in advance.

Erin Boone

Senior Counsel - Media & Enforcement

Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr

Acting Chief, Media Bureau

202-418-0736 | erin boone ofcc gov

From: Erin Boone

Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:42 AM

To: Jeffrey Riordan <a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Riordan@fcc.gov">Jeffrey.Riordan@fcc.gov</a>

Cc: CMRstaff < CMRstaff@fcc.gov>; Patrick Webre < Patrick.Webre@fcc.gov>

Subject: RE: Video for Chairman's Office

Perfect. Let me get the title and description for you. Patrick will take care of getting you access to the video when it is time.

Erin Boone

Senior Counsel - Media & Enforcement

Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr

Acting Chief, Media Bureau

202-418-0736 | <u>erin.boone@fcc.gov</u>

From: Jeffrey Riordan <a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Riordan@fcc.gov">Jeffrey.Riordan@fcc.gov</a>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 9:29 AM
To: Erin Boone <a href="mailto:Erin Boone@fcc.gov">Jefra Boone@fcc.gov</a>
Council Adaptor (CAMPatroff@frey.Row)

Cc: CMRstaff <u><CMRstaff@fcc.gov</u>>
Subject: Video for Chairman's Office

Let me know how to get a copy of the video and we'll work with the web team to get it posted on YouTube.

We will need a Title for the video and a brief description for YouTube as well.

Jeff Riordan

Audio/Video Center Officer

Phone: 202-418-0460

Cell: (b) (6)

Jeffrey.Riordan@fcc gov

From: <u>Liam Scott</u>
To: <u>Brendan Carr</u>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]: Media Query

**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 12:01:40 PM

You don't often get email from Iscott@voanews.com. Learn why this is important

Hi Chairman Carr. I hope you're well.

I'm writing to follow up on whether you'll be able to comment or whether you're available for an interview.

Thank you.

Best,

Liam Scott

---

Liam Scott



Reporter, Press Freedom and Disinformation

Voice of America

From: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 5:02 PM
To: Liam Scott <LScott@voanews.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: Media Query

Thank you for your note, Liam. Will have some more actions on the broadcast side to share in the future.

- Brendan

**From:** Liam Scott <LScott@voanews.com> **Sent:** Monday, February 3, 2025 4:48 PM **To:** Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Media Query

You don't often get email from <a href="mailto:lscott@voanews.com">lscott@voanews.com</a>. Learn why this is important

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Hi Chairman Carr. I hope you're well.

My name is Liam Scott, and I'm a reporter at VOA.

I'm reaching out because I'm reporting on how the FCC has launched investigations into PBS and NPR; reinstated complaints against CBS, NBC and ABC that the previous FCC chairperson dismissed on the grounds of free speech; and requested raw material from CBS's 60 Minutes interview with Kamala Harris.

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- That they have expressed concern that the inquiries may be an attempt to intimidate news outlets, especially considering many of the involved outlets have faced criticism from President Donald Trump and his administration
- That some experts have called the moves partisan
- That news outlets typically don't need to turn over reporting materials unless they are subpoenaed
- That during his presidential campaign, Trump threatened to weaponize the FCC to target outlets whose coverage he disliked

My deadline is tomorrow, Feb. 4, at 5 PM ET.

I would also be happy to talk about this in an interview, if possible.

Thank you. I appreciate your help.

Best, Liam Scott

Liam Scott

Reporter, Press Freedom and Disinformation Voice of America

 From:
 Erin Boone

 To:
 Brendan Carr

Subject: FW: Request for materials submitted by CBS

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 12:18:00 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

Erin Boone
Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Acting Chief, Media Bureau
202-418-0736 | erin boone@fcc gov

From: Deena Shetler < Deena. Shetler @fcc.gov> Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 12:16 PM

To: Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Patrick Webre <Patrick.Webre@fcc.gov>

Subject: Request for materials submitted by CBS

Following up on my conversation yesterday with Erin, Commissioner Gomez would like copies of all the materials provided by CBS in response to the FCC/Enforcement Bureau's request related to the complaint about 60 Minutes. In addition, to the extent these materials are going to be made public, she is requesting that such materials be provided to all Commissioners at least 48 hours prior to their public release.

Thank you,

#### Deena

#### Deena M. Shetler

Chief of Staff and Legal Advisor | Office of Commissioner Anna M. Gomez Federal Communications Commission <a href="mailto:deena.shetler@fcc.gov">deena.shetler@fcc.gov</a>



From: Adam Jackman
To: Katie Gorscak

Cc: <u>Greq Watson; Will Wiguist</u>
Subject: RE: Press inquiries from 2/4 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 1:51:49 PM

### Thanks Katie! I will take a look and get back on this!

From: Katie Gorscak <Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 1:50 PM
To: Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>

Cc: Greg Watson < Gregory. Watson@fcc.gov>; Will Wiquist < Will. Wiquist@fcc.gov>

Subject: Press inquiries from 2/4 a.m.

Good afternoon, Adam:

# (b) (5)

Please let us know if you have any guidance on those, and if we can move forward with some of our recommendations below for some of the low hanging fruit.

Katie

# **TOPIC: BROADCAST ACTIONS**

### Capital Forum (Todd Shields)

Inquiry: Hello FCC press - can you send me a copy of Mr. Carr's Jan. 29 letter to NPR and PBS leaders regarding an FCC investigation of sponsorships on public media?

- Can you respond to critics of the PBS/NPR probe including two Democratic FCC commissioners who cast the investigation as a threat to the free flow of information and an effort to weaponize the power of the FCC?
- Can you say whether CBS delivered the transcript of its interview with Kamala Harris?

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Inquiry: I am a reporter at USA TODAY and I am looking into reports that the FCC has received documentation from CBS in regards to a news distortion complaint over Kamala Harris' interview in October. Can you confirm? Would Chairman Brendan Carr like to elaborate on why he is reopening this complaint or any findings from the documentation?

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

### Vanity Fair (Paul Farhey) - Deadline EOD 2/5

Inquiry: Hi, folks. I'm writing a story for Vanity Fair about Chairman Carr's reinstatement of the petitions challenging ABC, NBC and CBS while declining to reinstate the complaint filed against Fox's Philadelphia TV station. I would like to seek clarity from Mr. Carr about how this is consistent with the Constitution and the FCC's traditional policy exempting news coverage from licensing matters. Why is it \*not,\* in other words an attempt "to weaponize the licensing authority of the FCC in a way that is fundamentally at odds with the First Amendment," as Jessica

Rosenworcel framed it in her dismissal statement. I would also like to ask him why the FCC's demand for CBS News' protected journalistic work product (that is, transcripts and camera feeds from a "60 Minutes" interview) is within the FCC's authority and is not a violation of the First Amendment.

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Inquiry: Could you share the demand letter and confirm if CBS has met the deadline to make the submission?

### L.A. Times (Meg James)

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Could you please send a copy of Chairman Carr's 1/29 letter to CBS and any statements about next steps, including whether or not CBS has complied with his request.

# TOPIC: STAFFING & ADMINISTRATION

### Communications Daily (Matt Daneman)

Inquiry: Is there a DOGE office or specifically designated representative(s) at the

FCC? If so, who?

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

### TR Daily (Paul Kirby)

Inquiry: Checking back if someone can answer my Space Bureau appointment question on background. Just want to confirm that it is the same Jay Schwarz as the former Pai wireline adviser and that he is the permanent bureau chief? Thanks.

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

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Inquiry: I hope you are doing well. I saw a <u>Semafor article</u> a few hours ago that said Adam Candeub will be general counsel of the FCC. I wanted to confirm if that was true and see if the department has any comment.

OMR Rec:

# TOPIC: EMERGENCY ALERTS/CALIFORNIA

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Inquiry: I'm a reporter from Vox Media's The Verge reporting on the <u>investigation</u> Representative Robert Garcia and other congress members launched into problems with emergency alerts sent during wildfires this month. Does FCC have any response to the investigation? I'd appreciate any response you can provide at your earliest convenience this morning.

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

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Inquiry: Reaching out today in regards to the upcoming Super Bowl game on FOX – more specifically the halftime show with Kendrick Lamar. We were looking to know if the FCC is in communication with FOX and the NFL regarding the performance surrounding the line in one Mr. Lamar "Not Like Us" song which reads "certified lover boy certified pedophile ... Tryna strike a chord and it's probably A minor"

Has the NFL and/or FOX gotten in contact with the FCC over this issue ... whether it is allowed to be said on the broadcast? Has the FCC provided any guidance to the broadcast company?

OMR Rec:

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Inquiry: We're planning to do a check-in on the FCC for our newsletter Sunday. Carr has been on the job for just a couple of weeks, but he's been moving quickly and making a lot of noise. It would be great to talk to Carr himself about his tenure so far and what he has planned ahead. I know his schedule must be busy, so if that's not possible it would still be nice to chat to either of you and get some background material.

### TOPIC: 5<sup>th</sup> CIRCUIT

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Inquiry: I'm covering the FCC's oral argument today in the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit, and the audio feed cut in late, after it had started (during the broadcasters' opener). The judges in the case said the FCC had informed them only today that it wouldn't be defending part of the Form 395-b order, and it seemed like it had happened either just before or at the start of oral argument. I think I have a rough idea what that is, but just for clarity's sake, could you tell me what the FCC's attorney (William Scher) told the court at the start (and how he did so), even if it's on background? I'm at if someone over there could clear this up.

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

From: Will Wiguist

To: <u>Ismari Cueto; Katie Gorscak; Elena Patton; Adam Jackman</u>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: New York Post - 60 Minutes - Deadline EOD

**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 2:52:57 PM

Attachments: image001.png

+Adam

From: Ismari Cueto <lsmari.Cueto@fcc.gov> Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 2:50 PM

To: Will Wiquist <Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov>; Katie Gorscak <Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov>; Elena Patton

<Elena.Patton@fcc.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: New York Post - 60 Minutes - Deadline EOD

From: Alexandra Steigrad <a steigrad @nypost.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 2:10 PM

**To:** MediaRelations < MediaRelations@fcc.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: 60 Minutes

You don't often get email from asteigrad@nypost.com. Learn why this is important

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#### Hello-

This is an inquiry for Brendan Carr-

I am writing a story about Bill Owens being on the hot seat as Carr reviews the 60 Minutes Harris sitdown.

I am looking for comment on something I am reporting. I'd heard that 60 Minutes' interview with Biden in 2023 (Pelley was the interviewer) was brought to Carr's attention for receiving a heavy- handed edit.

There was buzz at the time that the program may have made him look sharper than he was.

Will you the FCC look into this interview and/ or request the unedited transcript from 60 Minutes?

Thanks-

My deadline is 5p ET today.

--

#### **ALEXANDRA STEIGRAD**

MEDIA REPORTER, New York Post

1211 A VENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036

MOBILE:

### asteigrad@nypost.com



From: Adam Jackman
To: Katie Gorscak

Cc: Greg Watson; Will Wiguist
Subject: RE: Press inquiries from 2/4 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 2:08:19 PM

Thanks Katie! Really appreciate the category lists – extremely helpful. I will run down the list and provide guidance shortly.

From: Katie Gorscak <Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov> Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 1:50 PM To: Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>

Cc: Greg Watson < Gregory. Watson@fcc.gov>; Will Wiquist < Will. Wiquist@fcc.gov>

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if someone over there could clear this up.

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

From: <u>Ismari Cueto</u>

To: Will Wiguist; Katie Gorscak; Elena Patton; Adam Jackman

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Wall Street Journal - CBS Paramount - No Deadline Specified

**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 5:56:57 PM

**From:** Drew FitzGerald <andrew.fitzgerald@wsj.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 5:32 PM

To: FCC Office of Media Relations <FCCOfficeofMediaRelations@fcc.gov>

**Cc:** MediaRelations < MediaRelations@fcc.gov> **Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: WSJ request for comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Communications Commission. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trust the content to be safe. If you suspect this is a phishing attempt, please use the 'Report Message' feature in Microsoft Outlook or forward the email to the NSOC.

#### Good Afternoon,

I expect to write an article that could mention Chairman Carr's past statements about the Paramount Global transaction with Skydance, including comments about the stillactive news bias complaint against CBS News by the Center for American Rights.

The chairman sent a letter of inquiry to CBS seeking more information about its "60 Minutes" interview with Kamala Harris. He said in a recent interview that the commission would seek to be transparent in its investigation.

To that end, can you share a copy of the letter sent to CBS News parent Paramount this week? CBS also complied with the chairman's request for an unedited transcript and video of the interview. Will the commission share a copy of this transcript?

Thanks, Drew

--

Drew FitzGerald | Reporter
The Wall Street Journal.

O:+1 212-416-2909 M (b) (6)
andrew.fitzgerald@wsj.com | @drewfitzgerald

 From:
 Joe Torelli

 To:
 Brendan Carr

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: CBS interviews and integrity (or lack thereof)

**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 7:04:53 PM

[You don't often get email from (b) (6) Learn why this is important at <a href="https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification">https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification</a>]

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#### Mr. Chairman.

I am very pleased that you have been restored as Chairman. We missed your guidance and leadership. Your interview with Dana Perino Monday spawned my effort to contact you.

When scratching the surface you will find other morsels of interest. The CBS October 2024 interview with then Vice President Harris is an example. There are others.

I am pleased you have secured the raw tapes because it is impossible for a transcript to convey or identify the gaps among questions and answers, or the pauses and delays as an answer is being constructed in someone's mind, or in her case... minimizing or removing "word salad".

#### Background and why:

My qualifications to provide these observations permit me as an insider, experienced subject matter expert view of not only the Harris/60 Minutes issue but to expose more examples.

I am a "recovered" journalist having spent 13 years at NBC News covering major events in over 70 countries on six continents, producing, editing, shooting (and getting shot at) and getting those stories back to 30 Rock under Today and Nightly News deadlines. I would occasionally work on longer form segments from remote locations as well as domestic bureaus and of course at 30 Rock. In later years I produced and edited segments as a freelancer for ABC 20/20 and CBS 48 Hours. I edited (on an early Avid) "Keepers of the Flame", the video that introduced George H.W. Bush to the 1992 RNC.

In December 1990 I was able to get the first Avid at 30 Rock. Avid, as you may know, is known for non-linear computer based editing platforms that provide a visual timeline of the edits for video and all audio tracks. It is very easy to see (and change) each edit. Think word processor for pictures and sound.

Subsequently in 1995, after 3 years working at Avid Technology based in NYC, I installed and trained the entire team of editors at 60 Minutes on the Avid Media Composer. Having influenced significant features into the Media Composer while at NBC, Avid hired me. At 60 Minutes, since I am "one of them", the editors and I spoke the same language. I taught them the benefits, features and intricacies of non-linear-editing. Ten years later, as the "Broadcast Evangelist" at Apple I was not as fortunate trying to convert 60 Minutes from Avid to Final Cut Pro... another more "senior" Apple person was assigned to 60 Minutes, and failed.

#### The mirage of journalism:

The "cutaways" of the interviewer listening or nodding in the final product is meant to excerpt the best bits of an answer, usually to the same question. I loathe cutaways, and with my trained ear I hear the edits as most news editors are too lazy to use cinematic techniques (layering room tone) to soften the interruption of the edit. Some, however, can mask the sound edits.

During your quest for digging deeper into the current Harris interview and how it affected the election, I have another example to suggest. This one, I believe, caused my former Congressman when we lived in Minnesota to

decide within a week or two after the 60 Minutes broadcast on CBS owned stations, WBZ for us, to abandon his reelection in 2024 and to seek becoming the "Democrat" nominee in 2024. This seated Congressman, pretty much committing political suicide, forced our New Hampshire Secretary of State in early November 2023 to actually have a Democrat party primary in January 2024, in defiance of "guidance" and actual threats from the Democrat party oligarchs. Think Bernie 2016.

Congressman Dean Phillips. Remember him? Brilliant guy, great communicator. When I saw Vivek in person the first time in early 2023, I immediately thought of Dean. (Vivek is so much more, though). Dean earned 21% of the Democrat vote in our 2024 NH Primary, Biden won as a "write-in" forcing all the towns to "hand count" (God forbid!) the ballots that night.

It is my opinion that if you look at the October 2023 60 Minutes episode with the "interview" of then President/Candidate Biden by Scott Pelley you will see and hear uncomfortable excuses provided by Pelley among soundbites, redirecting attention, and of course, cutaways. Pelley blamed the President's slow and lagging presence was based on a long flight back to DC.

I suggest requesting those raw tapes. I'm confident they softened through editing, the condition of the man who appeared to some to be President for another 16 months.

I suggest you request Biden's raw medium shot for this interview.

Anyone can send a tape out for a transcript. It's all AI now. I did it while shooting and producing a multicamera Vivek campaign rally in Portsmouth, cost me \$8, It took about an hour after I uploaded the audio file with a timecode start. Time stamped transcript as a PDF.

Vivek fires on all cylinders, not Joe or Kamala. They now shoot interviews with a tight and a medium of the subject, same for the interviewer and of course the wide two shot. That interview sticks in my head as yet another example of how 60 Minutes shows only what is needed to fulfill their narrative. Considering my long experience covering, both live and sit down interviews with Carter, Reagan, HW, and Clinton we, the audience are the losers when truth is truncated... when only what "they" want you to hear is provided, and in many cases the rest of the sentence is omitted, protecting and shielding the narrative.

I'm happy to discuss this with you, and welcome you back to the leadership position. I may be able to be a resource for you and share more insight. None of this happened while Tim Russert was alive as "the gatekeeper" for all networks. I believe when Tim died in June 2008 he took journalism with him. Opinion gradually crept into network news coverage that summer and has expanded to the point where it is the norm. I was fortunate to work with Tim closely while I was based in Rome and then again when I came back to the States. I miss him.

And SHAME on CBS Evening News and NBC Nightly News Monday evening not mentioning the astounding success that Secretary of State Rubio had earlier that day. I guess the accomplishments didn't meet their narrative. We watch both, having abandoned David Muir years ago.

Thank you for your time.



From: Will Wiguist

To: <u>Ismari Cueto; Katie Gorscak; Elena Patton; Adam Jackman</u>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: Variety - Re: Seeking interview with Chairman Carr - Deadline EOD Today

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 10:12:46 AM

This is the Post's media reporter working on a Vanity Fair piece.

From: Ismari Cueto <lsmari.Cueto@fcc.gov> Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 9:21 AM

**To:** Will Wiquist <Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov>; Katie Gorscak <Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov>; Elena Patton

<Elena.Patton@fcc.gov>; Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Variety - Re: Seeking interview with Chairman Carr - Deadline EOD Today

From: Paul Farhi 
paulmfarhi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 6:37 PM

To Madia Palatiana (Madia Palatiana @fac.gay)

**To:** MediaRelations < MediaRelations@fcc.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Seeking interview with Chairman Carr

You don't often get email from paulmfarhi@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

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Hi again. Any response? Thanks.

On Mon, Feb 3, 2025 at 9:18 PM Paul Farhi compaulmfarhi@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi, folks. I'm writing a story for Vanity Fair about Chairman Carr's reinstatement of the petitions challenging ABC, NBC and CBS while declining to reinstate the complaint filed against Fox's Philadelphia TV station.

I would like to seek clarity from Mr. Carr about how this is consistent with the Constitution and the FCC's traditional policy exempting news coverage from licensing matters. Why is it \*not,\* in other words an attempt "to weaponize the licensing authority of the FCC in a way that is fundamentally at odds with the First Amendment," as Jessica Rosenworcel framed it in her dismissal statement.

I would also like to ask him why the FCC's demand for CBS News' protected journalistic work product (that is, transcripts and camera feeds from a "60 Minutes" interview) is within the FCC's authority and is not a violation of the First Amendment.

I'm available all day Tuesday. My deadline is end of day Wednesday.

Thanks for your help...Paul

# Paul Farhi (b) (6)

 From:
 Katie Gorscak

 To:
 Adam Jackman

 Cc:
 Will Wiquist

Subject: Press inquiries for 2/5 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 12:52:41 PM

## Broadcast topics (60 Minutes + Letter to Paramount)

# New York Times (Jim Rutenberg) -deadline next 24 hours

Inquiry: Jim Rutenberg here at The New York Times. I'm making reference to some of Chairman Carr's recent moves and wanted to see if he might be around to discuss. And even if not, I want to make sure I'm properly understanding, for instance, his letter to Disney from December, and what it means about agency involvement in retransmission etc. it's a quicker-turnaround media memo that will in part look at today's F.C.C. moves in comparison with some made in the Nixon era but builds on research I've been doing for a book project that I'm wrapping up soon, which delves into a bit of F.C.C. history and works up through to the current moment, so hopefully we can stay in touch.

OMR Rec:

# Vanity Fair (Paul Farhi) – deadline today

Inquiry: Hi, folks. I'm writing a story for Vanity Fair about Chairman Carr's reinstatement of the petitions challenging ABC, NBC and CBS while declining to reinstate the complaint filed against Fox's Philadelphia TV station. I would like to seek clarity from Mr. Carr about how this is consistent with the Constitution and the FCC's traditional policy exempting news coverage from licensing matters. Why is it \*not,\* in other words an attempt "to weaponize the licensing authority of the FCC in a way that is fundamentally at odds with the First Amendment," as Jessica Rosenworcel framed it in her dismissal statement. I would also like to ask him why the FCC's demand for CBS News' protected journalistic work product (that is, transcripts and camera feeds from a "60 Minutes" interview) is within the FCC's authority and is not a violation of the First Amendment. I'm available all day Tuesday. My deadline is end of day Wednesday.

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

# Wall Street Journal (Drew Fitzgerald)

Inquiry: I expect to write an article that could mention Chairman Carr's past statements about the Paramount Global transaction with Skydance, including comments about the still-active news bias complaint against CBS News by the Center for American Rights. The chairman sent a letter of inquiry to CBS seeking more information about its "60 Minutes" interview with Kamala Harris. He said in a recent interview that the commission would seek to be transparent in its investigation. To that end, can you share a copy of the letter sent to CBS News parent Paramount this week? CBS also complied with the chairman's request for an unedited transcript and video of the interview. Will the commission share a copy of this transcript?

OMR Rec: (b) (5

Inquiry: I am working on a story about the FCC opting to reinstate complaints against ABC, CBS, and NBC, while not opting to reinstate the complaint against Fox. I spoke to Preston Padden, who has been spearheading the effort on the Fox petition, and he argued that the FCC made the decision based on politics. Does the FCC have a comment on why it chose not to reinstate the Fox petition, while reinstating all the others? Please let me know.

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

# EB investigation into KCBS Radio

VOA (Liam Scott)

Inquiry: I'm reaching out because I'm looking into media reports that the FCC has launched an investigation into KCBS radio station in San Francisco. I haven't seen anything from the FCC about it, so I wanted to reach out directly to confirm if this is true. If it is true, can you please share any details with me about this? For instance, what is the station being investigated over? My deadline is as soon as possible. OMR Rec: (b) (5)

# **Employee Data Lawsuit/Broadcasters**

Radio World (Randy Stine) (deadline 5 p.m. today)

Inquiry: Hi Katie - Radio World is asking for an update on the FCC employee data lawsuit that the Texas Assoc. of Broadcasters and the National Religious Broadcasters to stop data collection. We've seen other reporting of the court arguments in the case from Tuesday. Are you able to share what your attorneys argued about yesterday? A transcript perhaps? That would be very helpful. And has the the new FCC leadership changed the FCC's stance on employee data collection from broadcasters? Any updates there?

OMR Rec:

## Staffing

TR Daily (Paul Kirby)

Inquiry: Dana Howell, Executive Assistant, Office of Chairman Brendan Carr. Dana will serve as Executive Assistant in the Office of Chairman Carr. Dana previously served in the FCC's Managing Director's office as an Information Resource Manager and COR for the agency's Chief Information Officer. . Can you tell me what a COR is?

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

#### **CBRS NPRM**

Policy Tracker (Richard Handford)

Inquiy: Hi, i am the Asia Editor of PolicyTracker, see <a href="https://www.policytracker.com">www.policytracker.com</a>. i have a quick quick question - has the FCC published comments yet made by respondents to the NPRM on the CBRS?

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

From: <u>Ismari Cueto</u>

To: Will Wiguist; Katie Gorscak; Elena Patton; Adam Jackman

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Wall Street Journal - Paramount Global transaction with Skydance - Follow up

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 3:12:59 PM

From: Drew FitzGerald <andrew.fitzgerald@wsj.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 2:50 PM

To: FCC Office of Media Relations <FCCOfficeofMediaRelations@fcc.gov>

Cc: MediaRelations < MediaRelations@fcc.gov>; Adam Jackman < Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>

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Good Afternoon — Checking in on this request from yesterday. If the commission plans to release the transcript today, please let me know the expected timing and method of release. -Drew

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Drew FitzGerald | Reporter
The Wall Street Journal.

O:+1 212-416-2909 M(b) (6)
andrew.fitzgerald@wsi.com | @drewfitzgerald

From: Will Wiguist

To: Adam Jackman; Katie Gorscak; Flena Patton

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: Inquiry: VP Harris "60 Minutes" transcript release

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 4:45:53 PM

+Adam

# (b) (5)

**From:** Sonkin, Jessica <jessica.sonkin@fox.com> **Sent:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025 4:40 PM **To:** MediaRelations < MediaRelations@fcc.gov>

**Cc:** Katie Gorscak < Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov>; Will Wiquist < Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov>; Elena Patton

<Elena.Patton@fcc.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Inquiry: VP Harris '60 Minutes' transcript release

Some people who received this message don't often get email from <u>iessica.sonkin@fox.com. Learn why this is</u> <u>important</u>

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#### Good afternoon!

Can you please provide a reportable statement from the FCC regarding today's release of the VP Harris '60 Minutes' interview transcript? Appreciate any reaction you can provide on behalf of the Commission.

Also aware of the FCC seeking comment on WCBS news distortion complaint.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

#### Jessica Sonkin

Fox News Assignment Desk Desk: (202) 824-6369

iessica.sonkin@fox.com

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be taken not to have been sent or endorsed by any of them. No representation is made that this email or its attachments are without defect.

From: <u>Ismari Cueto</u>

To: Will Wiguist; Katie Gorscak; Elena Patton; Adam Jackman

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]: FOX - Inquiry: VP Harris "60 Minutes" transcript release - No Deadline Specified

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 4:58:03 PM

**From:** Sonkin, Jessica <jessica.sonkin@fox.com> **Sent:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025 4:40 PM **To:** MediaRelations < MediaRelations@fcc.gov>

**Cc:** Katie Gorscak < Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov>; Will Wiquist < Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov>; Elena Patton

<Elena.Patton@fcc.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Inquiry: VP Harris '60 Minutes' transcript release

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#### Good afternoon!

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Also aware of the FCC seeking comment on WCBS news distortion complaint.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

#### Jessica Sonkin

Fox News Assignment Desk Desk: (202) 824-6369 jessica.sonkin@fox.com

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From: Adam Jackman

To: Katie Gorscak; Will Wiguist; Ismari Cueto; Elena Patton

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Wall Street Journal - Request for comment - Follow up

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 5:07:00 PM

# (b) (5)

#### Adam Jackman

Director of Strategic Communications
FCC Office of Media Relations

From: Katie Gorscak < Katie. Gorscak @fcc.gov > Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 5:05 PM

To: Will Wiquist < Will. Wiquist@fcc.gov>; Ismari Cueto < Ismari.Cueto@fcc.gov>; Elena Patton

<Elena.Patton@fcc.gov>; Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Wall Street Journal - Request for comment - Follow up

# (b)(5)

### Get Outlook for iOS

From: Will Wiquist <a href="mailto:wiguist@fcc.gov">Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov</a>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 5:03:07 PM

To: Ismari Cueto < Ismari.Cueto@fcc.gov>; Katie Gorscak < Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov>; Elena Patton

<Elena.Patton@fcc.gov>; Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Wall Street Journal - Request for comment - Follow up

#### (b)(5)

From: Ismari Cueto <a href="mailto:smari.cueto@fcc.gov">lsmari.Cueto@fcc.gov</a> Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 4:57 PM

To: Will Wiquist <a href="mailto:will.Wiquist@fcc.gov">Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov</a>; Elena Patton

<Elena.Patton@fcc.gov>; Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Wall Street Journal - Request for comment - Follow up

**From:** Drew FitzGerald <andrew.fitzgerald@wsj.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 4:37 PM

To: FCC Office of Media Relations < FCCOfficeofMediaRelations@fcc.gov>

Cc: MediaRelations <a href="mailto:MediaRelations@fcc.gov">MediaRelations@fcc.gov</a>; Adam Jackman <a href="mailto:Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov">Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov</a>;

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Re: WSJ request for comment

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open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trust the content to be safe. If you suspect this is a phishing attempt, please use the 'Report Message' feature in Microsoft Outlook or forward the email to the NSOC.

# One more follow-up:

Now that the transcript has been released, there could be an article that covers the CAR complaint against CBS News, the commission's review of the Paramount-Skydance merger and the ongoing litigation between President Trump and CBS. The piece could quote Commissioner Gomez, who issued a statement calling the new proceeding a fishing expedition and criticizing Chairman Carr for releasing information subject to an active enforcement bureau investigation.

This article could also quote former FCC counsel and public-interest advocate Gigi Sohn, who said the chairman's effort to pressure CBS has gone beyond a legitimate review of news content under the public-interest standard and turned into a tool to push the network to soften its coverage of the president. Sohn said that "saber rattling" from the FCC is meant to scare the living daylights out of the networks — ABC, CBS and NBC — and said that Chairman Carr appears to be ripping a page from Richard Nixon's playbook.

Please let me know asap if Chairman Carr wants to respond.

On Wed, Feb 5, 2025 at 2:50 PM Drew FitzGerald <a href="mailto:sandrew.fitzgerald@wsj.com"><a href="mailto:san

Good Afternoon — Checking in on this request from yesterday. If the commission plans to release the transcript today, please let me know the expected timing and method of release. -Drew

On Tue, Feb 4, 2025 at 5:32 PM Drew FitzGerald <andrew.fitzgerald@wsj.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon.

I expect to write an article that could mention Chairman Carr's past statements about the Paramount Global transaction with Skydance, including comments about the still-active news bias complaint against CBS News by the Center for American Rights.

The chairman sent a letter of inquiry to CBS seeking more information about its "60 Minutes" interview with Kamala Harris. He said in a recent interview that the commission would seek to be transparent in its investigation.

To that end, can you share a copy of the letter sent to CBS News parent Paramount this week? CBS also complied with the chairman's request for an unedited transcript and video of the interview. Will the commission share a copy of this transcript?

Thanks,

Drew

Drew FitzGerald | Reporter The Wall Street Journal. O:+1 212-416-2909 M(b) (6) andrew.fitzgerald@wsj.com | @drewfitzgerald

From: McCormack, Samantha

To: <u>Brendan Carr</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: FOX Interview Request

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 9:47:11 AM

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### Good morning,

I hope you're doing well! Would you be able to join us on The Bottom Line either tonight or tomorrow in the 6pm ET hour?

We'll discuss releasing the full transcript & unedited video of Kamala Harris' 60 Minutes interview.

This would be live with Dagen McDowell and James Freeman. If we could make this work, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Thank you & I hope you have a great day!

Samantha McCormack
Booking Producer, The Bottom Line
FOX Business Network
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
Direct/Text: (b) (6)

E: Samantha.McCormack@fox.com

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 From:
 McCormack, Samantha

 To:
 Brendan Carr

 Cc:
 Adam Jackman

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]: FOX Interview Request

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 12:39:15 PM

Thank you! We can do any night next week in the 6pm ET hour if that works.

From: Brendan Carr < Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov> Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 11:02 AM

To: McCormack, Samantha <samantha.mccormack@fox.com>

**Cc:** Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov> **Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]: FOX Interview Request

Thanks, I'm out of pocket this evening, and I'm on MacCallum's 3:00pm Fox show tomorrow. But happy to look for other day / times.

Adding my new comms person, Adam Jackman too

- Brendan

From: McCormack, Samantha <samantha.mccormack@fox.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 9:47 AM **To:** Brendan Carr < Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov> **Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: FOX Interview Request

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# Good morning,

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We'll discuss releasing the full transcript & unedited video of Kamala Harris' 60 Minutes interview.

This would be live with Dagen McDowell and James Freeman. If we could make this work, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Thank you & I hope you have a great day!

Samantha McCormack Booking Producer, *The Bottom Line* 

#### **FOX Business Network**

1211 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10036 Direct/Text: (b) (6)

E: Samantha McCormack@fox.com

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 From:
 Joyce Buxton

 To:
 swaugh@kolr10.com

 Cc:
 Brendan Carr

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: FW: KOLR / CBS Affiliate, Springfield, MO - Community Standards

**Date:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 1:04:43 PM

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Ms. Waugh,

I am following up from the previous emails that I had sent to KOLR (see below) sent prior to the election regarding 60 Minutes interview of then-VP Kamala Harris. Last night I finally saw a snippet of the incomprehensible "answer" (actually just words) that Candidate Harris provided regarding her position on Israel.

This very informative information was deliberately withheld from the public until now and instead we were provided with doctored and distorted "news" coverage. Could you please reply to me to inform me of the process for me, as a resident of Springfield, MO, to file a formal complaint about KOLR and CBS?

Again, I have copied Brendan Carr with the FCC on this correspondence.

JOYCE BUXTON, ASID, NCIDQ PRINCIPAL | DIRECTOR OF INTERIOR DESIGN

3100 S. NATIONAL AVE., STE 300 • SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807 • (417) 890-5543 X101

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----Original Message---From: Joyce Buxton
Sent: Monday, November 04, 2024 8:51 AM
To: swaygh@kolr10.com

Cc: Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov

Subject: Re: KOLR / CBS Affiliate, Springfield, MO - Community Standards

Ms. Waugh,

Tomorrow is Election Day and the public still does not have clarity on the Democratic candidate and current Vice President's views on Israel. I learned last night that some of that confusion on her stance is quite purposeful. Why else would she authorize 2 different campaign ads with 2 very different messages in 2 different states, unless the intent was to be vague and leave herself room to adjust course as she wants in the future.

CBS still has the opportunity to bring clarity to her true position by publishing the unedited transcript and posting

the entire video of Kamala Harris' interview on 60 Minutes today. If CBS is an unbiased, reliable news source, that is exactly what you would do. Not to provide that information makes CBS a party to unduly influencing what should be a free and fair election. Provide this information and let voters decide for themselves.

Regardless of the outcome of this week's election, Kamala Harris will still be the CURRENT Vice President of the United States. Over the next 2-1/2 months, the Administration will make many consequential decisions regarding the role of the United States with Israel. As the Mother / Mother-in-law of 2 active duty Navy officers, I STILL deserve to know what Kamala Harris' true views are toward Israel. Since the evidence shows that her paid campaign ads have been carefully scripted to distort her views to fit the targeted audience, can I rely on my local KOLR TV station / CBS affiliate to provide us with the unvarnished truth?

Since I have not heard from you, right now it appears the answer to that question is "No". I hope you will do the right thing and prove that conclusion to be wrong.



Sent from my iPhone

- > On Oct 28, 2024, at 10:01 AM, Joyce Buxton (b) (6) wrote
- > Ms Waugh,
- > It has been a week since I sent my original email asking KOLR to demand that CBS provide the full transcript and video of Kamala Harris' interview on 60 minutes. I had stated at that time that I was especially interested in reading for myself the unedited views toward Israel of our current Vice President and Democratic candidate for President of the United States.
- > During this same past 7 days, the country has learned that the US allowed top secret Israeli military strategies to be leaked. Obviously, the public DESERVES to know the current administration's views toward our strongest ally in the Middle East. Release of Vice President Kamala Harris' own words may provide clarity on our current administration's views and their perception of the value of the trusted relationship that our country has previously enjoyed with Israel.
- > I had copied Brendan Carr with the FCC on my original complaint and request. I am copying Mr. Carr again on this email that I am again addressing to the head of my local CBS affiliate station. Since I received no reply from either of you, I am not sure my complaint and request made it into the right hands. Could each of you please either directly reply to me with the actions that your office will be taking to address my concerns? Or if I have contacted the wrong individuals, could you please let me know the proper people with whom I should be communicating to take my complaint / requests seriously?
- > Thank you!
  > Joyce Buxton
  > (b) (6)
  > Sent from my iPhone
  > On Oct 21, 2024, at 11:43 AM, Joyce Buxton (b) (6)
  >> Hello, Station Manager Susan Waugh,

>>

>> I am writing (for the first time ever) to ask for release of the full written and video file of the CBS 60-Minute interview of Kamala Harris. We have a presidential election in 15 days. However, it has taken CBS 2 weeks to provide a completely unacceptable response / non-response as to the reasons why CBS has failed to provide that full transcript of that interview.

>>

>> Obviously, CBS edited that interview, as is understood to be common practice. However, the viewers and voters want to discern for ourselves if that editing was done solely for time constraints or if it was selective to skew the meaning of Kamala Harris' responses. As a major news agency (currently), CBS and KOLR have the obligation to serve the viewer and voter interests of this community and to also serve as an unbiased source of information. Our community deserves the right to read the FULL (unedited) version of the transcript for ourselves and to view the full (unedited) interview on the CBS web-site.

>>

>> To be specific, one portion of the interview specifically covered the Vice President's views on Israel. As a member of the Springfield, MO community and as a mother and mother-in-law, of TWO active duty Navy officers, I am personally very interested in knowing everything I can learn about Kamala Harris' views on this issue!

>> Obviously, time is of the essence. Please Ms. Waugh, I am asking that you contact CBS and, in the interest of full transparency and viewer / voter confidence, demand that CBS IMMEDIATELY release this information.

>>

>> Thank you.

>> Joyce Buxton



>> Sent from my iPhone

From: Peggy Williford
To: Brendan Carr

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: CBS handling of Kamala Harris interview

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 1:15:10 PM

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#### Sent from my iPhone

Mr Carr, I find CBS handling of the Kamala Harris interview on 60 Minutes to be reprehensible. It is an obvious attempt to influence election results by ineffectively attempting to hide behind their "editing."

I also think it the fact that CBS released an unredacted transcript of their interview with J.D. Vance immediately while sitting on the transcript of Kamala Harris interview manipulative. If that doesn't scream bias to the FCC, what would prove it? CBS needs to be held accountable for this! They were not forthcoming at all. Peggy Williford

Brighton, MI 48116

From: <u>Drema Johnson</u>
To: <u>Adam Jackman</u>

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]: RE: NEWSMAX TV INTERVIEW - BRENDAN CARR - FRIDAY 1:10 PM ET

**Date:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 1:50:22 PM

From: Kalli Lominick <KalliL@newsmax.com> Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:44 AM

To: Nicole Ginis < NicoleG@newsmax.com>; Brendan Carr < Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>

Cc: Drema Johnson < Drema. Johnson@fcc.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: RE: NEWSMAX TV INTERVIEW - BRENDAN CARR - FRIDAY 1:10 PM ET

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#### Hi there!

We also have Sunday availability at 12:40pm ET with Lidia talking:

#### MEDIA SEGMENT

- -- DOGE cancels Politico's Government Funding After \$8m in subscription contracts
- -- FCC releases CBS '60 Minutes' interview with Kamala Harris NPR and PBS first targets in MTG's "DOGE" crosshairs

Let us know which day might work best for you! Thanks so much, Chairman!

Best,

Kalli Lominick Booking Producer 805 Third Ave, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10022



From: Nicole Ginis <a href="mailto:NicoleG@newsmax.com">Nicole Ginis <a href="mailto:NicoleG@newsmax.com">Nicoleg@newsmax.com</a>><a href="mailto:NicoleG@newsmax.com">Nicoleg@newsmax.com</a>><a href="mailto:NicoleG@newsmax.com">Nicoleg@newsmax.com</a>><a href="mailto:NicoleG@newsmax.com">Nicoleg@newsmax.com</a><a href="mailto:NicoleG@newsmax.com">Nicoleg@newsmax.com</a><a href="mailto:NicoleG@

To: <u>brendan.carr@fcc.gov</u>; Kalli Lominick <<u>KalliL@newsmax.com></u>

Cc: <u>Drema.Johnson@fcc.gov</u>

Subject: RE: NEWSMAX TV INTERVIEW - BRENDAN CARR - FRIDAY 1:10 PM ET

Hi Brendan! Can you pls join us for a PRE-TAPE this FRIDAY at 1:10 PM ET

SHOW NAME: SUNDAY AGENDA WITH HOST LIDIA CURANAJ

HIT TIME: 1:10 PM ET

DATE: 2/7

LOCATION: ZOOM LINK

FORMAT: 1 ON 1

CHYRON: Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

TOPIC: (CBS TRANSCRIPT, SOROS TAKEOVER OF RADIO STATIONS)

This will air on Sunday at 1:20 PM ET

Nicole Del Beccaro Newsmax TV Booking Producer



From: Nicole Ginis

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 11:50 AM

**To:** <u>brendan.carr@fcc.gov;</u> Kalli Lominick <u><KalliL@newsmax.com></u> **Subject:** FW: NEWSMAX TV INTERVIEW - BRENDAN CARR - SUNDAY

Hi Brendan -

I just found your email. I haven't heard back from Drema. Kindly let us know!

We would be honored to have you! Details below.

SHOW NAME: SUNDAY AGENDA WITH HOST LIDIA CURANAJ

HIT TIME: 1:10 PM ET

DATE: 1/26

LOCATION: ZOOM LINK

FORMAT: 1 ON 1

CHYRON: Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

TOPIC: New FCC Chair to Reinstate Complaints Against ABC, CBS, NBC

Nicole (Ginis) Del Beccaro

**Booking Producer** 

Newsmax TV

805 Third Avenue, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10022

Cell: (b) (6)

Email: NicoleG@newsmax.com

From: Nicole Ginis

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 1:17 PM

To: <u>Drema.Johnson@fcc.gov</u>; Kalli Lominick <<u>KalliL@newsmax.com</u>>

## **Subject:** NEWSMAX TV INTERVIEW - BRENDAN CARR - SUNDAY

Hello Drema – Can Brendan Carr pls join us this SUNDAY. Kindly let us know.

SHOW NAME: SUNDAY AGENDA WITH HOST LIDIA CURANAJ

HIT TIME: 1:10 PM ET

DATE: 1/26

LOCATION: ZOOM LINK

FORMAT: 1 ON 1

CHYRON: Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

TOPIC: New FCC Chair to Reinstate Complaints Against ABC, CBS, NBC

Nicole (Ginis) Del Beccaro **Booking Producer** Newsmax TV 805 Third Avenue, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10022

Cell: (b) (6)

Email: NicoleG@newsmax.com

From: <u>Drema Johnson</u>
To: <u>Adam Jackman</u>

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]: Chairman Carr interview request

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 1:50:40 PM

----Original Message----

From: John Hines < John.Hines @oann.com>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 3:34 PM
To: Drema Johnson < Drema.Johnson @fcc.gov>

Cc: Brendan Carr < Brendan. Carr @fcc.gov>; John Hines < John. Hines @oann.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Chairman Carr interview request

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#### Hi Drema,

I understand that today CBS will comply with the Federal Communications Commission's request that it immediately turn over the video and transcript from its "60 Minutes" interview with former Vice President Kamala Harris that is the subject of President Trump's lawsuit against the company.

May we set up a time when we can interview FCC Chairman Carr about the tape and what his judgement about the veracity of the tape and the "60Minutes" interview might be ?

Thank you for any assistance you may be able to provide regarding this request.

John Hines DC Bureau Chief One America News 
 From:
 Danielle Thumann

 To:
 Dana Howell

 Cc:
 Drema Johnson

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]: Invitation to Edison Electric Institute National Response Event Tabletop Exercise 2/26 in

Washington, DC

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 2:22:36 PM

Attachments: image001.png

I will pass on this—but thank you for flagging!

#### **Danielle Thumann**

Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr

danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Dana Howell

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 2:21 PM

**To:** Danielle Thumann **Cc:** Drema Johnson

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]: Invitation to Edison Electric Institute National Response Event Tabletop

Exercise 2/26 in Washington, DC

# Hi Danielle,

# Is this something that you would like to attend?

Respectfully,

#### Dana Howell

**Executive Assistant** 

Office of Chairman Brendan Carr

**Federal Communications Commission** 

45 L Street, NE

Washington, DC 20554

From: Aryeh Fishman

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 2:17 PM

To: Dana Howell

Cc: Tim Kuhl: Jennifer Hart

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Invitation to Edison Electric Institute National Response Event

Tabletop Exercise 2/26 in Washington, DC

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Subject: National Response Event Tabletop Exercise Invitation for Danielle Dana.

Thanks again for connecting me with Danielle regarding the TCPA matter.

On a separate note, I wanted to bring to Danielle's attention the invitation below to participate in our annual National Response Event tabletop exercise. I've also extended invitations to Debra Jordan and Justin Cain from the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.

This exercise simulates a major power outage affecting a large geographical area, requiring coordination across multiple regions and the use of the national mutual assistance network to restore electricity. Participants will practice their response plans, testing how effectively different entities within the electric power industry collaborate during a large-scale disruption. These exercises also help enhance cross-sector coordination and improve our understanding of interdependencies and potential impacts on other critical infrastructure sectors.

EEI has invited communications sector representatives, including FCC staff, to participate in recent years. This year's exercise will include communications-related questions. Event details are below. Please let Tim Kuhl, Jennifer Hart (cc'd), and me know at your earliest convenience if Danielle has any questions about the event and whether she can participate.

With gratitude,

Aryeh B. Fishman

Associate General Counsel, Regulatory Legal Affairs

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004-2696

Direct: 202-508-5023 Mobile: **(b) (6)** 

# **Governmental & Industry Partners**: (bcc'd to avoid any accidental reply to alls)

We have opened registration for the 2025 National Response Event (NRE) **tabletop exercise** which will be held at EEI's offices (701 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004) on <u>Wed 2/26, 7:30am (Breakfast) – 5:00pm (Eastern)</u>

# Exercise play will start promptly at 8:00am

# <u>Tabletop Exercise Registration</u>

Please register for the exercise by using the link below to let us know if you will be participating. By registering, you will receive the SitMAN and additional information (calendar entry, etc.) over time as we near the exercise in February.

# Tabletop Exercise Registration Link: <a href="https://eeievents.cventevents.com/emnxaZ">https://eeievents.cventevents.com/emnxaZ</a> Hotel Information

EEI has secured a hotel room block for exercise attendees. Use the link below to reserve a room. The default dates cover the full block range, please adjust the check-in/out days to fit your needs.

HILTON GARDEN INN - WASHINGTON, DC/DOWNTOWN 815 14th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20005 +1 202-783-7800 \$199/night (plus applicable taxes and fees)

For Room Reservations, please use the booking link below. Room Rate Cutoff: January 25, 2025

If you book by phone, ask for the '2025 National Response Event'.

Hotel Reservation Link: <a href="https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=DCACHGl&groupCode=93A&arrivaldate=2025-02-23&departuredate=2025-02-28&cid=OM,VWV,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT">https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=DCACHGl&groupCode=93A&arrivaldate=2025-02-23&departuredate=2025-02-28&cid=OM,VWV,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT</a>

# **Airport Suggestions**

The closest airport to EEI's offices and downtown DC is Washington Reagan National Airport (DCA) which is approximately 15 minutes from downtown Washington by car, cab, or ride share. Other airports in the area are Dulles International Airport (IAD) which is approximately 45-60 minutes from downtown DC or Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI) which is 60-75 minutes from downtown DC.

# **Tabletop Exercise Schedule of Events**

# Wednesday, February 26

7:30 a.m. – Breakfast (EEI Offices)

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Tabletop Exercise (EEI Offices)

6:30 p.m. – Dinner (Location TBA)

If you have further questions regarding registration or lodging, please feel free to contact Jennifer Hart (<a href="mailto:jhart@eei.org">jhart@eei.org</a>) and she will be happy to assist you.

Follow EEI on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.



From: <u>Ismari Cueto</u>

To: Will Wiguist; Katie Gorscak; Elena Patton; Adam Jackman

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: UNIVISION - Interview request re CBS "60 Minutes" transcripts - No Deadline Specified

**Date:** Thursday, February 6, 2025 2:57:03 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.jpg</u>

From: Karla Monzant Rincon <a href="mailto:kmonzantrincon@televisaunivision.com">kmonzantrincon@televisaunivision.com</a>

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 1:55 PM
To: MediaRelations < MediaRelations@fcc.gov >
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: UNIVISION - Interview request

You don't often get email from kmonzantrincon@televisaunivision.com. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Federal Communications Commission. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trust the content to be safe. If you suspect this is a phishing attempt, please use the 'Report Message' feature in Microsoft Outlook or forward the email to the NSOC.

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Karla Monzant, and I work as a producer for Univision Network News.

Please, we would like to request a live interview in Spanish via Zoom for today between 6-7pm ET for our show "Linea de Fuego" which airs on VIX with our anchor Luis Carlos Velez.

We would like to talk about the publication of the CBS "60 Minutes" transcripts of interview with Kamala Harris.

https://www.npr.org/2025/02/06/nx-s1-5288181/why-cbs-stands-at-the-epicenter-of-trumps-assault-on-the-media/RK=2/RS=nnNkst9\_d5eisgMmgJRk.TLlxSA-

TelevisaUnivision Inc., the world's leading Spanish-language media and content company, recently launched VIX, the first global large-scale streaming service created specifically for the Spanish-speaking world.

Please, let me know if this is something we could coordinate.

Thank you,

Karla Monzant



 From:
 Adam Jackman

 To:
 Katie Gorscak

 Cc:
 Will Wiguist

Subject: RE: Press inquiries- 02/06 p.m.

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 3:53:00 PM

Thanks Katie – Will take a look and get back to you shortly.

#### Adam Jackman

Director of Strategic Communications FCC Office of Media Relations

From: Katie Gorscak <Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 3:40 PM
To: Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>
Cc: Will Wiquist <Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov>
Subject: Press inquiries- 02/06 p.m.

## **Broadcast Actions**

Univision (Karla Monzant) - Spanish interview request for this evening.

Inquiry: My name is Karla Monzant, and I work as a producer for Univision Network News. Please, we would like to request a live interview in Spanish via Zoom for today between 6-7pm ET for our show "Linea de Fuego" which airs on VIX with our anchor Luis Carlos Velez. We would like to talk about the publication of the CBS "60 Minutes" transcripts of interview with Kamala Harris.

https://www.npr.org/2025/02/06/nx-s1-5288181/why-cbs-stands-at-the-epicenter-of-trumps-assault-on-the-media/RK=2/RS=nnNkst9 d5eisgMmgJRk.TLlxSA-

TelevisaUnivision Inc., the world's leading Spanish-language media and content company, recently launched VIX, the first global large-scale streaming service created specifically for the Spanish-speaking world. Please, let me know if this is something we could coordinate.

OMR Rec:

Variety (Cynthia Littleton)

Inquiry: Can you please tell me the filing deadline for the CBS News Distortion complaint?

OMR Rec: (b) (5)

#### **Staffing**

Space News (Jason Rainbow)

Inquiry: Are FCC and Space Bureau employees part of the 'fork in the road/deferred buyout/resignation' offer? The OPM's announcement suggests that but I should double check.

OMR Rec:

Broadband Breakfast (Ted Hearn)

Inquiry: Did FCC employees receive the DOGE buyout offer?

OMR Rec:

# Super Bowl

USA Today (Josh Peter)

Inquiry: I'm reaching out for a second time in hopes of talking to someone about annual complaints filed with the FCC regarding the Super Bowl halftime show. I've also left two voicemail messages. Any suggestion on how to reach someone in media relations to discuss this?



From: <u>Timothy Wise</u>

To: keyanna.johnson@gray.tv

Cc: Brendan Carr; Geoffrey Starks; Nathan Simington; Anna Gomez; MediaRelations

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Kamala Harris 60 Minute Interview

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 4:52:55 PM

You don't often get email from (b) (6) Learn why this is important

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#### Good afternoon Brandon,

I would like to be part of an official complaint against my CBS affiliate in St. Louis, Missouri. I had requested the transcript for the Kamala Harris interview prior to the election. I feel that due to CBS's manipulation of the interview all of the viewers were falsely given information which affected my local, state and federal election results. Please include me in any actions taken, and please consider actions against local affiliates. They are ultimately the final guardian to truth.

Thanks,

Sincerely,

Tim Wise

## Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

On Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 5:36 PM, Timothy Wise

(b) (6) wrote:

Good evening Keyanna,

I am just informing you that I will be looking to file a complaint with the FCC about the lack of transparency of the 60 Minutes appearance of the Kamala Harris interview. Per my concerns are that you used your viewing power as a political ad for Kamala.

I have previously request the transcript to no avail.

This is the third time I have reached out to your Station.

I will not let this go away.

I will move forward with a written complaint.

Sincerely,

**Tim Wise** 

(b)(6)

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

On Mon, Nov 4, 2024 at 9:21 AM, Timothy Wise

(b) (6)

wrote:

Good morning Keyanna,

I am following up on the request for the 60 minute/Kamala interview transcript. I watched Face the Nation on that Sunday, and then watched your 60 minute interview

Monday, and heard different answers for the same question.

I would like the Transcript so I can see for myself what the actual answer was. If what I heard on Sunday was the actual answer, then the answer Monday was greatly edited. If that is the case, I can not make the same voting decision. Please forward me a copy of the transcript today 11/04/2024, or I will consider your different answers to the samequestion as an election campaign advertisement, and will file a complaint with the FCC.

Your prompt response is requested.

Sincerely, Tim Wise

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

On Mon, Oct 21, 2024 at 10:06 AM, Timothy Wise (b) (6) wrote:

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

Good morning Keyanna,

I am writing with concerns regarding the difference in answers from the question asked on the Face the Nation preview, to the answer that was given on the actual 60 minutes interview.

I would like to have a copy of the complete interview so I can better understand the answer.

What I heard on the preview was not the same answer given on the 60 minutes interview.

Since this is an important matter for decision making on the upcoming election, I am asking for the release of the entire interview.

If you do not release the interview, I will be left to believe that you are acting as a campaign arm of the Harris Presidential Campaign.

If that is the case, you should have listed it as a campaign advertisement.

This is very important to the future of the St. Louis area, and our Country.

Your prompt release of the transcript is important, due to the fact that early voting is occuring at this time.

Sincerely,

Timothy Wise



From: Brendan Carr
To: Chater, Muneib

Cc: Stine, Jason; Veve, Taylor; McCole, Finn; Gallagher, Carey; Croteau, Nicole; Zuccaro, Alexandra; Maslar, Mija

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Fox & Friends - Feb 6, 2025 @ 7:40AM ET

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 6:38:08 AM

Attachments: Outlook-jghebv40.png
Outlook-nupavteg.png

Got it.

#### **ICE DOXXING**

 Reports indicate that on January 26, a California radio station KCBS(AM), which is owned by Audacy (a station group that was recently bought by a Soros-aligned group via an FCC shortcut) broadcast live on air the locations and the make/model of vehicles being used by undercover ICE agents at a time when those ICE agents were operating in a part of San Jose known for violent gang activity.

- The FCC has opened a formal enforcement investigation into this matter. We are seeking information from Audacy. We have not made a final decision but our inquiry does ask them to explain how this conduct (if true) complies with the radio station's obligation to operate in the "public interest" as required by a condition of their federal, FCC license.
- Their response to the FCC will be due in the coming days.

#### CBS Transcript

- On October 16, a group filed a complaint with the FCC alleging that CBS violated the FCC's news distortion policy in conjunction with the airing of a 60 Minutes interview with VP / Candidate Harris
- The Dem FCC dismissed the complaint at the eleventh hour without taking any action to investigate the complaint, including not obtaining the transcript
- The FCC asked CBS for the transcript last week. CBS complied and did not ask for any confidential or non-public treatment of the materials
- CBS has also now released tapes and transcript yesterday afternoon
- The FCC took two actions yesterday on this
  - We made materials public
  - The FCC determined that it would be in the public interest to open a docket and seek comment on the complaint and issues. Comments are due March 7 and Reply Comments are due March 24
  - https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-107A1.pdf

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

PUBLIC NOTICE Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE

Washington, DC 20554 News Media Information 202 / 418-0500 Internet: https://www.fcc.gov

docs.fcc.gov

From: Chater, Muneib < Muneib. Chater@FOX.COM>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025 11:13 PM **To:** Brendan Carr < Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>

**Cc:** Stine, Jason <jason.stine@FOX.COM>; Veve, Taylor <Taylor.Veve@FOX.COM>; McCole, Finn <finn.mccole@fox.com>; Gallagher, Carey <carey.gallagher@fox.com>; Croteau, Nicole <Nicole.Croteau@FOX.COM>; Zuccaro, Alexandra <Alexandra.Zuccaro@FOX.COM>; Maslar, Mija <Mija.Maslar@FOX.COM>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Re: Fox & Friends - Feb 6, 2025 @ 7:40AM ET

You don't often get email from muneib.chater@fox.com. Learn why this is important

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Hi Chairman Carr,

We'll also discuss the '60 Minute' Harris interview and full transcript being released. Feel free to send thoughts/talking points on that as well if you have a chance.

Thank you!



From: Maslar, Mija <Mija.Maslar@FOX.COM> Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 3:12 PM

**To:** brendan.carr@fcc.gov <brendan.carr@fcc.gov>

**Cc:** Stine, Jason <jason.stine@FOX.COM>; Veve, Taylor <Taylor.Veve@FOX.COM>; McCole, Finn <finn.mccole@fox.com>; Gallagher, Carey <carey.gallagher@fox.com>; Croteau, Nicole <Nicole.Croteau@FOX.COM>; Zuccaro, Alexandra <Alexandra.Zuccaro@FOX.COM>; Chater, Muneib <Muneib.Chater@FOX.COM>

**Subject:** Fox & Friends - Feb 6, 2025 @ 7:40AM ET

#### Hi Chairman,

Thank you for joining us tomorrow at 7:40AM ET via the DC bureau. Looping in our producers & overnight team to this confirmation. We'll discuss the FCC's probe into Soros-backed radio stations doxxing undercover ICE agents.

Please 'reply all' with a few thoughts you'd like to express.

# Morning Fox POC will be Carey Gallagher @ (b) (6)

Here are all of the details. Show: FOX & Friends

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025

Call Time: 7:30AM ET Live Hit: 7:40AM ET

Thanks,

Mija Maslar BOOKING PRODUCER | "FOX & Friends" 1211 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10036



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