FW: Watchdog: Trump Official Misled on Reason for Citizenship **Question During Testimony**

From: "Amundson, Corey (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov> To:

"Keller, John (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usdoj.gov> Cc:

Mon, 19 Jul 2021 16:58:48 +0000 Date:

Let's discuss.

Kevin Driscoll Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice Desk: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Mobile (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: Stueve, Joshua (PAO) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usdoj.gov>

Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 12:56 PM

To: Driscoll, Kevin (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usdoj.gov>; Amundson, Corey (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov>; Keller,

John (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usdoj.gov>

Subject: RE: Watchdog: Trump Official Misled on Reason for Citizenship Question During Testimony

UPDATE: OPA Director Anthony Coley is going to elevate this to AAG McQuaid

From: Stueve, Joshua (PAO) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov> Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 12:52 PM

To: Driscoll, Kevin (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov>; Amundson, Corey (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov>; Keller, John (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov>

Subject: AP: Watchdog: Trump Official Misled on Reason for Citizenship Question During Testimony

Importance: High

Team PIN: To the extent this was a PIN decision, any insight/background you can provide here? Not to share externally. Thanks!

From: Coley, Anthony D. (PAO) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 12:12 PM

To: Stueve, Joshua (PAO) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov>
Subject: AP: Watchdog: Trump Official Misled on Reason for Citizenship Question During Testimony

AP: Watchdog: Trump Official Misled on Reason for Citizenship Question During **Testimony**

A probe from the Office of Inspector General showed that Wilbur Ross misrepresented the reason for adding a citizenship question to the census questionnaire during two appearances before House committees

By Mike Schneider • Published 17 mins ago • Updated 17 mins ago

President Donald Trump's commerce secretary misled Congress about why he sought to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, according to an investigation from the Office of Inspector General, but President Joe Biden's Justice Department has decided not to prosecute.

The watchdog agency's probe showed that Wilbur Ross misrepresented the reason for adding a citizenship question to the census questionnaire during two appearances before House committees in March 2018, according to a letter sent last week to congressional leaders by Inspector General Peggy Gustafson.

It is a federal crime to make false statements before Congress. The results of the inspector general's investigation were presented to the Department of Justice, but department attorneys declined prosecution, the letter said.

An inquiry to the Department of Justice on Monday didn't get an immediate response. No one answered the phone Monday at a Palm Beach, Florida number listed for Ross.

The Supreme Court eventually blocked adding the query ahead of the 2020 census, but critics say that by pursuing the citizenship question, the Trump administration sought to suppress participation by noncitizens and minorities in the nation's once-a-decade head count.

According to critics, the citizenship question was inspired by Republican redistricting expert Tom Hofeller, who had previously written that using citizen voting-age population instead of the total population for the purpose of redrawing of congressional and legislative districts could be advantageous to Republicans and non-Hispanic whites.

The inspector general probe was launched in 2019 at the request of Democratic congressional leaders who said they were concerned that the Trump administration had hidden the role of the Republican redistricting expert while trying to add a citizenship question to the census questionnaire. The Commerce Department oversees the Census Bureau, which compiles and crunches the numbers used to determine political power and the distribution of federal funds. The inspector general investigation was unable to establish that Hofeller played a major role in the attempt to add the citizenship question to the census form, Gustafson's letter said.

During his congressional testimony, Ross testified that the Department of Justice requested adding the citizenship question to the census form in late 2017 for the purpose of enforcing federal voting rights law. But the inspector general probe said that "misrepresented the full rationale" since Wilbur's staff had been communicating with the Department of Justice many months before the request was made.

The evidence suggested that the Commerce Department requested and played a part in drafting the Department of Justice request, the inspector general probe found.

A memorandum Ross sent to Commerce Department officials said he had been considering adding the citizenship question soon after Trump appointed him to lead the department, according to the probe.

OIG Ross Allegations

"Amundson, Corey (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov> From: "Driscoll, Kevin (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usdoj.gov> To:

Fri, 23 Jul 2021 15:17:58 +0000 Date: OIG Ross Allegations.docx (15.86 kB) Attachments:

I put some notes together and thought you might find them helpful.

Corey R. Amundson

Chief | Public Integrity Section Criminal Division | United States Department of Justice 1301 New York Avenue NW | Washington, D.C. 20530 Office: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) | Cell: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) www.justice.gov/criminal-pin

Ross - Census Matter

"Amundson, Corey (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov> From: To: "Driscoll, Kevin (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov>

Date: Tue, 04 Jan 2022 19:50:06 +0000

Attachments: 19-0728 Timeline IRF.pdf (114.48 kB); ATT00001.htm (182 bytes); DOC OIG 19-0728 Brief.pptx (1.21

MB); ATT00002.htm (141 bytes)

Kevin,

In connection with our assessment of the Ross allegations (which occurred almost 2 years ago), the OIG provided us with the attached report and power point presentation.

(b)(5)

I hope this is helpful.

Best, Corey

Corey R. Amundson

Chief | Public Integrity Section Criminal Division | United States Department of Justice 1301 New York Avenue NW | Washington, D.C. 20530 Office: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) | Cell: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) www.justice.gov/criminal-pin

From: Gee, Todd (CRM) (b) (7)(C) @CRM.USDOJ.GOV> Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 9:21 AM

To: Amundson, Corey (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) CRM.USDOJ.GOV>

Subject: Summary of census matter

Duplicate - Referred to Commerce (Pages 563-945

REMARKS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM P. BARR ON CENSUS **CITIZENSHIP QUESTION**

USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs <usdoj-officeofpublicaffairs@public.govdelivery.com> "Driscoll, Kevin (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @crm.usdoj.gov> To: Thu, 11 Jul 2019 22:06:52 +0000 Date: seal - centered header for gov delivery

The United States Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From:

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019

REMARKS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM P. BARR ON CENSUS CITIZENSHIP QUESTION

Washington, D.C.

Remarks as prepared for delivery

Thank you, Mr. President, and congratulations on today's Executive Order, which will ensure that we finally have an accurate understanding of how many citizens and non-citizens live in our country.

As the Supreme Court recognized, it would be perfectly lawful for the federal government to ask on the census whether individuals are citizens of the United States. It is entirely reasonable to want to know how many citizens and non-citizens there are in the United States. In fact, the federal government has routinely asked questions related to citizenship dating back to the 1820s. But while the Supreme Court correctly recognized that it would be entirely appropriate to include a citizenship question on the census, it nevertheless held that the Commerce Department did not adequately explain its decision to do so for the 2020 decennial census.

Because as the Supreme Court recognized, the defect in Secretary Ross's decision was curable with a better record, the President asked me to work with Secretary Ross to determine whether there remained any viable path for including a citizenship question on the 2020 census. I did so. In my view, the government has ample justification to inquire about citizenship status on the census and could plainly provide rationales for doing so that would satisfy the Supreme Court. There is thus no question that a new decision to add the question would ultimately survive legal review.

The problem is that any new decision would be subject to immediate challenge as a new claim in the three ongoing district court cases. In addition, there are injunctions currently in place that forbid adding the question. There is simply no way to litigate these issues and obtain relief from the current injunctions in time to implement any new decision without jeopardizing our ability to carry out the census itself, which we are not going to do. So, as a practical matter, the Supreme Court's decision closed all paths to adding the question to the 2020 decennial census. Put simply, the impediment was logistical, not legal. We simply cannot complete the litigation in time to carry out the census, including appeals.

One other point on this. Some in the media have been suggesting — in the hysterical mode of the day — that the Administration has been planning to add the citizenship question to the census by executive fiat without regard for contrary court orders or what the Supreme Court might say. This has been based on rank speculation and nothing more. As should be obvious, that was never under consideration. We have always accepted that a new decision to add a citizenship question to the census would be subject to judicial review.

Turning to today, I applaud the President for recognizing in his Executive Order that including a citizenship question on the census is not the only way to obtain this vital information. The course the President has chosen today will bring unprecedented resources to bear on determining how many citizens and non-citizens are in our country and will yield the best data the government has had on citizenship in many decades. That information will be useful for countless purposes, as the President explained in his remarks today. For example, there is a current dispute over whether illegal aliens can be included for apportionment purposes. Depending on the resolution of that dispute, this data may possibly prove relevant. We will be studying the issue.

Congratulations again, Mr. President, on taking this effective action.

###

AG

19-757

Do not reply to this message. If you have questions, please use the contacts in the message or call the Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007.

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Re: Census OIG mtg?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @crm.usdoj.gov From:

To: "Amundson, Corey (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @crm.usdoj.gov>

"Keller, John (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (crm.usdoj.gov>; "Clarke, Jennifer (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (crm.usdoj.gov>; "Heberle, Robert (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (crm.usdoj.gov> Cc:

Tue, 28 Jan 2020 01:12:51 +0000 Date:

schedule given the potential subject.

I'll set up the meeting in a time that works w your

-Todd

On Jan 27, 2020, at 8:00 PM, Amundson, Corey (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @crm.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicate of Oct 2022 Release (Bates 0002-0006)

"Gee, Todd (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (@crm.usdoj.gov> From: To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @oig.doc.gov> Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @oig.doc.gov>

Date: Tue, 28 Jan 2020 01:14:23 +0000



I'm still coordinating schedules over here. Back to you soon. Let's do the meeting here at PIN though.

-Todd

On Jan 27, 2020, at 6:04 PM,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @oig.doc.gov> wrote:

Duplicate of Bates 1046-1048

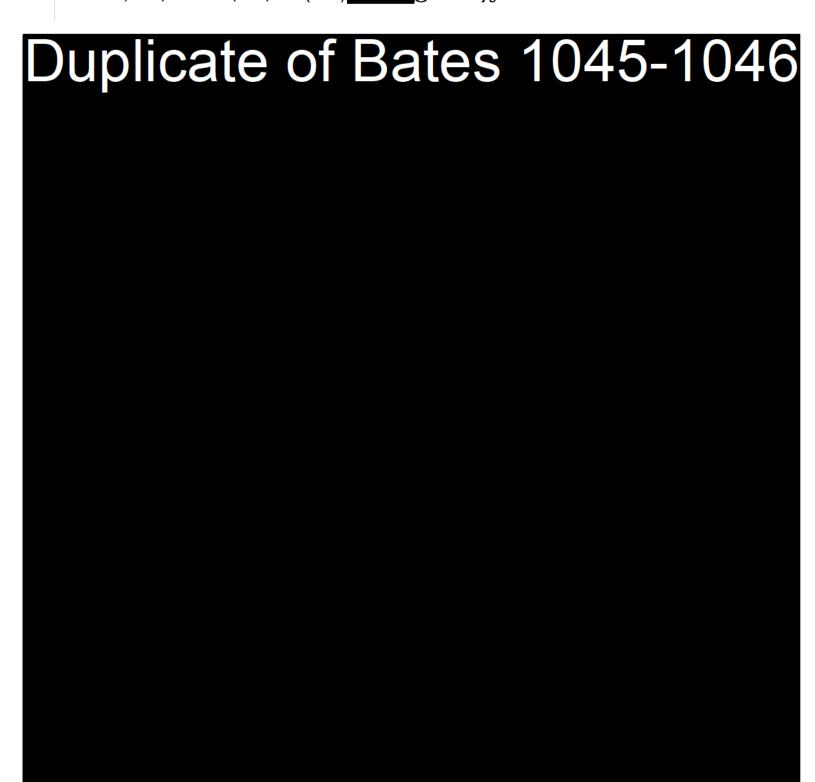
From: "Gee, Todd (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (@crm.usdoj.gov>

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@crm.usdoj.gov>

Date: Tue, 28 Jan 2020 14:26:31 +0000

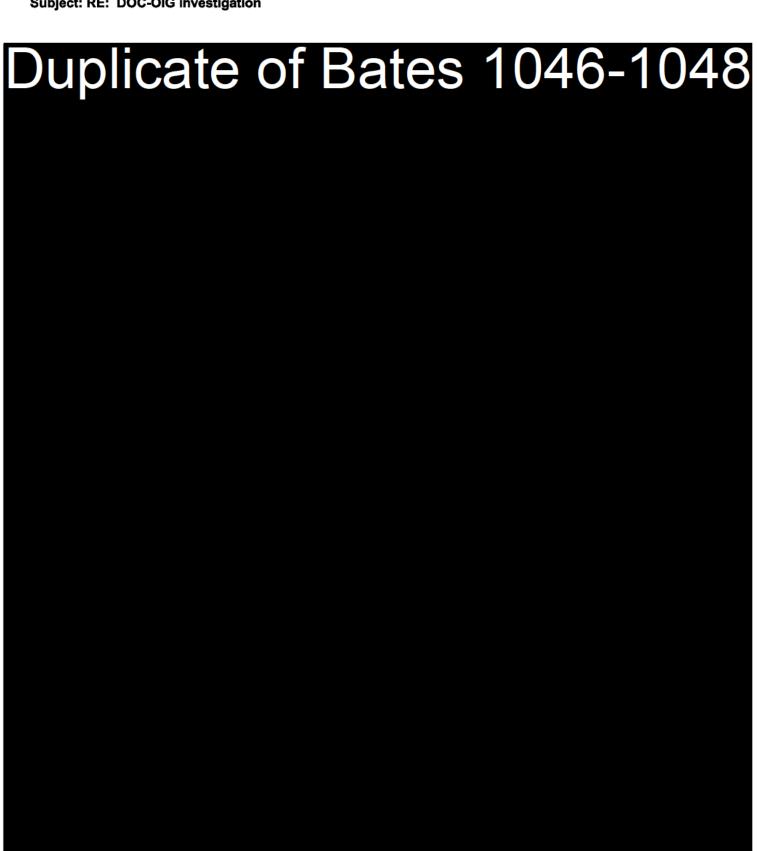
Disregard. Just saw your other email.

On Jan 28, 2020, at 9:26 AM, Gee, Todd (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (Crm.usdoj.gov> wrote:



Begin forwarded message:

@oig.doc.gov>



From:

@crm.usdoj.gov> To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Tue, 28 Jan 2020 14:32:02 +0000 Date:

I have to do the atty interviews so won't work since I need to be in both. I'll see if Friday works. If not will try to kick it to 2/10.

On Jan 28, 2020, at 9:27 AM, (b) (6). (b) (7)(C) (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@crm.usdoj.gov> wrote:

The only availability for Corey next week is the morning of Monday, 2/3 which conflicts with attorney interviews. If you can make that work, I'll place a hold.

From: Gee, Todd (CRM)
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:26 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @CRM.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Re: DOC-OIG investigation

Great. Can you give me some options for next week too so I can give a few? We are coordinating some senior agent schedules here too.

On Jan 28, 2020, at 9:24 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @crm.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Friday, 1/31 from 9:00 to 11:30 is another possibility. Holding that now. Thanks, pre-printing

From: Gee, Todd (CRM)

Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:17 AM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @CRM.USDOJ.GOV>

Cc: Keller, John (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CRM, USDOJ.GOV>; Clarke, Jennifer (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CRM, USDOJ.GOV> Subject: Re: DOC-OIG investigation

Looks like we have atty interviews in that slot. What about Friday or some times next week. I'll go back to the OIG with the potential times you give me.

On Jan 28, 2020, at 8:32 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @crm.usdoj.gov> wrote: Hi Todd – The only date/time that works is Thursday, 1/30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. here at PIN. Holding on his calendar. Thanks, [DISCOUNCE]

From: Gee, Todd (CRM)
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 8:15 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) CRM.USDOJ.GOV>
Cc: Keller, John (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)CRM.USDOJ.GOV>; Clarke, Jennifer (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@CRM.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Fwd: DOC-OIG investigation

can you let me know which of the below slots work for Corey? He wants to attend this mtg. We'd need the pincont room too be the agents have a PowerPoint.

Begin forwarded message:

@oig.doc.gov>

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @oig.doc.gov>
Date: January 27, 2020 at 6:04:33 PM EST
To: "Gee, Todd (CRM)"(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @CRM.USDOJ.GOV>
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) !@oig.doc.gov>
Subject: RE: DOC-OIG investigation

Mr. Gee,

Were any of the dates/times acceptable?

Thanks,



Special Agent

Office of the Inspector General U.S. Department of Commerce

1401 Constitution Ave NW

Washington, DC 20230

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

----- Original message -----

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)<u>√@oig.doc.gov</u>>

Date: 1/24/20 13:14 (GMT-05:00)

To: "Gee, Todd (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usdoj.gov>

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @oig.doc.gov>

Subject: RE: DOC-OIG investigation

Mr. Gee,

Here are some days/times. Let me know if any of these will work.

Based on the days and times, I have OIG or DOJ Office as to a location.

I am 100% on board If you prefer to just meet at DOJ.

Monday, 27th - 1:30 - 3:00 - OIG office or DOJ Office

Tuesday, 28th - 0930 - 1200 OIG Office or DOJ Office

Tuesday, 28th - 1:30 - 3:00 DOJ Office

Wednesday, 29th - 0930 - 1200 OIG Office or DOJ Office

Wednesday, 29th - 1:30 - 3:00 DOJ Office

Thursday, 30th 0930 - 1200 OIG or DOJ Office

Thursday, 30th - 1:30 - 3:00 - DOJ Office.

Thanks again!



Special Agent

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

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

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

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <u>@oig.</u>(Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 4:41 PM

To: Gee, Todd (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <u>@usdoj.gov</u>>

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: DOC-OIG investigation l@oig.doc.gov>

Mr. Gee, Sounds good. I'll get with ((a)(a)(a)(a)(b)(c)(c)(d) to see if he wants to join in as well and propose some days/times. Welcome back. Special Agent Office of the Inspector General U.S. Department of Commerce 1401 Constitution Ave NW Washington, DC 20230 Office: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ----- Original message -----From: "Gee, Todd (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usdoj.gov> Date: 1/23/20 16:25 (GMT-05:00) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @oig.doc.gov> (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @oig.doc.gov> Subject: Re: DOC-OIG investigation –I've been on leave for a few days after wrapping up my trial down in Florida last week. Let's sit down next week. I have a few meetings but am generally open. Let me know some proposed times that work for you.

-Todd

On Jan 17, 2020, at 1:12 PM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @oig.doc.gov> wrote:

Duplicate of Oct 2022 Release (Bates 0002-0006)

From: "Gee, Todd (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (@crm.usdoj.gov>
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (@oig.doc.gov>

Date: Tue, 28 Jan 2020 17:01:26 +0000

on one of the control of the control

On Jan 28, 2020, at 11:58 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @oig.doc.gov> wrote:

Mr. Gee,

I can send you a .zip file through our secure file transfer vessel called (b) (7)(E). It is the easiest way to send large files.

All you have to do is register using your .gov email address and come up with (yet another) password.

The total amount if the data is approximately 30MB. If you can receive something that large through Outlook, I can just send it conventionally.

Thanks,

(b) (

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

Special Agent

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

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

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <u>noig.doc.gov</u>

From: Gee, Todd (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov> Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:41 AM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) oig.doc.gov>

Subject: Re: DOC-OIG investigation

great. We will see you Friday. We aren't at Main. We are at 1331 F St NW, [DIE, DIE]. My cell is (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) if anything comes up.

In advance of the meeting, if you have transcripts of the testimony you want to send along that may be helpful.

-Todd

On Jan 28, 2020, at 9:34 AM,

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

<u>@oig.doc.gov</u>> wrote:

Mr. Gee.

Yes I can do that.

Are you located in Main Justice?

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

Special Agent

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

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

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <u>@oig.doc.gov</u>

From: Gee, Todd (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:29 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @oig.doc.go
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) i@oig.doc.gov @oig.doc.gov> <u>@oig.doc.gov</u>>

Subject: Re: DOC-OIG investigation

having trouble finding any of those times to work w the schedule of our Chief, who wants to sit in. Could you guys do Friday morning, say 930-11.

On Jan 24, 2020, at 1:15 PM,

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

@oig.doc.gov> wrote:

Duplicate of Bates 1047-1052

From: "Gee, Todd (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (@crm.usdoj.gov>

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @crm.usdoj.gov>

Date: Tue, 28 Jan 2020 14:42:10 +0000

Good news, Friday 930-11 worked for them. Can you book the conf room and invite Keller and Jenn as well? Thx.

On Jan 28, 2020, at 9:24 AM, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @crm.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicate of Bates 1045-1052

RE: Census OIG mtg?

"Keller, John (CRM)'(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usdoj.gov> From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CRM)" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@usdoj.gov> To:

Mon, 04 Oct 2021 16:33:29 +0000 Date:

Yes.

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(@usdoj.gov> Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 12:18 PM To: Keller, John (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)(@usdoj.gov> Subject: RE: Census OlG mtg?

Thanks.

So the actual "referral" is what is in the email to Todd?

From: Keller, John (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov> Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 11:55 AM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @usdoj.gov>

Subject: FW: Census OIG mtg?

From: Gee, Todd (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @CRM.USDOJ.GOV > Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 8:13 PM
To: Amundson, Corey (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @CRM.USDOJ.GOV >

Cc: Keller, John (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (@CRM.USDOJ.GOV>; Clarke, Jennifer (CRM)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@CRM.USDOJ.GOV>; Heberle, Robert (CRM (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)@CRM.USDOJ.GOV>

Subject: Re: Census OIG mtg?

Ouplicate of Bates 1001

On Jan 27, 2020, at 8:00 PM, Amundson, Corey (CRM) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) @crm.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Duplicate of Oct 2022 Release (Bates 0002-0006) and Bates 2005-2007