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From: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)
Subject: [redacted]
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI); Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI)
Sent: August 25, 2021 8:52 PM (UTC-04:00)

b6 -1
b7C -1
b5 -2

Thank you. This is all very confusing.

[Large redacted block]

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b7C -1
b7E -30

From: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 8:16 PM
To: Prest, Erin M. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3
b5 -2

FYI.

Stephen

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 7:10:27 PM
To: Kelly, Stephen D. (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]; McNally, Richard (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]
[redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

b6 -1
b7C -1
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b5 -2

Hi Stephen, Rick, and [redacted]

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Thanks.

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]
Unit Chief
Investigative Law Unit
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation

b6 -1
b7C -1
b7E -3

[redacted]

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From: Bulletin Intelligence
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI Public Affairs - Director's AM News Briefing Thursday, August 26, 2021
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: August 26, 2021 5:00 AM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: FBI Dir Briefing 210826.doc

b7E -3

This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

Full-text Links: Clicking the hypertext links in our write-ups will take you to the newspapers' original full-text articles.

Interactive Table of Contents: Clicking a page number on the table of contents page will take you directly to that story.

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FBI PUBLIC AFFAIRS – DIRECTOR’S AM NEWS BRIEFING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021 5:00 AM EDT

House Committee Demands Records Over Capitol Insurrection. Reuters (8/25) reports that “the congressional committee investigating the deadly Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol demanded a range of documents on Wednesday from American agencies, including communications records from former President Donald Trump’s White House.” Reuters says “the House of Representatives Select Committee asked for White House communications records on and leading up to Jan. 6. The panel also requested documents from the departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Interior and Justice, the FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.” Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) “gave the agencies two weeks to produce the materials.”

The New York Times (8/25, Broadwater, 20.6M) reports the committee’s series of requests “show that as they ramp up their inquiry, investigators are looking closely at efforts by the former president to overturn the results of the 2020 election and any connections he or his administration had to the rioters.” The investigators “are also looking into the potential involvement of at least one top aide to a Republican member of Congress who helped publicize the ‘Stop the Steal’ rallies.” The panel “sought communications among top Trump administration officials about attempts to place politically loyal personnel in senior positions as Mr. Trump sought to invalidate President Biden’s victory in the run-up to the attack. Investigators are also focused on the planning, organization and funding of pro-Trump rallies on Jan. 5 and Jan. 6 and other attempts to stop or slow the process of Mr. Trump handing over the presidency to Mr. Biden.”

The Washington Post (8/25, Wagner, 10.52M) reports, “In letters demanding materials from the National Archives and seven other agencies, Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.), the committee chairman, signaled that an expansive investigation is underway, touching not only on what happened Jan. 6 but also on matters such as ‘the former President’s knowledge of the election results and what he communicated to the American people about the election.’” Thompson “asked Archivist of the United States David Ferriero to use his authority under federal regulations to swiftly address the request for records from the Trump White House.”

Roll Call (8/25, Marquette, 130K) reports, “The panel asked the archives office...for a trove of Trump administration information, including Trump’s schedule the day his supporters assaulted police and broke into the Capitol. It is also seeking White House visitor records and information about White House efforts to impede the count of votes in the Electoral College.” The committee “is seeking information, such as call logs and schedules, of specific people, including former Vice President Mike Pence, former chief of staff Mark Meadows, former Trump aide Hope Hicks, members of Trump’s family – including his daughter, Ivanka Trump, and son, Donald Trump Jr. – and members of Congress who communicated with the White House on Jan. 6.” Axios (8/25, Saric, 1.26M) reports, “Earlier this week, Thompson said that the committee will ask telecommunications companies to turn over the phone records of several hundred people, including members of Congress.”

The Wall Street Journal (8/25, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports that Trump said in a statement Wednesday evening, “Unfortunately, this partisan exercise is being performed at the expense of long-standing legal principles of privilege. Executive privilege will be defended, not just on behalf of my Administration and the Patriots who worked beside me, but on behalf of the Office of the President of the United States.” NPR (8/25, Grisales, 3.69M) reports, “In a statement, Trump said: ‘The Leftist “select committee” has further exposed itself as a partisan sham and waste of taxpayer dollars with a request that’s timed to distract Americans from historic and global catastrophes brought on by the failures of Joe Biden and the Democrats.’”

CNN International (8/25, Cohen, Nobles, Grayer, Wild) reports, “The list of targets is long and varied, ranging from information about attempts to either carry out or defy Trump’s orders, invoke the insurrection act, martial law or the 25th Amendment, as well as for communications regarding members of the Trump White House, campaign, January 5 and January 6 rally organizers, and even alleged members of far-right extremist groups such as the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers.”

The Hill (8/25, Beitsch, 5.69M) reports, “The Jan. 6 panel is also seeking White House communications with other key names in Trump’s orbit, including Roger Stone, Steve Bannon, Michael Flynn, Trump’s onetime attorney Rudy Giuliani and My Pillow CEO Mike Lindell. The sweeping requests show the committee is focused not just on the events of the day but placing the riot in the broader context of Trump’s months-long effort to contest the election.”

Politico (8/25, Wu, Swan, 6.73M) reports, “‘I think it is unlikely that the House committee witch hunt is going to find any documents or evidence that the FBI could not find,’ Stone told POLITICO. ‘I say again: any claim, implication, insinuation or assertion that I either knew about or had anything to do with the events of January 6 is categorically false and there is no evidence to the contrary.’” Politico adds, “The FBI request relates to the agency’s preparation for the attack and intelligence-

gathering and communications with the Trump White House. It also asks for records related to election investigations and communications with individuals including Giuliani, Powell and other supporters of Trump's push to overturn the election results."

Newsweek (8/25, Klapper, 2.67M) reports, "Phone logs may be requested from House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, who had been in touch with Trump from the Capitol on January 6. McCarthy dismissed the committee's investigation again as 'so political.' When asked if he would turn over his own phone logs from that day, he said, 'I told the American public who I talked to that day,' referring to his television news appearances on January 6."

The Guardian (UK) (8/25, Yang, 5.53M) reports, "Wednesday's announcement comes a month after law enforcement officers delivered harrowing testimonies of their experiences during the 6 January attacks. In July, the Department of Justice declined to assert executive privilege over some of the testimonies, allowing former officials from the Trump administration to testify to Congress about Donald Trump's role in the deadly attacks."

Among news outlets also reporting are CNBC (8/25, Wilkie, 7.34M), CBS News (8/25, Hudak, 5.39M), ABC News (8/25, Siegel, 2.44M), NBC News (8/25, Edelman, 4.91M), Insider (8/25, Panetta, 2.74M), and the Washington Times (8/25, McLaughlin, 626K).

Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA) told CNN's New Day (8/25, 448K), "We're working off of our work plan. And when we have something to share and we have something that goes out, the chairman will speak for the committee. I understand that a lot of folks are interested in this topic and I hope that they share our concern that we need to get to the truth of what happened January 6th. And that means we need to understand the federal agency's response, we need to understand law enforcement agency's response, we need to understand what the President was doing that day."

Michigan Man Sentenced To Six Years In Plot To Kidnap Michigan Governor. The AP (8/25, Eggert, White) reports from Grand Rapids, Michigan, "A man upset over state-ordered coronavirus restrictions was sentenced to just over six years in prison Wednesday for planning to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a significant break that reflected his quick decision to cooperate and help agents build cases against others." Ty Garbin "admitted his role in the alleged scheme weeks after his arrest last fall. He is among six men charged in federal court but the only one to plead guilty so far. It was a key victory for prosecutors as they try to prove an astonishing plot against the rest. The government, noting Garbin's exceptional cooperation, asked U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker to give him credit for helping investigators reinforce their case against his co-defendants."

The New York Times (8/25, MacFarquhar, 20.6M) reports, "Garbin, 25, an airplane mechanic, was the first defendant to be sentenced for what prosecutors have described as an extremist plot driven by anger at the governor's efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The 14 men arrested in October face charges in federal and state courts in one of the most significant domestic terrorism plots ever to come to trial in the United States. The defendants, many of them members of an antigovernment paramilitary group in Michigan called the Wolverine Watchmen, coalesced around protests against Covid-19 lockdown measures." Garbin "cooperated extensively with the prosecutors, who called his 'wide-ranging insider's view' a significant contribution to the case. Among other issues, he testified about plans to deploy a homemade explosive device as well as other illegal weapons."

The Detroit Free Press (8/25, 2.16M) reports, "Whitmer elaborated on the impact of" the kidnapping plot "and hateful rhetoric more broadly in a victim impact statement, filed recently with a Michigan federal court ahead of the sentencing of the first person to plead guilty in connection to the purported scheme to take the governor hostage. 'My gratitude for the brave law enforcement officers of the Michigan State Police and the FBI is enormous. But even now we have not reached the far shore,' Whitmer wrote in the statement, portions of which were released Wednesday by a spokesman. 'Threats continue. I have looked out my windows and seen large groups of heavily armed people within 30 yards of my home. I have seen myself hung in effigy. Days ago at a demonstration, there was a sign that called for "burning the witch." For me, things will never be the same.'"

MLive (MI) (8/25, Tunison, 828K) reports that Garbin, who has "no previous criminal record, also said he was selfish for not taking into account the trauma his actions would take on his family." MLive adds, "Federal prosecutors had recommended a nine-year prison sentence for Garbin but acknowledged his considerable cooperation with authorities and his early admission to wrongdoing. Garbin is expected to testify against his federal co-defendants at an Oct. 12 trial in Grand Rapids. 'He didn't hold back. He would come right out and say, "We planned to do this and I was a part of it,"' Assistant U.S. Attorney Nils Kessler said."

NBC News (8/25, Williams, 4.91M) reports that Garbin "expressed a desire to continue to 'deradicalize' himself and help prevent others from becoming radicalized and going down the same path. In explaining why he was granting a shorter sentence than federal guidelines called for, Jonker cited Garbin's 'concrete' actions that showed he was taking responsibility for his actions. 'That's what's more impressive to me here, and not just the words of Mr. Garbin that he's abandoning this path, but the things he's done, concrete things he's done, to demonstrate that he means it.'"

Newsweek (8/25, Strozewski, 2.67M) reports, “The FBI last October said it broke up a scheme to kidnap the Democratic governor by anti-government extremists who were upset over Whitmer’s coronavirus restrictions. Six men were charged in federal court, while others were charged in state court with aiding them.”

Reuters (8/25, Clifford) reports, “In the plea, Garbin said he and co-defendants were a part of a Michigan-based anti-government militia group known as the Wolverine Watchmen. The six were arrested and charged by federal authorities last October.” Among other news outlets also reporting are the New York Post (8/25, Fitz-Gibbon, 7.45M), ABC News (8/25, Jacobo, 2.44M), WDIV-TV Detroit (8/25, Ley, Clarke, 568K), WXMI-TV Grand Rapids, MI (8/25, 105K), and WGSA-TV Green Bay, WI (8/25).

FBI Searches Detroit City Hall Offices, Homes Of Two City Council Members. The AP (8/25) reports from Detroit, “FBI agents on Wednesday searched offices at Detroit City Hall and the homes of two City Council members, just a few weeks after another councilman was charged in an alleged bribery scheme. Agents and state police were seen at the homes of Janeé Ayers and Scott Benson. Agents also were seen leaving City Hall with boxes. ‘The citizens of Detroit have a right to a city government that is free of corruption,’ Tim Waters, head of the FBI in Detroit, told reporters outside City Hall. ‘No one is being charged today. Simply what we’re doing today is collecting evidence.’”

The Detroit News (8/25, Snell, Rahal, Hunter, 1.16M) reports, “A widening public corruption investigation focused on Detroit towing operations and bribery allegations emerged Wednesday as FBI agents raided Detroit City Hall and the homes of City Council members Janeé Ayers and Scott Benson, the latest development in a scandal that has led to charges against Councilman André Spivey.” According to the News, “The full scope of the investigation was unclear, but FBI agents were focused on municipal towing operations and accusations city officials received bribes, according to two sources. Federal agents on Wednesday also searched the homes of several City Council employees, including Ricardo Silva and Carol Banks, chiefs of staff for Ayers and Benson, respectively, though search warrant documents listing probable cause to search the locations remained sealed in court and no criminal charges were filed Wednesday.”

The Detroit Free Press (8/25, Guillen, Afana, Witsil, 2.16M) reports, “The searches came less than a month after federal prosecutors charged Councilman Andre Spivey with conspiracy to commit bribery. Spivey’s lawyer said last month that the councilman has been cooperating with federal authorities for more than a year.” The Free Press adds, “On Wednesday afternoon, a parade of about 20 FBI agents – many carrying boxes loaded into SUVs – exited city hall. Meanwhile, more agents searched the homes of Councilman Scott Benson and Councilwoman Janeé Ayers. The FBI also searched the East English Village home of Benson’s chief of staff, Carol Banks. Despite the dramatic show of force by federal agents, little is known about what actions council members may have taken to target them in the FBI probe.” The Free Press notes, “The FBI did not visit the 11th floor of city hall, the location of Mayor Mike Duggan’s office, or any other administration office, according to Duggan spokesman John Roach.”

Fox News (8/25, Colton, 23.99M) reports, “The raids are the largest federal investigation into Detroit city hall corruption since former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was convicted eight years ago on racketeering conspiracy charges. More than 100 politicians, union bosses and police officers have been charged with corruption in Michigan’s eastern district since 2008. ‘Clearly, there is a culture of corruption that doesn’t stop at the city line or the county line,’ Erik Gordon, a professor at the University of Michigan’s Ross Business School, told The Detroit News.” Among news outlets also reporting are The Hill (8/25, 5.69M), Newsweek (8/25, Hutzler, 2.67M), the Dearborn (MI) Patch (8/25, Siwicki, 1.44M), the Washington Examiner (8/25, Notheis, 888K), WDIV-TV Detroit (8/25, 568K), WDET-FM Detroit (8/25, Newman, 3K), and WJBK-TV Detroit (8/25, Langton, 381K).

Plea Deal Offered To Virginia Man Accused Of Attacking Police During Capitol Siege. Reuters (8/25) reports, “Prosecutors have proposed a plea bargain to a Virginia man accused of attacking police with a large stick during the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riot, lawyers for the government and defendant told a court hearing on Wednesday.” Reuters adds, “Details of the plea deal offered to Jonathan Mellis, 34, of Williamsburg, Virginia, were not disclosed during the public portion of a status hearing on the case before U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan. Mellis faces ten riot-related charges, including assaulting officers using a dangerous weapon. One or more of the charges are felonies, court records indicate.” According to Reuters, “Court records also show that Mellis has been detained without bond since his arrest in February. In May, Judge Sullivan denied a defense request that Mellis be released from custody for a week so he could attend his father’s funeral.”

Secret Service Reportedly Warned Capitol Police About Threats Before Capitol Siege. The Hill (8/25, Schnell, 5.69M) reports, “The Secret Service warned Capitol Police about threats of violence on Jan. 5, one day before rioters descended on the Capitol complex and injured a number of officers, according to newly revealed documents.” The Hill

adds, "One day before the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, the Secret Service, from the Protective Intelligence Operations Center's (PIOC) account, sent an email to a recipient associated with the Capitol Police informing it of a tip sent in by a 'concerned citizen' at the Denver Field Office regarding people who were flying to the Washington, D.C., area to 'attend tomorrow's rally and 'incite violence.'"

Appeals Court Upholds Dylann Roof's Conviction, Death Sentence. The [AP](#) (8/25, Kinnard, Lavoie) reports a three-judge panel of the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia on Wednesday unanimously "upheld Dylann Roof's conviction and death sentence for the 2015 racist slayings of nine members of a Black South Carolina congregation, saying the legal record cannot even capture the 'full horror' of what he did." [Reuters](#) (8/25) reports Roof "argued that he was not competent to stand trial and represent himself and that the U.S. District Court where he was found guilty abused its discretion."

The [Greenville \(SC\) News](#) (8/25, Gross, 165K) reports, "Roof had appealed his convictions and death sentence in January 2020, arguing he had schizophrenia and suffered from other psychological disorders." The News adds, "In his appeal, Roof's attorneys argued that he was wrongly allowed to represent himself during sentencing, a critical phase of his trial. Roof successfully prevented jurors from hearing evidence about his mental health, 'under the delusion,' his attorneys argued, that 'he would be rescued from prison by white-nationalists – but only, bizarrely, if he kept his mental-impairments out of the public record.'"

[CBS News](#) (8/25, 5.39M) reports, "The 4th Circuit found that the trial judge did not commit an error when he found Roof was competent to stand trial, and the panel issued a scathing rebuke of Roof's crimes. 'Dylann Roof murdered African Americans at their church, during their Bible-study and worship. They had welcomed him. He slaughtered them. He did so with the express intent of terrorizing not just his immediate victims at the historically important Mother Emanuel Church, but as many similar people as would hear of the mass murder,' the panel wrote in its ruling. 'No cold record or careful parsing of statutes and precedents can capture the full horror of what Roof did. His crimes qualify him for the harshest penalty that a just society can impose,' the judges wrote."

Biden Receives Classified Intelligence Briefing On COVID Origins. [The Hill](#) (8/25, Samuels, 5.69M) reports President Biden has been briefed "on a classified report on the intelligence community's investigation into the origins of COVID-19, the White House said Wednesday." The intelligence community "this week concluded its 90-day review of evidence surrounding how the virus originated. Biden was briefed on Tuesday, press secretary Jen Psaki said." Psaki added, "It was a classified briefing, so of course that's not information we would provide publicly." The intelligence community is "preparing an unclassified summary of its findings, which will be released in the coming days." Top intelligence officials, including DNI Haines "have previously acknowledged that it's possible the virus could have originated via a laboratory accident, but they have cautioned it would be difficult to come to a definitive conclusion."

[CBS News](#) (8/25, Gazis, 5.39M) reports a White House official acknowledged on Wednesday that the intelligence community "has delivered findings from its 90-day investigation into the origins of COVID-19 to President Biden." The official said, "The President was briefed on the classified report. We look forward to having an unclassified summary of key judgments to share soon."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/25, Dunleavy, 888K) reports that the Administration's "classified version of an intelligence community report on the origins of COVID-19 should be declassified, according to" Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL). Rubio said on Wednesday that the "American people deserve to know what our government does and does not know about the origins of COVID-19," and that the Administration "needs to immediately transmit the classified report to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and provide a declassified version for the American people."

[ABC News](#) (8/25, Pezenik, Salzman, Folmer, 2.44M) also reports.

China Slams US Intelligence Report On COVID Origins. The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, 10.52M) reports that "Beijing rolled out a multipronged attack on U.S. intelligence agencies on Wednesday after President Biden received a long-anticipated intelligence report that is reported to be inconclusive about the origins of the novel coronavirus." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin "accused the United States of using coronavirus origin-tracing to suppress other countries, and he called the report political instead of scientific." Wang "also pushed back against criticism from U.S. officials that China has obstructed international efforts to get information about the earliest days of the pandemic." He said, "The United States says it lacks information from China. I can tell the United States that this is just an excuse to cover up the failure of its intelligence in origin tracing."

[Reuters](#) (8/25, Crossley) reports that on Wednesday, "the Chinese embassy in Washington posted the calls for World Health Organization investigations at Fort Detrick and at the University of North Carolina to its website after it said U.S.

media had rejected its editorial submissions.” Fu Cong, director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ arms control department, said during a briefing, “Scapegoating China cannot whitewash the US.”

Fox News (8/25, Aitken, 23.99M) and Newsweek (8/25, 2.67M) also report.

WHO Scientists Warn Window To Gather Evidence In COVID Probes Is Closing. The New York Times (8/25, Mueller, 20.6M) reports scientists “studying the origins of the coronavirus for the World Health Organization warned on Wednesday that the inquiry had ‘stalled’ and that further delays could make it impossible to recover crucial evidence about the beginning of the pandemic.” They wrote in editorial published in *Nature*, “The window is rapidly closing on the biological feasibility of conducting the critical trace-back of people and animals inside and outside China.” As debate about whether SARS-CoV-2 originated in nature or in a lab continues, “the editorial amounted to a defense of the team’s work and an appeal for follow-up studies.”

The AP (8/25, Cheng) reports “the WHO-recruited experts said the origins investigation is at ‘a critical juncture’ requiring urgent collaboration but has instead come to a standstill. They noted among other things that Chinese officials are still reluctant to share some raw data, citing concerns over patient confidentiality.” They “noted among other things that Chinese officials are still reluctant to share some raw data, citing concerns over patient confidentiality.” The AP says the researchers concluded in their March analysis of SARS-CoV-2 origins that “the virus probably jumped to humans from animals, and they described the possibility of a laboratory leak as ‘extremely unlikely.’” However, “the WHO experts said their report was intended only as a first step.”

CNBC (8/26, Lee, 7.34M) reports Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan told CNBC’s “Squawk Box Asia” on Thursday that, “What we need is radical and complete transparency. Without everyone sharing the data and being able to analyze it critically, it will be almost impossible to really get down to the bottom of this.”

Meanwhile, the Washington Post (8/25, Diamond, Abutaleb, Achenbach, 10.52M) adds that many of the experts “said the question of the virus’s origin is important to understand, stressing that the lessons would be vital for preventing future pandemics.” However, “they lamented that the search for an origin has become highly politicized.” In addition, many indicated “they were not surprised the report” the President received from the intelligence community “was inconclusive and remained skeptical there would ever be a definitive answer.”

Among other news outlets covering the story are the Wall Street Journal (8/25, McKay, Marcus, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) and The Hill (8/25, Choi, 5.69M).

New York Man Sentenced For Anti-Semitic Harassment. The Pearl River (NY) Patch (8/25, Taliaferro, 1.44M) reports from Blauvelt, New York, “A Blauvelt man was sentenced Wednesday to 36 months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release, for making repeated anti-Semitic death threats to a Jewish resident of Stratford, Connecticut whom he met through his mom.” Christopher Rascoll, 49, “threatened a woman through text messages, voicemails and Facebook posts for seven months, prosecutors said. The woman lived in the same housing community as his mother, The Journal News reported. In text messages and voicemails, from November 2019 through June 2020, Rascoll threatened to murder or seriously injure the victim. He also threatened to blow up the victim’s house and car, Leonard C Boyle, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, and David Sundberg, Special Agent in Charge of the New Haven Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said in an announcement about the sentence.”

US Charges Tennessee Man In Church Arson Probes. The Washington Examiner (8/25, Deese, 888K) reports, “A man from Nashville, Tennessee, was charged with civil rights violations Tuesday following an arrest for allegedly setting fires to four churches in 2019.” Alan Douglas Fox, 28, “was charged with setting four churches – the Crieewood United Methodist Church, the Crieewood Baptist Church, the Saint Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church, and the Priest Lake Community Baptist Church – on fire in June 2019. Fox intentionally set fire ‘because of the religious character of the churches,’ the criminal information Fox was charged with alleged, according to a press readout from the Department of Justice.” The Examiner adds, “Officials who investigated the case include the FBI, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Metro Nashville Police Department, and the Nashville Fire Department.”

Long-Suppressed Video Shows Violent Encounter Between Louisiana State Trooper, Black Motorist. The AP (8/25, Bleiberg, Mustian) reports that “body camera video kept secret for more than two years shows” Louisiana State Police trooper Jacob Brown, who is white, “pummeling” Aaron Larry Bowman, a black motorist, “18 times with a flashlight.” The AP says that while Brown has since resigned and now “faces state charges of second-degree battery and malfeasance in Bowman’s beating,” the State Police “didn’t investigate the attack on Bowman until 536 days after it occurred...and only did so weeks after Bowman brought a civil lawsuit.” The AP adds that “Bowman’s encounter...came less than three weeks after troopers from the same embattled agency punched, stunned and dragged another Black motorist, Ronald

Greene, before he died in police custody on a rural roadside in northeast Louisiana.” And federal prosecutors “are examining both cases in a widening investigation into police brutality and potential cover-ups involving both troopers and state police brass.”

Ex-Charleston, South Carolina Employee Pleads Guilty To City Contract Kickbacks. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (8/25, Garrison, 299K) reports, “A former project manager with the city of Charleston’s Department of Housing and Community Development admitted Aug. 25 he accepted kickbacks to steer housing repair contracts to local builders.” Brian D. Herndon “pleaded guilty to bribery at a hearing in U.S. District Court in Charleston. He admitted in court he accepted a total of \$15,000 in bribes to provide non-public information about city housing projects to Charles Mincey, operator of Palmettos at Folly.” Herndon “admitted in court he told Mincey how much money to bid on approximately 30 city housing projects contracted between February 2014 and March 2020. Many of the contracts were for roofing work that was paid for in part by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.”

South Dakota Man Faces Federal Bank Fraud Charges. The [Mitchell \(SD\) Daily Republic](#) (8/25, Dunteman, 36K) reports that federal prosecutors said on Tuesday that a Glenham, SD man “is facing federal charges of bank fraud after the Federal Bureau of Investigation says he profited from a loan scheme.” Gabe Outtrim, 42, “made two nominee loans of an undisclosed amount in the name of an unknowing customer between 2015 and 2019, while serving as the bank manager and vice-president of CorTrust Bank’s Leola branch.” Outtrim “faces up to 30 years in federal prison, a million dollar fine, five years of supervised release and up to \$200 to the Federal Crime Victims Fund.”

Prosecutors Say Glitch In FBI Software Program Allowed Unauthorized Access To Private Data. The [New York Post](#) (8/25, Feuerherd, 7.45M) reports, “A computer glitch in a secretive software program used by the FBI allowed some unauthorized employees to access private data for more than a year, prosecutors revealed in a new court filing.” According to the Post, “The screw-up in the Palantir program – a software created by a sprawling data analytics company co-founded by billionaire Peter Thiel – was detailed in a letter by prosecutors in the Manhattan federal court case against accused hacker Virgil Griffith. Data recovered from Griffith’s Facebook and Twitter accounts, which was obtained through a federal search warrant in March 2020, was accessed on Palantir for more than a year by at least four FBI employees, all of whom work outside New York and were not investigating the case, prosecutors wrote.”

Tech CEOs Pledge Action On Cybersecurity At White House Summit. The [AP](#) (8/25, Tucker) reports leaders of top technology companies, including Google, Apple, and Microsoft, have “committed to investing billions of dollars to strengthen cybersecurity defenses and to train skilled workers, the White House announced Wednesday following President Joe Biden’s private meeting with” the executives. In public remarks prior to the meeting, Biden called cybersecurity a “core national security challenge” for the US. Biden said the “reality is most of our critical infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector, and the federal government can’t meet this challenge alone.” The AP writes that the “broad cross-section” of participants underscored how cyberattacks “have cut across virtually all sectors of commerce.”

[The Hill](#) (8/25, 5.69M) reports Biden met with officials from “over two dozen groups from a range of fields, including the leaders of Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, IBM, Microsoft, Bank of America, JPMorgan, Duke Energy, PG&E, Travelers insurance, and the University of Texas System.”

[Reuters](#) (8/25, Shalal) reports the US plans to “work with industry to hammer out new guidelines to improve the security of the technology supply chain,” as Biden urged the executives to “raise the bar on cybersecurity.” Citing the rising frequency of high-profile ransomware attacks and US efforts to gain Russian cooperation fighting their perpetrators, Biden said, “We have a lot of work to do.” After the meeting, Amazon “said it would make its cybersecurity training available to the public for free, and it would give multi-factor authentication devices to some cloud computing customers, starting in October.” IBM also “said it will train more than 150,000 people in cybersecurity skills over three years and will partner with historically black colleges and universities to create a more diverse cyber workforce.”

[Bloomberg](#) (8/25, Kern, 3.57M) reports the meeting focused “on ransomware, the root causes of malicious cyber activity, and how to ensure that cybersecurity is baked into technology sold by industry from the start, according to [a] senior official.” After the meeting with Biden, “several key cabinet secretaries led three breakout sessions with the industry participants.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Volz, Subscription Publication, 8.41M) reports DHS Secretary Mayorkas and Energy Secretary Granholm met with executives from water and electric utilities and the banking sector to discuss information sharing across their sectors, according to Southern Company CEO Tom Fanning.

FBI Urges More Hate Crime Reporting.

KDRV-TV

Medford, OR (8/25, Ridgie) reports from Medford, Oregon, "The FBI begins its hate crime awareness campaign for Oregon on September 1. Special Agent in Charge of the Portland Field Office Kieran Ramsey spoke to Ashland City Council about the initiative." KDRV-TV adds, "Ashland City Councilor, Gina DuQuenne is active with social justice groups throughout the Rogue Valley and told Newswatch 12 during the meeting with SAC Ramsey that she made her own suggestions to get other community members behind the campaign. DuQuenne suggested the FBI reach out to Jefferson Public Radio about the campaign because of its broad audience. She also hoped the hate crime awareness campaign would reach Southern Oregon University in Ashland."

WHDQ-TV

Memphis, TN (8/25, 69K) reports from Memphis, Tennessee, "FBI Memphis and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Tennessee are encouraging the public to report hate crimes, the pair announced Wednesday. 'Investigating hate crimes is the highest priority of the FBI's Civil Rights program due to the devastating impact they have on families and communities,' said Douglas M. Korneski, Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. 'The FBI is committed to protecting the civil rights of all people, and we will aggressively pursue those who commit criminal offenses based on bias.'"

FBI Sending More Agents To Louisville, Kentucky In Crackdown On Violence, Gangs.

The Hill

(8/25, Vakil, 5.69M) reports, "More FBI agents are being sent to Louisville, Ky., to assist police in tackling gangs and violent criminals." The Hill adds, "The additional law enforcement is a part of a larger initiative between the Louisville Metro Police Department and the FBI called the Safe Streets Task Force aimed at going after violent crime, NBC News reported on Tuesday. 'Our hope is that these additional resources will help identify, apprehend, and ultimately convict individuals involved in violent crime around Louisville. Our focus will be on federal violations – such as carjackings, Hobbs Act robberies, and gun related charges,' Tim Beam of the FBI's Louisville office told The Hill in a Wednesday email. The Safe Streets Task Force initiative has allegedly already netted some results. Agents were able to recover around 1,200 grams of illegal controlled substances and 17 firearms in a drug bust last week, the Justice Department said in a press release."

Springfield, Illinois SAC To Retire.

The Springfield (IL) State Journal-Register (8/25, 149K) reports, "Special Agent in Charge Sean M. Cox of the FBI's Springfield division will retire in September, according to a news release issued Tuesday." Cox served in the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, and Springfield field offices, as well as FBI headquarters in Washington, DC, in a career spanning more than 22 years. Acting US Attorney for the Central District of Illinois Douglas J. Quivey said Cox "has dedicated his career with the FBI to protecting us all and is a true public servant. His leadership of the Springfield Field Office set the standard and he acted as a mentor to many."

RFK Assassin Sirhan Sirhan Seeks Parole With No Opposition From Prosecutors.

The Washington Post (8/25, Jackman, 10.52M) reports Sirhan B. Sirhan, "convicted of the 1968 assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, will face a California parole board for the 16th time Friday in a prison outside San Diego," but "unlike the first 15 times, no prosecutor will stand to oppose the release of Sirhan, who is now 77." The Post adds, "When California abolished the death penalty, Sirhan's sentence was reduced to life with the possibility of parole. And now Sirhan, who has been incarcerated for 53 years, may benefit from a new push among progressive prosecutors to seek the release, or not oppose the release, of convicts who have served decades behind bars, no longer pose a threat to society and will be costly to treat medically in their later years."

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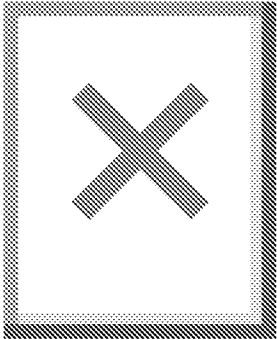
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