



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

July 5, 2017

Noah Bookbinder  
Executive Director  
Citizens for Responsibility  
and Ethics in Washington  
455 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Bookbinder:

Thank you for your letter to Inspector General Horowitz, dated February 24, 2017. You requested that the OIG investigate allegations of improper communications between Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Deputy Director Andrew McCabe and White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus regarding the FBI's pending criminal investigation of attempts by Russia to influence the 2016 elections.

As you know, Robert S. Mueller III was recently appointed as Special Counsel to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election and related matters, including "any other matters within the scope of 28 C.F.R. § 600.4(a)," such as perjury, obstruction of justice, destruction of evidence, or intimidation of witnesses. Given the scope and nature of the Special Counsel's investigation, and the potential for factual overlap between that investigation and the topics you have asked us to investigate, we intend to defer to the Special Counsel unless and until we are confident that any OIG investigation of misconduct allegations can be conducted in a thorough and fair manner and without interfering with the Special Counsel's work. We will maintain regular contact with the Special Counsel so that we may assess what, if any, role for the OIG is appropriate in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Beckhard", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel C. Beckhard  
Assistant Inspector General  
Oversight and Review Division