



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

October 12, 2018

Ms. Anne L. Weismann
CREW
455 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
aweismann@citizensforethics.org

Re: DOJ-2018-002590 (AG)
DOJ-2018-001537 (DAG)
DOJ-2018-001538 (ASG)
DOJ-2018-001539 (PAO)
DOJ-2018-001540 (OLA)
18-cv-00007 (D.D.C.)
VRB:BPF

Dear Ms. Weismann:

This is our final supplemental response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received in this Office on December 13, 2017, in which you requested various records concerning a meeting with reporters held on December 12, 2017. This response is made on behalf of the Office of Public Affairs (PAO).

On July 2, 2018, we provided you with a final response to your request. As Department counsel has informed you, we subsequently located additional material responsive to your request. This response addresses the remainder of this material and completes OIP's production.

I have determined that forty-nine pages containing records responsive to your request are appropriate for release with excisions made pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), and copies are enclosed. Exemption 6 pertains to information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties. Please note that non-responsive records have not been processed, and are marked accordingly.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2012 & Supp. V 2017). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Vinita Andrapalliyal of the Department's Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch, at 202-305-0845.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V-R-B', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vanessa R. Brinkmann
Senior Counsel

Enclosures

Chat with (b) (6)

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

(b) (6)

Hi Sarah, Lachlan at the Daily Beast. Betsy suggested I touch base about the document preview tonight? Just wanted to get on your radar. lachlan.markay@thedailybeast.com

8:18 PM

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

(b) (6)

Hi Sarah it's Jessica from the WSJ. Del asked me to head to the DOJ for an update. Can I get escorted?

10:09 PM

Me

I can't escort at this point. Folks are wrapping and I can't be outside for that long.

10:10 PM

(b) (6)

Is there any other way to do it?

10:10 PM

Me

5 committees on the hill have this stuff

10:10 PM

(b) (6)

I can be there in a short while

10:10 PM

(b) (6)

Is there anyone else that can get me inside?

10:11 PM

Me

Not at this point. Sorry.

10:12 PM

(b) (6)

Ok will try to find a replacement, thanks all the same

10:13 PM

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records



Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Nonresponsive Records



Alex Pfeiffer

Hey whats uo

8:46 PM

Alex Pfeiffer

*up

8:46 PM

Alex Pfeiffer

responding to ur call

8:46 PM

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Alex Pfeiffer

Assuming last night's call was about Strzok?

10:08 AM

Me

Yes sorry--turned out only some outlets have nighttime access.
Annoying!

10:10 AM

Nonresponsive Records

Chat with Brent kendall

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Brent kendall

Hi Sarah it's Brent kendall from the Wall Street Journal. I'm on my way over to take a look at these documents. But I wanted to make sure how long you were going to be there. Thanks. I have a hard pass.

10:24 PM

Me

I'll be here for another 30 minutes for sure. Beyond that, I hope to leave at 11. I've been up since 4:)

10:26 PM

Brent kendall

Thanks. I'm sure it's been a super long day. I'm driving now from Silver Spring. Google says I will be there before 11.

10:27 PM

Me

The issue is you can't take them with you

10:27 PM

Me

You have to read them here

10:27 PM

Me

And take notes

10:27 PM

Brent kendall

Well if I am able to just take a quick look and at least confirm a few of the texts then I can feed to Aruba who is already writing. thanks

10:39 PM

Brent kendall

Excuse the grammar I am dictating text while driving thanks

10:39 PM

Me

Not a problem at all

10:39 PM

Nonresponsive Records



Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Charlie Savage

Sarah -- Given RR testimony, can you please say who decided to put out the texts yesterday and why? did he know/authorize? If there is anything else DOJ is saying about the matter, can you please send it to me? Thanks!

1:02 PM

Me

He just said the IG approved

1:03 PM

Charlie Savage

I am in cab with Katie bc we are worried about missing the window for her to submit credential paperwork so not watching hearing. He said IG approved giving the stuff to the press specifically? I was asked to get Main Justice explanation for that in particular.

1:11 PM

Me

Off the record: I bent over backwards to include NYT including standing in 20 degree weather bc the person you sent didn't have a badge. The IG approved it. Lawyers and ethics officials approved it. But not to worry. We will note the press doesn't want access to information that we provide to congress and isn't subject to any withholding exemption. This is unreal to me after how much grief I've gotten from media of everything we haven't been able to make available.

1:14 PM

Me

Ian has a statement. You can work through him from now on.

1:14 PM

Charlie Savage

I understand where you are coming from and objected. They said bc RR confirmed it was a question we had to ask. (I am not even writing the story.)

1:25 PM

Me

OTR again: yep, and it will never happen again. Bc I was the one who jumped through all those hoops to ensure it could be release legally and ethically. Next time I won't bother. I'll go home before midnight, get to eat dinner, and get more than 4 hours of sleep. And you guys will never know the difference.

1:28 PM

Me

I was working from 4am to midnight yesterday. Why would I ever bother to do this again when my boss and I are both better off keeping press in the dark?

1:29 PM

Me

That's the end of my rant. But you and the other beat reporters can expect a very different relationship w the department.

1:29 PM

Not Responsive Records

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records




Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records



Del Wilbur
How late can we send the someone ? 10:06 PM

Del Wilbur
We send someone? 10:06 PM

Me
It would have to be someone w a badge 10:07 PM

Del Wilbur
How late? Where do they go? 10:08 PM

Me
10th street entrance. I'll be here for another 30 minutes. 10:09 PM

Del Wilbur
Brent Kendall is going if you want to leave the texts somewhere he can find them 10:20 PM

Me
Can't do that 10:20 PM

Me
I'll have to stay here with him 10:20 PM

Del Wilbur
Ah. Ok 10:20 PM

Me
Can't take it or take pictures of it 10:21 PM

Del Wilbur
Sorry. Ah 10:21 PM

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Del Wilbur
Thanks so much for your help last night. Much appreciated. Sorry for my Paper's chaotic approach to it 8:22 AM

Me
No prob 8:28 AM

Del Wilbur
Left you some caffeine on your desk bc of the late night, but then realized you are probably on the hill...oops. I only watched it on cspan. 2:32 PM

Me
Aww. That's really really kind of you. I feel pretty burned by everything that happened this morning w stories about how I probably violated the law or something silly. but I guess I just need to get over it. 2:37 PM

Del Wilbur
How did you do that? 2:37 PM

Del Wilbur

I thought I saw something about it but assumed it was a reporter pissed they didn't get the info

2:37 PM

Del Wilbur

I feel like Obama Doj would sometimes let us see documents that were sent to congress, too. I have a vague recollection of that. But I bet others in the press corp would recall it. Some have real memories for that kind of thing.

2:38 PM

Del Wilbur

Welp, feel free to enjoy it. Once you get back, you can nuke it. I like that 350 coffee place

2:39 PM

Del Wilbur

Can we get the texts now that they have been made public by congress?

2:45 PM

Me

Anyone from congress is and has been welcome to give you the texts

3:01 PM

Nonresponsive Records

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Eric Tucker

Can you give any more clarity as to what we're looking at?

8:05 PM

Eric Tucker

Is the DAG recusing?

8:05 PM

Me

No. It's responsive to congress.

8:06 PM

Eric Tucker

Thanks very much. Related to unmasking?

8:11 PM

Me

Please stop guessing

8:11 PM

Eric Tucker

Last question: this isn't an exclusive for AP, is it? Like, others are going to be there as well, right?

8:18 PM

Eric Tucker

Or is this just us

8:18 PM

Me

Correct. Not just you.

8:18 PM

Nonresponsive Records

Chat with Ian & Alan

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Alan

A Hi Sarah and Ian, it's Alan from US News. I know you're probably following - or with - Rosenstein this morning. Would you mind calling when you have a moment?

10:13 AM

Me

I'm at the hearing. Happy to text.

10:14 AM

Alan

A Wanted to touch base on the Strzok texts that were shared yesterday.

10:18 AM

Me

You bet. Let me know what you need.

10:57 AM

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records



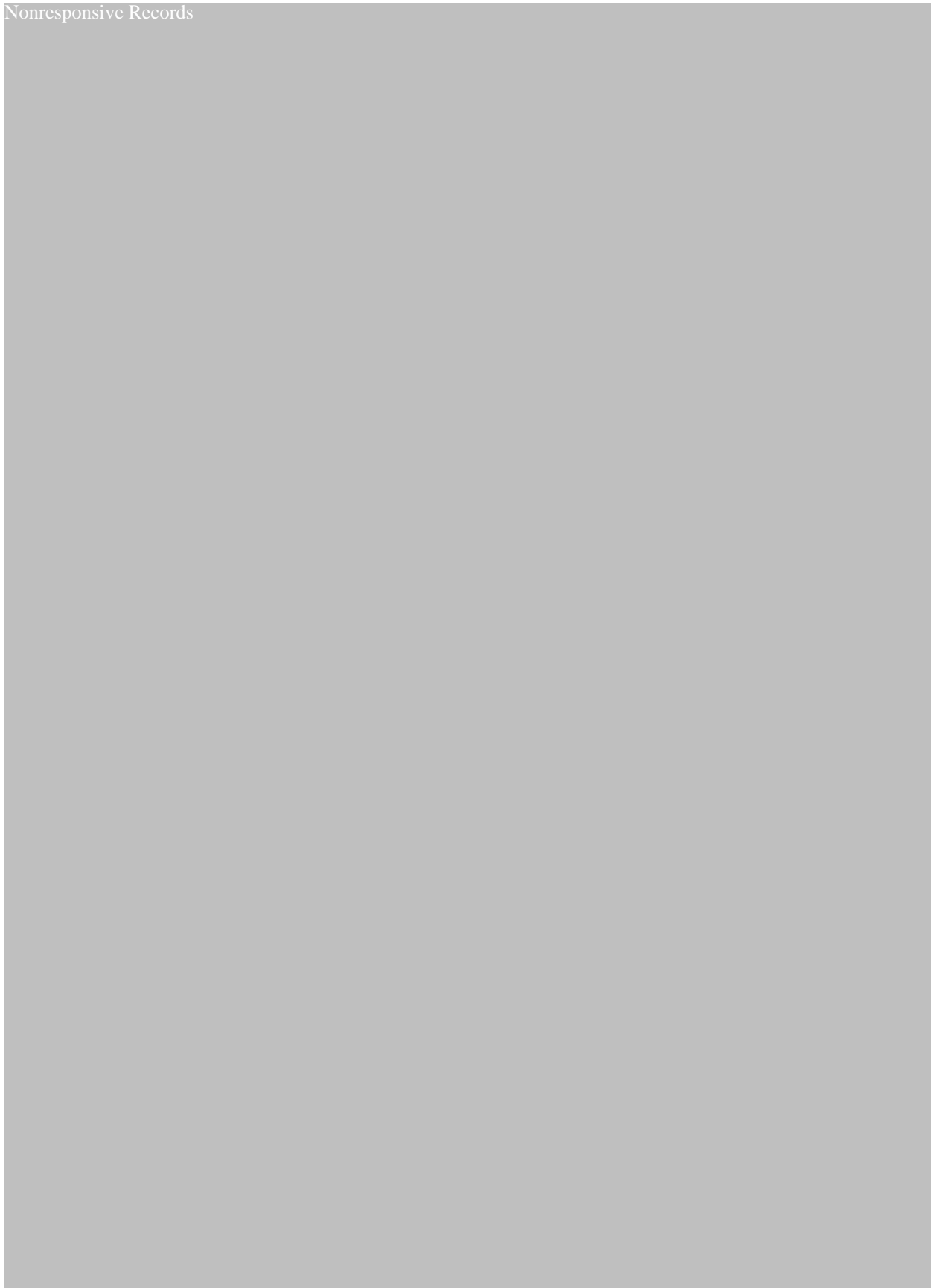
Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Nonresponsive Records









Me
Plan on coming back to doj a little after 8 7:00 PM

Jake Gibson
I'm long gone 7:00 PM

Jake Gibson
U all right? 7:00 PM

Me
Who from fox wants to come? 7:00 PM

Me
Can't talk now. And it's just a standby for the moment. Will provide more clarity when I can. 7:02 PM

Jake Gibson
Can u call me? 7:02 PM

Jake Gibson
Are u talking about doing something tonight?? 7:02 PM

Jake Gibson

You mean to do an on cam interview tonight? I'd be happy to come back for that. But need to know if it's a go, so I can get a crew

7:07 PM

Me

No. Nothing on camera.

7:08 PM

Me

This would be an info dump

7:08 PM

Jake Gibson

Oh... understood

7:08 PM

Jake Gibson

Copy

7:08 PM

Jake Gibson

Lemme know and I will book it a ckt

7:09 PM

Jake Gibson

Takes me like 30 mins door to door

7:09 PM

Jake Gibson

Can u talk anytime soon?

7:29 PM

Me

Head this way

7:44 PM

Jake Gibson

What's going on? What time? All Beat reporters?

7:45 PM

Me

Not all beats

7:46 PM

Jake Gibson

K

7:53 PM

Jake Gibson

On way

7:53 PM

Jake Gibson

Almost there

8:27 PM

Jake Gibson

10 mins


8:27 PM

Me

You're fine

8:29 PM

Nonresponsive Records




Nonresponsive Records



Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Nonresponsive Records



John Roberts

Hey...what's going on there tonight?

8:41 PM

Nonresponsive Records



Chat with Julia Edwards Ainsley

Nonresponsive Records



Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Julia Edwards Ainsley

You said tonight, right?

7:51 PM

Me

Yes. 830. Documents to review.

7:51 PM

Me

Nothing on camera

7:51 PM

Julia Edwards Ainsley

Ok. I'm coming

7:57 PM

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Julia Edwards Ainsley

Hey thanks again for giving us all a heads up last night. It was a very smooth roll out --Julia Ainsley NBC

4:50 PM

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Record

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Kelly Cohen

be there in 17 minutes !

8:29 PM

Me

No prob!

8:29 PM

Kelly Cohen

i'm outside and can't get in! so cold!

8:41 PM

Me

10th street?

8:42 PM

Kelly Cohen

yes !

8:42 PM

Nonresponsive Records

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records



Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records



Me

Plan on coming back to doj a little after 8

6:59 PM

Laura Jarrett

Got it, here now. You upstairs?

7:01 PM

Me

Yeah. I'll come down in a bit hopefully.

7:01 PM

Laura Jarrett

sounds good, let me know

7:01 PM

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records





Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Matt Zapotosky

You're gonna get Devlin instead of me (I'm technically on vacation today but am in DC).

8:04 PM

Me

No prob!

8:06 PM

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records



Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records



Me

Can u come to office tonight at 830?

7:45 PM

Mike Levine

I can make it there at 9. Is that ok?

8:01 PM

Me

Yep no prob

8:01 PM

Mike Levine

Cool thanks

8:01 PM

Mike Levine

Thanks for making all that happen.

10:13 PM

Me

You bet. It's my job:)

10:13 PM

Mike Levine

Ha true. Have a good night

10:14 PM

Mike Levine

Hi, do you know the date of the first earliest text message?

11:09 PM

Me

8/16/15

11:10 PM

Mike Levine

Thanks

11:10 PM

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Mike Levine

Hey, apparently NBC reported that the texts were released by DOJ. My folks wanted me to check to see if we can say that too, or still case that can't mention DOJ?

7:42 AM

Me

No she said released by doj to the hill, which is true, if you read the story

7:43 AM

Mike Levine

Gotcha thanks

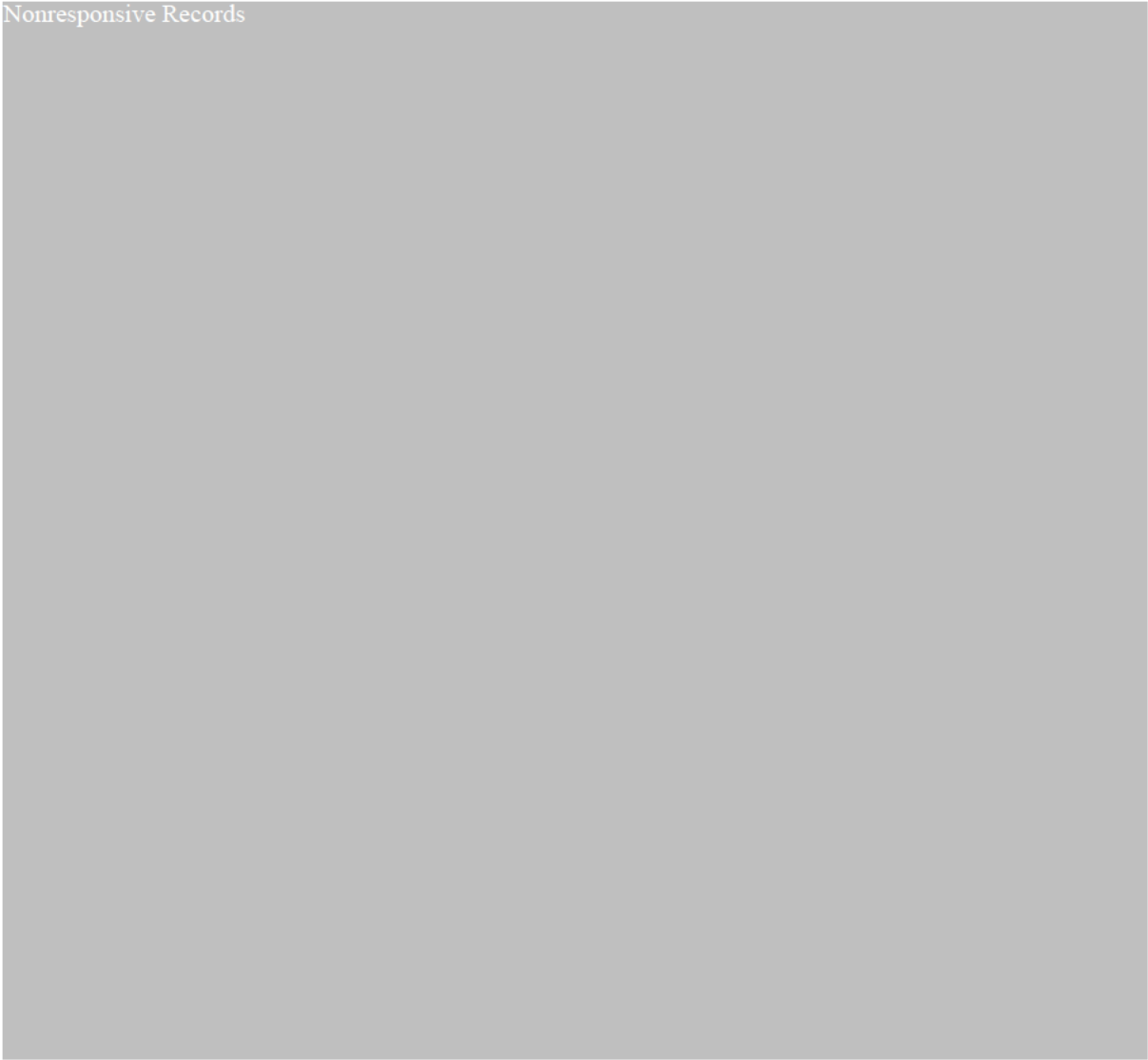
7:45 AM

Nonresponsive Records

Nonresponsive Records



Nonresponsive Records



Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Nonresponsive Records



Paula Reid

Any update? I am using this suspense as an excuse not to go to the gym.

6:34 PM

Me
Ha. Yeah no lid yet. I may ask y'all to come here after 8 if that helps. If not, it'll just be a phone call. 6:34 PM

Paula Reid
Ok. Thank you. Will keep my calendar open. 6:35 PM

Me
Be here at 830 7:48 PM

Paula Reid
Which entrance works this time of day? 7:49 PM

Me
The 10th street one and you go through the car entrance? 7:59 PM

Paula Reid
Cool. Tks 8:00 PM

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Paula Reid
It seems you have had a s--t day, but I have a prime parallel example for you if you need precedent to defend last night. 7:51 PM



Chat with Pete Williams

Duplicative Material




Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Me

7:45 PM

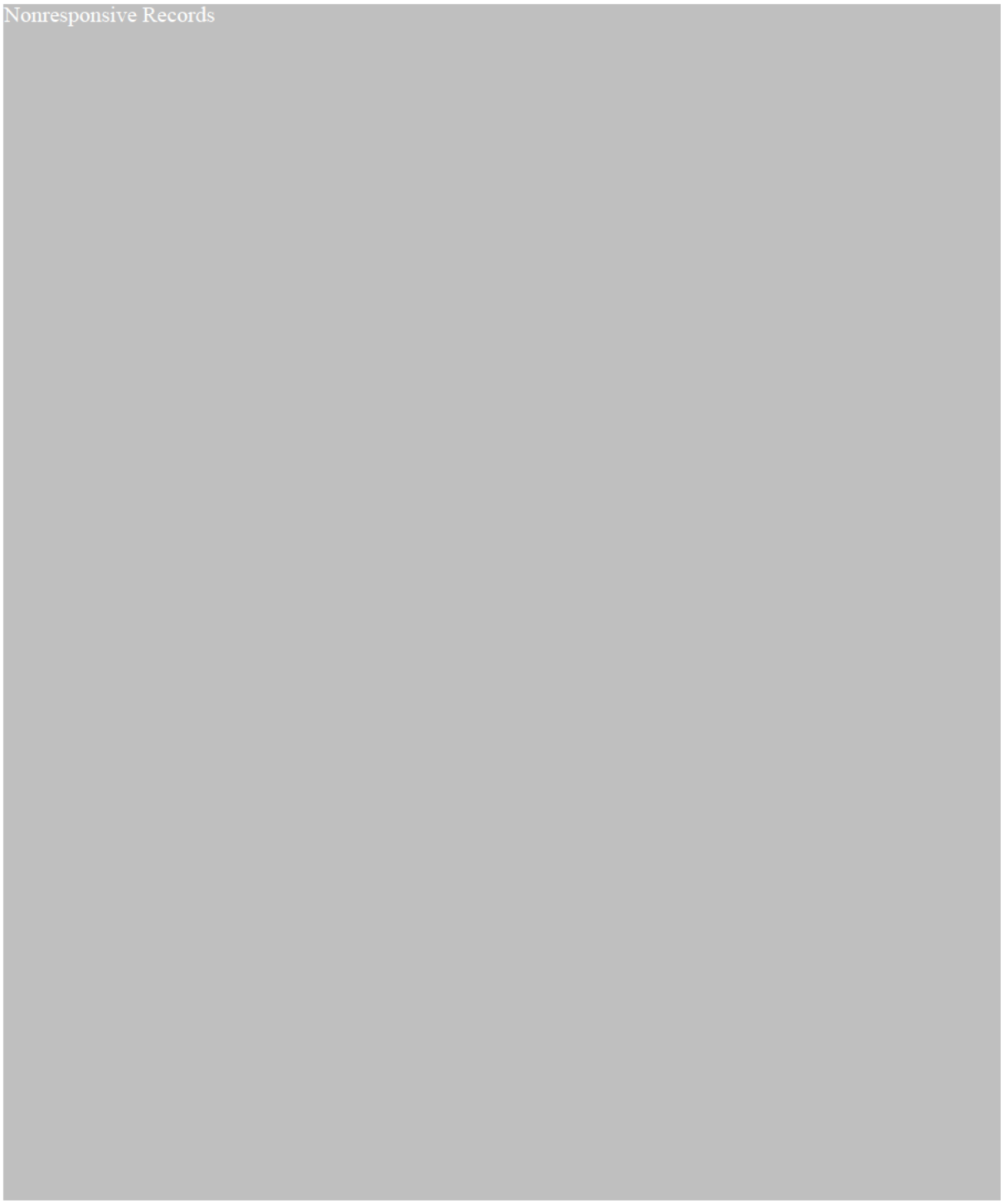
Can u or send someone to office tonight at 830?

Duplicative Material



Nonresponsive Records





Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Sarah Lynch

Hey. How come no one told me that the texts would be at doj yesterday??

9:42 AM

Sarah Lynch

Sarah - I am coming by later but I really hope we can avoid this in the future

9:51 AM

Me

Oversight on my part. I tried to get the outlets with overnight access and you're right that Reuters does but for some reason I thought it didn't.

10:11 AM

Sarah Lynch

Julia Harte might come by for me later. I think her hearing with end before Rod's.

10:11 AM

Sarah Lynch

In future def loop me in. We have 24 hour staffing around the globe

10:12 AM

Nonresponsive Records