

From: Woldemariam, Wintta M. (OLA)

Sent: Monday, November 03, 2014 1:40 PM

To: Brinck, Mike

Cc: Delaney, Bill

Subject: RE: Briefing Request

Hi Mike—

Thanks for speaking with me in response to your request below.

As I shared on the phone, based on the information I have received in response to your request, the Department of Justice takes no position concerning whether the employment matters you mention below should proceed or be stayed.

Sincerely,
Wintta

From: Brinck, Mike

Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2014 1:34 PM

To: Woldemariam, Wintta M. (OLA)

Subject: Briefing Request

Ms. Woldemariam – Thanks for taking my call. Per your request, I am formally requesting a briefing.

Background: an investigation by the House Veterans Affairs Committee uncovered widespread manipulation of appointment waiting lists at VA Medical Centers as well as significant fraud and abuse of the VA's personnel performance appraisal and bonus system. Foremost in our findings was the Phoenix VAMC headed by Ms Sharon Helman. As a result of our investigation and that of the VA OIG, the VA placed Ms Helman on paid administrative leave May 1, 2014. We are also informed that the VA OIG has provided information to DoJ.

Chairman Miller has publically questioned VA's delay in firing Ms Helman due to the evidence provided by the Committee as well as the VA OIG. The Department has responded that the DoJ has asked VA to defer any adverse personnel action against Ms Helman pending resolution of a DoJ criminal investigation.

Therefore, we request a briefing on the nature of the DoJ criminal investigation to understand what the potential impact of removing Ms Helman from Federal service would have on the DoJ investigation. We would greatly appreciate receiving the briefing not later than Wednesday Nov 4, 2014. My direct line at HVAC is

Thanks,

Mike Brinck
Deputy Staff Director
House Committee on Veterans Affairs
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