

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 2/5/2018 6:46:03 PM
To: Ex. 6
CC: Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b293283291dc44e0b5d1c36be9281d8a-Press]
Subject: RE: New Yorker magazine/request to interview Albert Kelly about Superfund

In regards to Kell, below are two on the record statements that you can use:

“Kell Kelly is a man of high integrity. During my time as CEO of the American Bankers Association, Mr. Kelly served as my chairman and helped lead the association through a difficult period following 2008 financial crisis; Administrator Pruitt is fortunate to have him,” said Frank Keating, former Oklahoma governor and former CEO of the American Bankers Association.

“Kell Kelly retired from Spirit Bank after 34 years serving as executive vice president and ultimately CEO to join EPA as Administrator Pruitt’s principal advisor leading an effort to finance and clean up the nation’s worst contaminated sites. Upon leaving, Spirit Bank requested that Kell remain on its board of directors which Kell declined due to full time employment in Washington, D.C. Spirit would confirm that at no point in Kell’s service did he take any action which threatened the bank. Kell has received full ethics and financial disclosure training as any EPA political appointee and senior official receives. I have personally known Kell for a number of years. EPA is fortunate to have him as part of our team. He has already contributed immensely to the Administrator’s agenda to speed up remediation timelines. He has already gained the respect of the EPA career staff, and being responsible for hiring political appointees at EPA, I was eager to report to Administrator Pruitt we had brought Kell on our team.” – Ryan Jackson, EPA Chief of Staff

From: Block, Molly
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 12:08 PM
To: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: New Yorker magazine/request to interview Albert Kelly about Superfund

Request below from New Yorker for interviews with Pruitt and/or Kell or written responses. Looks like they’re writing a long form piece on the Superfund Program. Thoughts?

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:49 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: New Yorker magazine/request to interview Albert Kelly about Superfund

Third Floor, let me know if I should send the Kel Kelly request to the program, or if you’ll handle.

Cheers, R.

From: margaret talbot Ex. 6
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 8:35 AM

To: Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>

Cc: Daguiard, Robert <Daguiard.Robert@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: New Yorker magazine/request to interview Albert Kelly about Superfund

Dear Enesta and Robert,

Yes, I have requests in for interviews with Mr. Kelly and with Administrator Pruitt.

My final deadline is February 16th.

I would be amenable to written responses.

Thank you,

Margaret

On Sat, Feb 3, 2018 at 6:30 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Margaret, I know you are still seeking an interview. Tricia's out on Monday, so if you are still interested, our colleague, Robert Daguiard, copied here, can see what can do to get you something. Or has your deadline passed? If the answer is no, what's the absolute latest you can wait?

Also, it would be good to know if you are amendable to written responses if an interview is not feasible within your timeframe.

Thanks,

Enesta

On Jan 8, 2018, at 7:29 AM, margaret talbot <[Ex. 6](#)> wrote:

Hello,

I'll be working on it for another week or so, and can wait a bit longer if necessary.

Will it be possible to get written answers to the questions I sent on November 17th and again on December 16th?

Thank you.

Margaret

On Thu, Jan 4, 2018 at 2:00 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Sorry we didn't meet your deadline of 12/29. Is it correct that we can consider this closed, Margaret?

On Dec 16, 2017, at 4:44 PM, margaret talbot <[Ex. 6](#)> wrote:

Thank you.

And my apologies for putting an "r" in your name in my last email!

On Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 4:14 PM, Jones, Enesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Margaret. Jan. 1st is New Year's Day — and our offices will be closed in observance. We will work toward being responsive to you by Fri., 12/29 — or sooner.

More from Tricia on Monday.

Have a great rest of the weekend,

Enesta

On Dec 16, 2017, at 3:59 PM, margaret talbot <[Ex. 6](#)> wrote:

Hi Ernesta,

Sure. And thank you.

Here are the questions I sent on November 17th (they are in email chain above but copied here): Obviously, the second one is no longer relevant.

--What role is he playing in the formulation of the top ten list of Superfund priority sites, and how would he define the factors and process for deciding on those?

--When will that list be ready?

--Given that his background is not in any area of environmental remediation or public health (as far as I know---please correct me if I'm wrong), what does he feel he brings to the table for his new role?

--What does he think are the major systemic problems with how the Superfund program has been run?

--How would he characterize his working relationships with career staff in the Superfund program?

--Can he comment on the FDIC penalty against him?

--Some of the local resident activists I've spoken to in St Louis (Just Moms) and in East Chicago, Indiana have spoken to me about what a good listener he has been and about his accessibility--giving me his cell phone number and so on. I wondered if he could comment on how he thinks about his approach with local residents.

My deadline is January 1st.

best,

Margaret

On Sat, Dec 16, 2017 at 3:35 PM, Jones, Ernesta <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Margaret,

Tricia is back in the office on Monday.

In case an interview is not possible, can you please send specific questions that we can address in writing — and your absolute firm deadline? And if it turns out that an interview is feasible, we can still use those questions as a basis for the discussion.

I know you mentioned that the “list” is out. In case you haven't seen the full press release, here it is: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-list-superfund-sites-targeted-immediate-intense-attention>

Thank you,
Ernesta

On Dec 16, 2017, at 2:11 PM, margaret talbot [Ex. 6] wrote:

Hi Tricia,

I have to wrap up reporting on this. Can you let me know one way or another whether Mr. Kelly will be available for an interview or can supply answers to the questions I sent?

Obviously, the question as to when the list will be ready is no longer relevant since it has been issued.

Thank you,

Margaret Talbot

On Thu, Dec 7, 2017 at 4:21 PM, margaret talbot [Ex. 6] wrote:

Thank you, Tricia. Any day, any time next week works.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 7, 2017, at 11:35 AM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Margaret—

I hope all's well. I'm just checking in to let you know that we still haven't been able to find a time to schedule the interview, but that we're still trying. I'm out of the office tomorrow, but my colleague, Enesta Jones, will keep an eye out. Otherwise I'll be back in touch as soon as we can schedule.

Thanks so much,

Tricia

From: margaret talbot [Ex. 6]
Sent: Friday, December 01, 2017 11:19 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: New Yorker magazine/request to interview Albert Kelly about Superfund

Thank you, Tricia.

On Fri, Dec 1, 2017 at 11:12 AM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Margaret.

I'm sorry to hear about your family emergency. Sending positive thoughts your way.

I'll let folks know about your deadline change and we'll see what we can work out.

Best,

Tricia

From: margaret talbot [Ex. 6]
Sent: Friday, December 01, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: New Yorker magazine/request to interview Albert Kelly about Superfund

Hi Tricia,

I was about to write to you to today to follow up, so I'm glad you got in touch.

I actually have to fly out to California for a family health emergency Monday afternoon, 12/4, but I would be available till about 1, either by phone or in person.

Also, because this situation has extended my deadline, any day the following week--the week of 12/11--is now also open.

Thank you,

Margaret

On Fri, Dec 1, 2017 at 9:57 AM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Margaret—

Thanks so much for your patience as we work to schedule. We're still working on this as he's been travelling quite a bit. I apologize, but we won't be able to make your 12/2 deadline. We can't promise Monday (12/4), but what sort of flexibility do you have for then?

Thanks so much,

Tricia

From: margaret talbot

Ex. 6

Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 12:18 PM

To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: New Yorker magazine/request to interview Albert Kelly about Superfund

Hi Tricia,

Thank you for your prompt reply. My questions are below.

My deadline is December 2nd.

--What role is he playing in the formulation of the top ten list of Superfund priority sites, and how would he define the factors and process for deciding on those?

--When will that list be ready?

--Given that his background is not in any area of environmental remediation or public health (as far as I know---please correct me if I'm wrong), what does he feel he brings to the table for his new role?

--What does he think are the major systemic problems with how the Superfund program is run?

--How would he characterize his working relationships with career staff in the Superfund program?

--Can he comment on the FDIC penalty against him?

--Some of the local resident activists I've spoken to in St Louis (Just Moms) and in East Chicago, Indiana have spoken to me about what a good listener he has been and about his accessibility--giving the his cell phone number and so on. I wondered if he could comment on his approach with local residents.

All best,

Margaret

On Fri, Nov 17, 2017 at 11:24 AM, Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Margaret—

Thanks so much for your inquiry. I'm happy to try to help set up an interview, though I do want to mention that they're not always available. If not, we can generally respond to questions in writing if that's helpful.

In either case, in order to begin I need two things from you: a list of your specific questions as well as your hard deadline. If you can forward those to me at your earliest convenience, I'll send them on for consideration.

Thanks again,

Tricia

Tricia Lynn

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. EPA

Office: 202.564.2615

From: margaret talbot [redacted] Ex. 6
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 7:49 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>
Subject: New Yorker magazine/request to interview Albert Kelly about Superfund

Dear Ms. Lynn,

I'm a staff writer at The New Yorker magazine and I am hoping to interview Mr. Kelly about the work of the Superfund task force.

Could you let me know if you can help me that?

Thanks so much,
Margaret Talbot