

# **IN DAYS BEFORE ROBERT MUELLER GOT HIRED, DOJ IMMEDIATELY FORWARDED BILL BARR'S OP-ED APPROVING OF COMEY'S FIRING TO ROD ROSENSTEIN**

Judicial Watch released another set of files, from the days leading up to his appointment of Robert Mueller, that they think are incriminating for stupid reasons that aren't.

There's two emails that might, actually, be damning. The very conservative former Deputy Attorney General Mark Filip emailed Rod Rosenstein asking him to call. Rosenstein answered, first, by saying that "Mukasey" was going to call, and imploring Filip to listen to him. That's scandalous in any case, because the son of Michael Mukasey (who was Filip's onetime boss) was representing affiliated players here. Then Rosenstein wrote back and seemed to tell Filip he was hiring Mueller. Was Filip the other candidate Rosenstein considered?

The more interesting detail is how DOJ treated Bill Barr's May 12, 2017 op-ed applauding Trump's decision to fire Jim Comey. In it Barr condemned how Comey handled the Hillary investigation, then said that his firing wouldn't affect the Russian investigation (but not addressing Trump's comments about that being the purpose of firing Comey).

Jeff Sessions' spox, who received it from the "RNC War Room," sent it to Rosenstein's office the morning after the op-ed was posted, during

the weekend he was contemplating hiring Mueller.

**Crowell, James (ODAG)**

**From:** Crowell, James (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 14, 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** Rosenstein, Rod (USAMD)  
**Subject:** Fwd: WaPo: Former attorney general: Trump made the right call on Comey

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Sarah Isgur Flores (b)(6)  
**Date:** May 13, 2017 at 10:36:07 AM EDT  
**To:** "Crowell, James (ODAG)" <james.crowell@usdoj.gov>, "Hunt, Jody (OAG)" <jody.hunt@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: WaPo: Former attorney general: Trump made the right call on Comey

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**From:** RNC War Room <Warroom@gop.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 13, 2017 10:16:22 AM  
**Subject:** WaPo: Former attorney general: Trump made the right call on Comey

**Former attorney general: Trump made the right call on Comey**  
Washington Post  
William Barr  
May 12, 2017 – 7:38 PM  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/former-attorney-general-trump-made-the-right-call-on-comey/2017/05/12/0e858436-372d-11e7-b4ee-434b6d506b37\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.58b498587127](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/former-attorney-general-trump-made-the-right-call-on-comey/2017/05/12/0e858436-372d-11e7-b4ee-434b6d506b37_story.html?utm_term=.58b498587127)

Having served as both attorney general and deputy attorney general in the Justice Department, I had responsibility for supervising the FBI, working on virtually a daily basis with its senior leadership. From that experience I came to understand how fortunate we are as a nation to have in the FBI the finest law-enforcement organization in the world — one that is thoroughly professional and free of partisanship. I offer this perspective on President Trump's removal of FBI Director James B. Comey.

But even before that, DAG employee (and current EDVA US Attorney) George Terwilliger forwarded it (though not the RNC War Room version) as well, telling Rosenstein it was the most important thing for him to read that weekend.

**Rosenstein, Rod (ODAG)**

**From:** Rosenstein, Rod (ODAG)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 12, 2017 10:57 PM  
**To:** Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG)  
**Subject:** Re: (If you only read one article between now and Monday) Fwd: Former attorney general: Trump made the right call on Comey

Thanks.

On May 12, 2017, at 10:55 PM, Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG) <zterwilliger@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

Sir,  
Have a great weekend. If you only read one article between now and Monday.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Zach Terwilliger (b)(6)  
**Date:** May 12, 2017 at 8:46:29 PM EDT  
**To:** <zachary.terwilliger2@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Former attorney general: Trump made the right call on Comey

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/former-attorney-general-trump-made-the-right-call-on-comey/2017/05/12/0e858436-372d-11e7-b4ee-434b6d506b37\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.5b691d71425c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/former-attorney-general-trump-made-the-right-call-on-comey/2017/05/12/0e858436-372d-11e7-b4ee-434b6d506b37_story.html?utm_term=.5b691d71425c)

At the very least, the close attention the op-ed (which largely parroted the ginned up reasons Rosenstein gave for firing Comey) received are

intriguing, as is the choice from the RNC War Room to send it out.

But it's also a hell of a way for Rosenstein to meet his future boss.