

Clinton-Lynch Airport Meeting: FBI Documents Released To Watchdog Group

By NWV Senior Political News Writer, Jim Kouri

“On June 27, 2016, Attorney General Loretta Lynch met with former President Bill Clinton on board a parked plane at Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting occurred during the then-ongoing investigation of Mrs. Clinton’s email server, and only a few days before she was interviewed the Justice Department and FBI. (Judicial Watch filed a request on June 30 that the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General investigate that meeting.)” – [Jill Farrell, Director of Communications, Judicial Watch.](#)

On Thursday, in the middle of a number of top news stories, a well-known watchdog organization released a 29-page Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) file directly related to the controversial June 27, 2016 Phoenix, Arizona, [airport tarmac tête-à-tête between then Attorney General Loretta Lynch and her boss’ predecessor former President Bill Clinton](#), according to Judicial Watch’s director of communications, Jill Farrell.



Perusal of these latest government documents reveals that then FBI Director James Comey and his underlings were more concerned about leaks of that meeting being reported in the media than the actual Lynch-Clinton meeting itself. The new documents also

show that then-FBI Director Comey seemed to learn of the meeting from news reports.

The [new documents](#) were obtained by Judicial Watch in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit filed after the Justice Department failed to comply with a July 7, 2016, FOIA request seeking:

- All FD-302 forms prepared pursuant to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's use of a private e-mail server during her tenure.
- All records of communications between any agent, employee, or representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding, concerning, or related to the aforementioned investigation. This request includes, but is not limited to, any related communications with any official, employee, or representative of the Department of Justice, the Executive Office of the President, the Democratic National Committee, and/or the presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton.
- All records related to the meeting between Attorney General Lynch and former President Bill Clinton on June

27, 2016.

These latest FBI documents show how the agency's officials were concerned about a leak that Bill Clinton delayed his aircraft taking off in order to "maneuver" a private meeting with his predecessor's attorney general. The breaking story in the *Observer* is seemingly confirmed and causes a flurry of emails about the source of the article.

FBI official(s) write "we need to find that guy" and that the Phoenix FBI office was contacted "in an attempt to stem any further damage." Another FBI official, working on AG Lynch's security detail, suggests instituting non-disclosure agreements. The names of the emails authors are redacted. There are no documents showing concern about the meeting itself.

The FBI officials appeared at first to be deceptive with Judicial Watch by claiming "they could not locate any records related to the tarmac meeting."

However, in a related legal action, the Justice Department claimed it located emails in which Justice Department officials communicated with the FBI and admitted that they had communicated with the FBI. As a result, by letter dated August 10, 2017, from the FBI officials stated, "Upon further review, we subsequently determined potentially responsive documents may exist. As a result, your [FOIA] request has been reopened...."

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Judicial Watch filed a request on June 30, 2016, that the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General investigate the suspiciously timed meeting between

the head of the government agency investigating a presidential candidate's suspected criminal acts and the candidate's husband who was a two-term POTUS.



"The tarmac meeting also came just days before former FBI Director James Comey held the July 5, 2016, press conference in which he announced that no charges would be filed against Mrs. Clinton.

In his subsequent, May 3, 2017, testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Comey claimed the Lynch-Clinton tarmac meeting was the "capper" among "a number of things" that had caused him to determine that Department of Justice leadership "could not credibly complete the investigation and decline prosecution without grievous damage to the American people's confidence in the justice system," Jill Farrell noted in her released statement.

"These new FBI documents show the FBI was more concerned about a whistleblower who told the truth about the infamous Clinton-Lynch tarmac meeting than the scandalous meeting itself," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "The documents show the FBI worked to make sure no more details of the meeting would be revealed to the American people. No wonder the FBI didn't turn these documents over until Judicial Watch caught the agency red-handed hiding them. These new documents confirm the urgent need to reopen the Clinton email scandal

and criminally investigate the resulting Obama FBI/DOJ sham investigation.”

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