

**From:** [David J. Apol](#)  
**To:** [Passantino, Stefan C. EOP/WHO](#)  
**Cc:** [Director of OGE](#)  
**Subject:** Calls regarding Nordstrom statements  
**Date:** Thursday, February 09, 2017 11:40:43 AM

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Stefan,

This email is to confirm the content of the two calls we had yesterday afternoon and this morning.

Walt and I initiated the discussion yesterday regarding the President's tweet concerning the decision of Nordstrom to stop carrying his daughter's line of products. During the call, we reiterated OGE's recommendation that the President should conduct himself as though he is covered by the Standards of Conduct, including 2635.702 (Misuse of Position). (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

After Kellyanne Conway encouraged the public to buy the products of the President's daughter this morning, you initiated a call to me. You expressed that you wanted to reassure OGE that, as the Counsel to the President for Ethics and Compliance, you will be taking appropriate action to address her conduct and that of the individuals we discussed yesterday. I thanked you initiating this call and for your reassurance. I also recommended that you counsel all White House staff regarding the misuse of position rule.

In light of the attention this issue has drawn and the volume of calls OGE is receiving, we discussed that OGE will need to be able to reassure the public that we are addressing this issue with you. You stated that you understood and did not want to interfere.

As I indicated in our phone call, we need you to follow up after you address this matter by informing OGE of whatever action you take. Please let me or Walt know as soon as possible what action is taken.

Dave

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