

# JW Releases FBI Documents On Clinton-Lynch Tarmac Meeting

## FBI concerned about preventing damage from leakers

Judicial Watch on November 30, 2017 released 29 pages of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) documents related to the June 27, 2016 tarmac meeting between former Attorney General Loretta Lynch and former President Bill Clinton. The documents show that FBI officials were more concerned about leaks than the actual meeting itself. The new documents also show that then-FBI Director James 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 (*Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of Justice* (No. 1:16-cv-02046)) filed after the Justice Department failed to comply with a July 7, 2016 FOIA request seeking:

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Former President Bill Clinton

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Tarmac

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“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 email 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.”

The new FBI documents show FBI officials were concerned about a leak that Bill Clinton delayed his aircraft’s taking off in order to

“maneuver” a meeting with the attorney general. The resulting story in the *Observer* seemingly confirmed, and it 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 to staunch the leaks. The names of the emails’ authors are redacted. There are no documents showing concern about the meeting itself.


The FBI originally informed Judicial Watch they could not locate any records related to the tarmac meeting. However, in a related FOIA lawsuit, the Justice Department located emails in which Justice Department officials communicated with the FBI and wrote that they had communicated with the FBI. As a result, an August 10, 2017 letter sent to Judicial Watch from the FBI stated:

“Upon further review, we subsequently determined potentially responsive documents may exist. As a result, your [FOIA] request

has been reopened...”

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 by 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.)

The tarmac meeting also came just days before former FBI Director James Comey held the July 5, 2016 press conference where he announced that no charges would be filed against Mrs. Clinton. In his subsequent, May 3, 2017 testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Comey said 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.”

“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/Justice Department sham investigation.” 

**FBI letter to Judicial Watch notifying JW its Clinton-Lynch tarmac meeting FOIA request had been reopened**

