



June 3, 2010

Mr. Jim Messina
Deputy Chief of Staff
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Messina,

Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009, apparently while serving as White House Political Director, Patrick Gaspard collected a \$37,191.00 salary as public affairs executive vice president for SEIU Local 1199.¹ As I am sure you are aware, there are very specific limitations on the outside earned income of Presidential appointees. Presidential appointees to full-time noncareer positions may “not receive any outside earned income for outside employment, or for any other outside activity, performed during that Presidential appointment.”² Covered noncareer employees, as defined by 5 C.F.R. Part 2636.303, may not “receive outside earned income attributable to that calendar year which exceeds 15 percent of the annual rate of basic pay for level II of the Executive Schedule”³ or \$26,955.00.⁴

To better understand this payment from SEIU Local 1199 to Patrick Gaspard, I am writing to request the following information:

1. Patrick Gaspard’s official employee classification and the rules for outside earned income that apply to this classification.
2. An explanation of Patrick Gaspard’s relationship with SEIU since January 1, 2009.

¹ SEIU United Health Care Workers EAS, Annual Report (Form LM-2), at 55 (April 6, 2010).

² 5 C.F.R. Part 2635.804(a).

³ 5 C.F.R. Part 2635.804(b).

⁴ Salary Table No. 2010 – EX, <http://www.opm.gov/oca/10tables/pdf/ex.pdf> (last visited on May 20, 2010).

Mr. Jim Messina
June 3, 2010
Page 2

3. An accounting of all payments or reimbursements from SEIU to Patrick Gaspard since January 1, 2009.
4. An explanation of services rendered to SEIU by Patrick Gaspard since January 1, 2009, including dates of services rendered and type of service rendered.
5. All records and communication to and from Patrick Gaspard referring or relating to SEIU since January 1, 2009.
6. Has the White House Ethics Office evaluated the legality of the \$37,191.00 payment from SEIU Local 1199 to Patrick Gaspard?

I respectfully request that you provide the requested information no later than June 17, 2010.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principle investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pursuant to House Rule X, the committee has authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time." This broad jurisdiction includes the oversight of Executive Branch operations and administrative functions.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Steve Castor or Marvin Kaplan at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member

Cc: The Honorable Edolphus Towns, Chairman