

John Murphy - NOAA Federal

From: John Murphy - NOAA Federal
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:18 PM
To: Louis Uccellini - NOAA Federal
Cc: George Jungbluth mary.erickson@noaa.gov kevin.cooley@noaa.gov Andrew Stern
Susan Buchanan Chris Vaccaro
Subject: Re: TIME SENSITIVE inquiry from WaPo

Louis

About to depart for trek to NWA. Have few hours when I get to ANC before red eye. Was on way back from Somoa when all this happened but my understanding was direction was given prior to understanding full sequence of events. Do not think Birmingham violated what NHC said but not 100% sure and hoping Andy knows. Recall Comms had gotten involved and talked directly to FO outside chain. Thanks

John

John

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 7, 2019, at 4:06 PM, Louis Uccellini - NOAA Federal <louis.uccellini@noaa.gov> wrote:

George et al Including Andy if John is still in the air: Need to work with Susan and Chris on this one. Louis

--

Dr. Louis W. Uccellini, Director
NOAA/National Weather Service
[1325 East West Highway](#)
[Silver Spring, MD 20910](#)
[301.713.9095](tel:301.713.9095)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Freedman, Andrew" <Andrew.Freedman@washpost.com>
Date: September 7, 2019 at 7:49:35 PM EDT
To: Christopher Vaccaro - NOAA Federal <christopher.vaccaro@noaa.gov>, Scott Smullen - NOAA Federal <scott.smullen@noaa.gov>, "louis.uccellini@noaa.gov" <louis.uccellini@noaa.gov>, "Itkowitz, Colby" <Colby.Itkowitz@washpost.com>, "susan.buchanan@noaa.gov" <susan.buchanan@noaa.gov>
Cc: "Samenow, Jason" <Jason.Samenow@washpost.com>
Subject: TIME SENSITIVE inquiry from WaPo

Hi NWS press folks and Director Uccellini,

This is for a Washington Post story **running imminently online and in print on Sunday.**

On Sept. 1 and again on Sept. 4, NWS personnel received a guidance not to provide opinions on national level social media posts in the media and to stick with NHC forecasts if questions arise about the posts.

Staff understood this to be a response to President Trump's Alabama comments and that they were essentially being told not to contradict the president.

Can you respond to this and explain the reason behind sending these dual directives?

Please send any responses to Colby and myself. I'm cc'ing Jason as well who has been working on this story.

Thank you and all the best,
-Andrew