

Salvador Hernandez

From: Salvador Hernandez
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:47 PM
To: julie.roberts@noaa.gov; scott.smullen@noaa.gov; christopher.vaccaro@noaa.gov
Subject: Mr. Neil Jacobs / BuzzFeed News Inquiry

Hi my name is Sal Hernandez and I'm a reporter with BuzzFeed News. I'm reaching regarding a story we are currently working on regarding Mr. Neil Jacobs and White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. According to sources we spoke to, Mr. Mulvaney threatened Mr Jacobs with firing political appointees at NOAA and to slash the agency's funding if it did not stop contradicting President Trump and disavow the tweet from the Birmingham National Weather Service that contradicted the president's claim that Hurricane Dorian was set to hit Alabama.

I understand the NYT reported Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross made the threat, but our sources indicate it had been Mr. Mulvaney who issued the directive.

I was wondering if NOAA, or Mr. Jacobs, had any statement or comment regarding these allegations? Could NOAA or Mr. Jacobs state or confirm whether this is an accurate depiction of the conversation that occurred between the White House chief of staff and Mr. Jacobs?

Can Mr. Jacobs or NOAA confirm whether Mr. Jacobs and Mulvaney spoke on Friday, prior to NOAA's statement issued that day, and what the context of that conversation was?

Does NOAA or Mr. Jacob have any comment or statement regarding whether or not it would be right for an administration to request the agency to support a President's statement, even when current models show the information is wrong?

Any help or direction would be greatly appreciated. I can also be reached via phone at the number below.

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