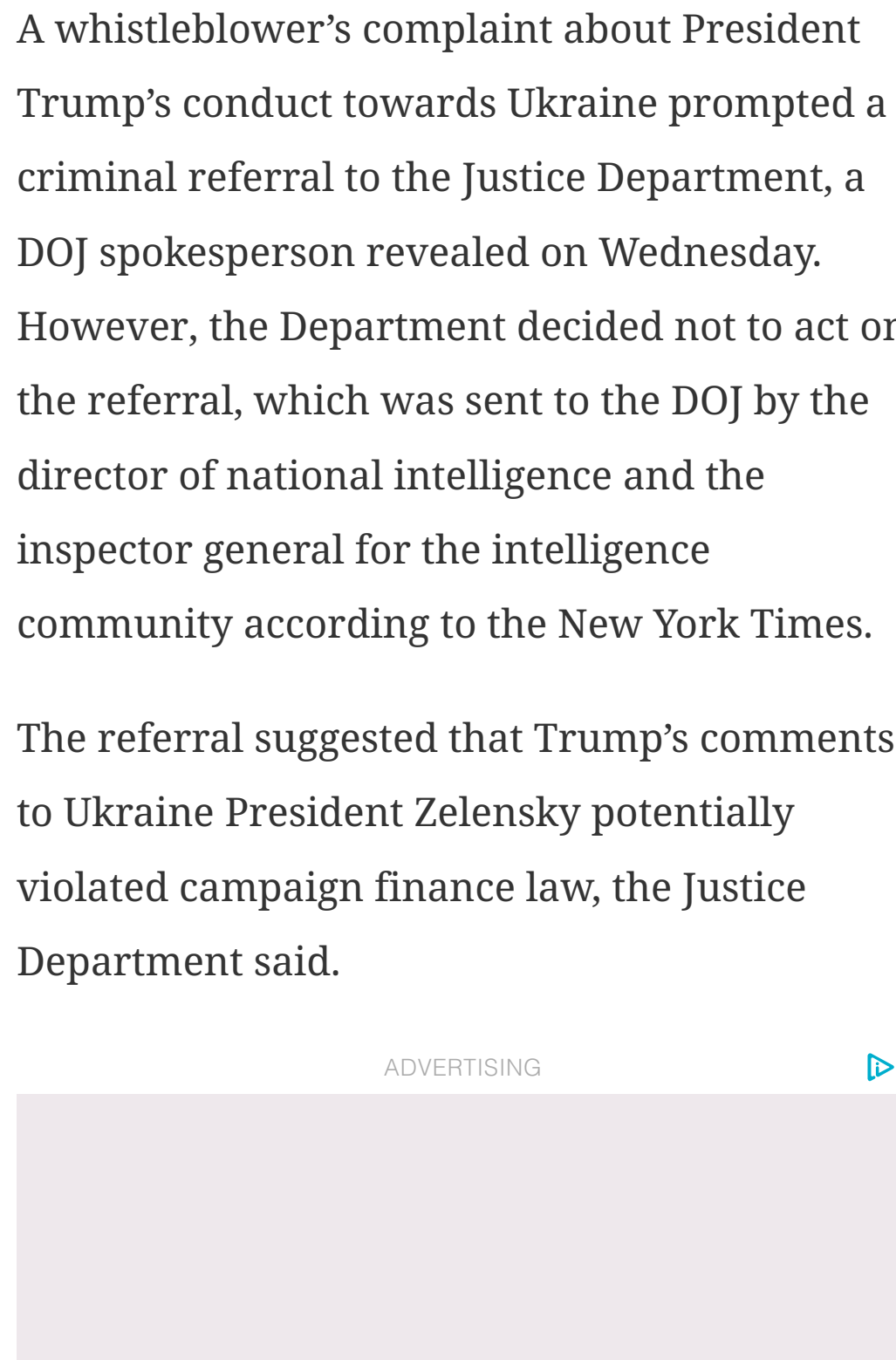


Latest

- Facing Angry Local Dems, Anti-Impeachment Rep. May Switch To GOP 5 hours ago
- State Dept. Spox Lobs Softballs To Ivanka In Interview At Packed International Conference 7 hours ago
- Lindsey Graham Is 'Not Trying To Pretend To Be A Fair Juror' In Trump Trial 9 hours ago

NEWS

DOJ Declined To Act On Criminal Referral In Trump's Ukraine Smear Campaign



WASHINGTON, DC - MAY 1: U.S. Attorney General William Barr testifies before the Senate Judiciary... [MORE](#)

By Tierney Sneed
September 25, 2019 10:31 a.m.

JOIN TPM FOR JUST \$1 →

A whistleblower's complaint about President Trump's conduct towards Ukraine prompted a criminal referral to the Justice Department, a DOJ spokesperson revealed on Wednesday. However, the Department decided not to act on the referral, which was sent to the DOJ by the director of national intelligence and the inspector general for the intelligence community according to the New York Times.

The referral suggested that Trump's comments to Ukraine President Zelensky potentially violated campaign finance law, the Justice Department said.

The Justice Department "reviewed the official record of the call and determined, based on the facts and applicable law, that there was no campaign finance violation and that no further action was warranted," the spokesperson Kerri Kupec said in statement.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the DOJ officials who were reviewing the referral did not include in their analysis of a potential campaign finance violation the suggestion that Trump withheld military aid from Ukraine as part of his pressure effort. DOJ officials, in their focus on the call record, determined that they could not identify a "thing of value" — a component of a campaign finance violation — that was discussed, BuzzFeed reported.

In the call, according to the White House record of it released Wednesday, Trump asked Zelensky to work with his lawyer Rudy Giuliani and Attorney General Bill Barr to investigate Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and Biden's son Hunter.

Kupec's statement Thursday also denied that Barr discussed the Ukraine matter with Giuliani.

"The President has not asked the Attorney General to contact Ukraine — on this or any other matter," she said.

Read the full statement below:

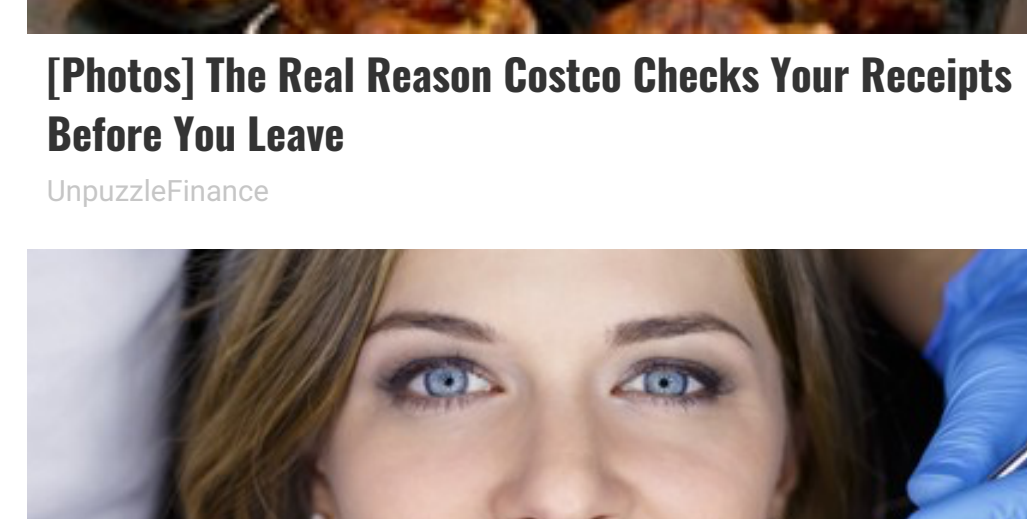
ADVERTISING

In August, the Department of Justice was referred a matter relating to a letter the Director of National Intelligence had received from the Inspector General for the Intelligence Community regarding a purported whistleblower complaint. The Inspector General's letter cited a conversation between the President and Ukrainian President Zelensky as a potential violation of federal campaign finance law, while acknowledging that neither the Inspector General nor the complainant had firsthand knowledge of the conversation. Relying on established procedures set forth in the Justice Manual, the Department's Criminal Division reviewed the official record of the call and determined, based on the facts and applicable law, that there was no campaign finance violation and that no further action was warranted. All relevant components of the Department agreed with this legal conclusion, and the Department has concluded the matter.

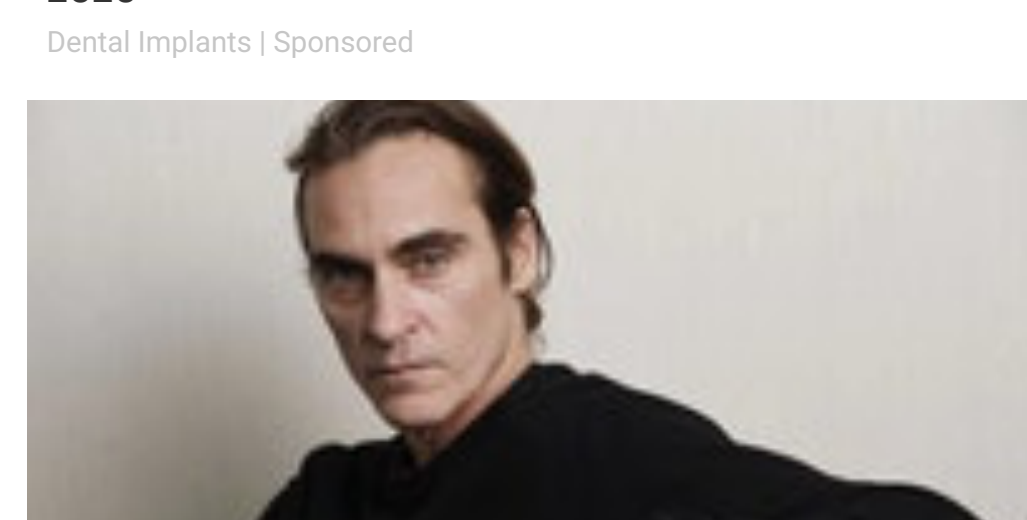
Correction: A previous version of this story mistakenly described the referral as coming from the Justice Department inspector general. It came from the director of national intelligence and the inspector general for the intelligence community.

includes: Department of Justice, Donald Trump, William Barr

Around The Web



3 Steps to Tell when a Slot is Close to Hitting the Jackpot
BuzzDaily Winners



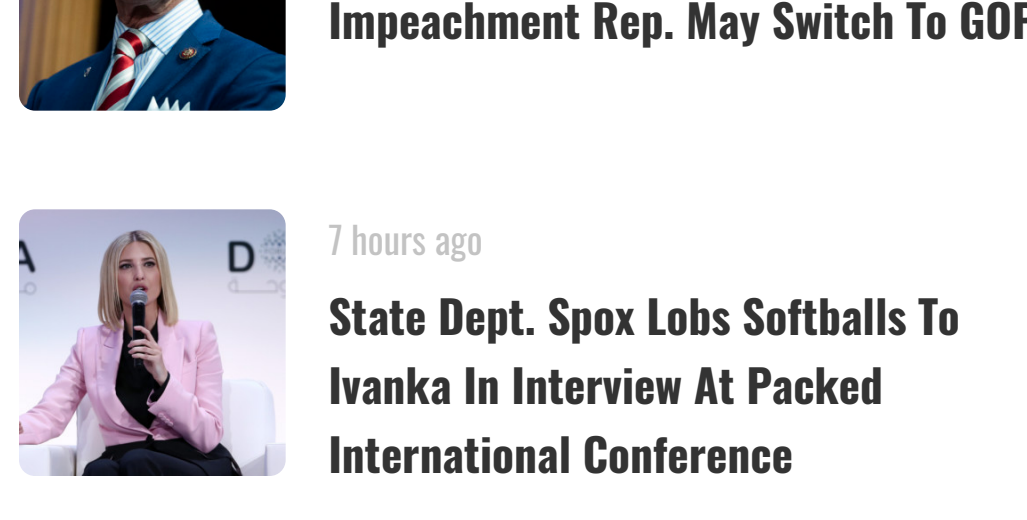
[Photos] The Real Reason Costco Checks Your Receipts Before You Leave
UnpuzzleFinance



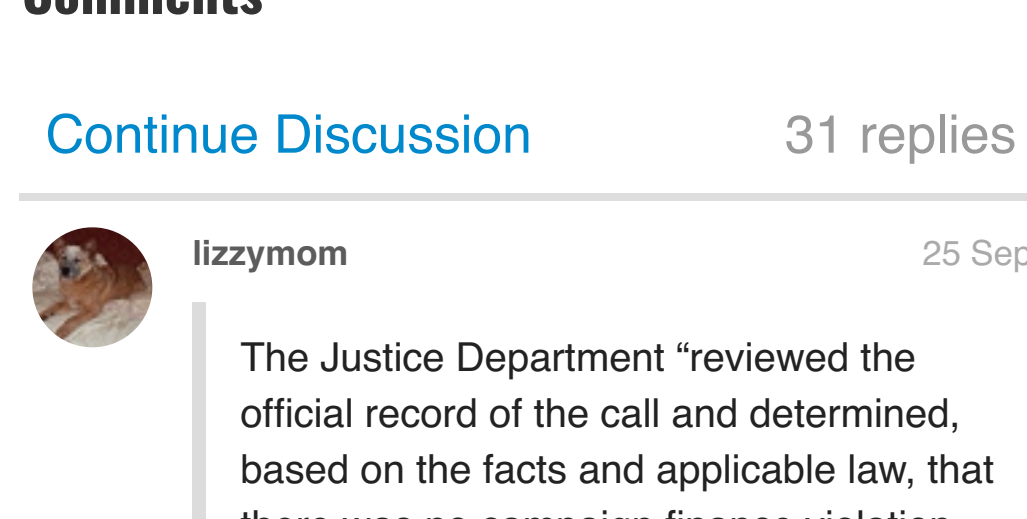
Here is What New Dental Implants Should Cost You in 2020
Dental Implants | Sponsored



The 30 Best Actors Of All-Time, Ranked
New Arena



District of Columbia: Say Bye To Your Mortgage If You Live Near Washington
Fetcharate



[Photos] Couple Confused When Photo Goes Viral, Till They See The Comments
CelebsPulse

More In News

Facing Angry Local Dems, Anti-Impeachment Rep. May Switch To GOP
5 hours ago

State Dept. Spox Lobs Softballs To Ivanka In Interview At Packed International Conference
7 hours ago

Lindsey Graham Is 'Not Trying To Pretend To Be A Fair Juror' In Trump Trial
9 hours ago

Comments

[Continue Discussion](#) 31 replies

lizzymom 25 Sep
The Justice Department "reviewed the official record of the call and determined, based on the facts and applicable law, that there was no campaign finance violation and that no further action was warranted," the spokesperson Kerri Kupec said in statement.
Hmmm...I detect the fat finger of LowBarr on the scale here.

rockittlla 25 Sep
Barr investigated himself and discovered that he did not commit a crime. Anyone can see that that's real justice.

txlawyer 25 Sep
This is beyond crazy. I am starting to think that, sooner or later, Mitch McConnell might lead a delegation over to the White House to tell Trump that it's all over. Surely they can't afford to have this criminal as next year's GOP candidate?
5 replies

bankerpup 25 Sep
Barr's a rat who's too stupid to abandon a sinking ship.

rickjones 25 Sep
In addition to reviewing the official record of the call, I wonder if Barr reviewed his own notes of his own conversations with Trump and the Ukrainians he was put in touch with to "get to the bottom of it."
Also got to wonder if Barr coordinated at all with Giuliani on this whole conspiracy.

jtx 25 Sep
Some clearance since the DOJ has determined that a sitting President can not be indicted. So there is nothing for them to do, case closed.

bankerpup 25 Sep
txlawyer:
Surely they can't afford to have this criminal as next year's GOP candidate?
GOP feature, not bug

steviedee111 25 Sep
"Kupec's statement Thursday also denied that Barr discussed the Ukraine matter with Giuliani."
Barr has also denied speaking to Trump about this, in the context of being tasked with starting a joint US-Ukraine investigation.
Yet I haven't seen whether Ukraine reaching out to Barr, per Trump's request, has been addressed or denied. Someone should ask Barr about that.

steviedee111 25 Sep
txlawyer:
Surely they can't afford to have this criminal as next year's GOP candidate?
During the campaign Trump was a self confessed perpetrator of past sexual assaults and it didn't impede his election.
1 reply

ignatius_donnelly 25 Sep
By next week we'll have a determination from Barr that a sitting president cannot be impeached, backed up by a John Yoo editorial in the Times.
1 reply

[Continue Discussion](#) 21 more **THE HIVE** replies

Masthead

FOLLOW TPM

SEND COMMENTS AND NEWS TIPS

ABOUT

CONTACT

CAREERS

FAQ

ADVERTISE

TERMS OF USE

SITE STATUS

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

PUBLISHED SINCE 2000

Talking Points Memo

© 2019 TPM MEDIA LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. PRIVACY POLICY