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## POLITICS

# Doubts Surface Over Giuliani-White House Budget Office Calls

Number associated with OMB is also linked to several other offices in the White House



It isn't known whom Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer, spoke with in the administration in the calls reflected in the logs, but Office of Management and Budget officials say it wasn't anyone on their staff. PHOTO: CHARLES KRUPA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

*By Andrew Restuccia and Rebecca Ballhaus*

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WASHINGTON—House Democrats earlier this week released records asserting that Rudy Giuliani was in contact with a phone number associated with the White House budget office, where \$400 million in aid to Ukraine was temporarily put on hold this summer.

That assertion, however, is now in doubt. The previously undisclosed phone number cited by the House Intelligence Committee in its impeachment inquiry report, which The Wall Street Journal has identified, isn't directly linked to the Office of Management and Budget. It could instead reflect phone calls from other parts of the White House, according to people familiar with the matter.

It isn't known whom Mr. Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer, spoke with in the administration in the calls reflected in the logs, but OMB officials say it wasn't anyone on their staff. A White House official had previously said the call logs don't align with the cellphone records of acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, who is also the budget office director.

A senior House Intelligence Committee official said the panels overseeing the impeachment probe are continuing to investigate the call records, including whether the number described as

However, call records show that the next day, on August 8, Mr. Giuliani connected with the White House Situation Room switchboard in the early afternoon, Eastern Time, for 42 seconds, and then again for one minute, 25 seconds.<sup>734</sup>

The same day, Mr. Giuliani texted several times with a number associated with the White House. The Committees were unable to identify the official associated with the phone number. In the mid-afternoon, someone using a telephone number associated with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) called Mr. Giuliani, and the call lasted for nearly 13 minutes. Mr. Giuliani called the OMB number and the White House Situation Room several more times that evening, but each time connected for only a few seconds or not at all.

*Rudy Giuliani Call History, August 8*

Date	Connecting Time (EDT)	Duration of Call	Caller	Recipient
08/08/19	12:44:56	0:42	Giuliani, Rudy	White House Switchboard (Situation Room) <sup>735</sup>
08/08/19	12:45:38	1:25	Giuliani, Rudy	White House Switchboard (Situation Room) <sup>736</sup>
08/08/19	13:02:37	TEXT	Giuliani, Rudy	White House Number <sup>737</sup>
08/08/19	13:02:37	TEXT	Giuliani, Rudy	White House Number <sup>738</sup>
08/08/19	13:02:57	TEXT	Giuliani, Rudy	White House Number <sup>739</sup>
08/08/19	14:14:53	TEXT	White House Number	Giuliani, Rudy <sup>740</sup>
08/08/19	14:15:17	TEXT	Giuliani, Rudy	White House Number <sup>741</sup>
08/08/19	14:21:13	TEXT	Giuliani, Rudy	White House Number <sup>742</sup>
08/08/19	15:13:05	12:56	OMB Number	Giuliani, Rudy <sup>743</sup>
08/08/19	15:56:44	0:00	Giuliani, Rudy	OMB Number <sup>744</sup>
08/08/19	15:56:51	0:00	Giuliani, Rudy	OMB Number <sup>745</sup>
08/08/19	15:57:05	0:00	Giuliani, Rudy	OMB Number <sup>746</sup>
08/08/19	15:57:21	0:22	Giuliani, Rudy	White House Switchboard (Situation Room) <sup>747</sup>
08/08/19	17:20:33	0:17	Giuliani, Rudy	White House Switchboard (Situation Room) <sup>748</sup>
08/08/19	19:14:48	0:00	Giuliani, Rudy	White House Switchboard (Situation Room) <sup>749</sup>

Approximately 30 minutes after his text to Mr. Giuliani on August 7, Ambassador Volker received a text message from Mr. Yermak: “Do you have some news about White House



Among the calls referenced in the Intelligence Committee's report was one between a supposed OMB number and Mr. Giuliani on Aug. 8 that lasted more than 12 minutes. Click or tap to read the whole impeachment inquiry report. HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

linked to OMB could also reference calls from elsewhere in the White House.

The official said the call records the committees obtained “identified a number that appears to be ‘associated with OMB’ based on public directories.” The official declined to provide further details about how the committees came to characterize the numbers, citing the continuing investigation.

Among the calls referenced in the Intelligence Committee’s report was one between a supposed OMB number and Mr. Giuliani on Aug. 8 that lasted more than 12 minutes. The call came a week after Mr. Giuliani met with a Ukrainian official and nearly a month after President Trump had ordered the aid to Ukraine frozen.

That number, along with the other references in the report to a number associated with OMB, all correspond to a placeholder number that shows up when officials in several White House departments make calls, according to people familiar with the matter. The people said the number shows up on the caller ID of individuals outside the White House when some White House officials call them from a landline.

The Intelligence Committee’s report set off media speculation that Mr. Giuliani was coordinating with the budget office about frozen aid to Ukraine, though the report didn’t

specifically allege any discussion of aid by the president’s lawyer.

Mr. Giuliani has denied knowing the aid was frozen until it became public. His efforts to push for investigations in Ukraine are at the center of the impeachment inquiry, which is closely examining his contacts with Ukrainian officials this year. Mr. Trump has dismissed the impeachment inquiry as a hoax.

“To date, the White House has refused to provide any information in response to a subpoena from the Committees that would clarify who in the White House spoke to Rudy Giuliani, even though the White House must know that information,” the senior House Intelligence Committee official said.

Meanwhile, some of the phone numbers described in the House report as a “White House number” or “White House Switchboard (Situation Room)” corresponded to the cellphone and landline numbers of Madeleine Westerhout, Mr. Trump’s former personal assistant, according to a senior aide working on the impeachment inquiry.

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Call logs subpoenaed by impeachment investigators showed Mr. Giuliani reached out to Ms. Westerhout’s numbers typically before and sometimes after being contacted by a number identified

as “-1.” Ms. Westerhout often acted as an intermediary for the president, connecting him with friends and advisers, and arranging calls on his behalf.

The White House and Ms. Westerhout, who left the White House in late August, declined to comment.

The number that the report described as associated with OMB is (202) 395-0000, people familiar with the matter said. That revelation expands the range of administration officials who could have called Mr. Giuliani to those in several White House offices, though not all of them. Calls from some White House landlines, including many in the National Security Council, show up simply as “202-” or “unknown.”

Landline phones in OMB’s offices in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building have “395” prefixes, which could explain why the committee believed the calls were originating from OMB. But landlines in other offices, including the U.S. Trade Representative’s office and the White House political affairs shop, also have “395” prefixes, according to administration officials.

The prefix, or the first three digits after the area code, of most landline phones in the White House complex is either “456” or “395.” The Journal was able to identify at least two phone numbers with “456” prefixes that nonetheless showed up on a reporter’s caller ID as “(202) 395-0000,” indicating that the placeholder number will appear regardless of the prefix.

The Journal tested officials’ claims by receiving calls from two White House landline phones that showed up as (202) 395-0000. Neither call originated from OMB’s offices.

Attempts to call that number are met with an automatic message saying the number isn’t in service. Each time Mr. Giuliani called the number identified as associated with OMB, the call didn’t appear to connect, according to the report.

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