

CAMPAIGN

FEC drops investigation into Trump hush money payments

BY JORDAN WILLIAMS - 05/06/21 9:16 PM ET

Share

Post



More



The Federal Elections Commission (FEC) has closed its investigation into whether former [President Trump](#) illegally made hush money payments to women prior to the 2016 election.

The FEC [voted 4-1](#) to close the inquiry after failing to find that Trump or his campaign “knowingly and willfully” violated campaign finance law when his former attorney [Michael Cohen](#) paid \$130,000 to porn star [Stormy Daniels](#) to keep her from disclosing an alleged affair.

Cohen was convicted in 2018 of lying to Congress, tax evasion and other charges relating to the payments to Daniels and other women. He served three years in prison.

His [attorney said](#) Cohen testified in court that the payment was made “for the principal purpose of influencing an election.”

The FEC’s Office of General Counsel issued a report [in December](#) finding that there was “reason to believe” that Cohen and the Trump campaign knowingly and willfully violated campaign finance law.

However, the FEC said that it failed by a 2-2 vote to prove any of the parties violated



punished criminally and the matter was “not the best use of agency resources.”

“The public record is complete with respect to the conduct at issue in these complaints, and Mr. Cohen has been punished by the government of the United States for the conduct at issue in these matters,” they said.

In a [separate statement](#), Democratic Commissioner Ellen Weintraub and Commission Chair Shana Broussard said the probe should have been continued after the general counsel said there was reason to believe campaign finance law was broken.

“To conclude that a payment, made 13 days before Election Day to hush up a suddenly newsworthy 10-year-old story, was not campaign-related, without so much as conducting an investigation, defies reality,” the commissioners wrote.

During an appearance on Cohen’s podcast “Mea Cupa” in February, Cohen [apologized to Daniels](#) for the “needless pain” that was caused involving the payments.

Daniels has since sued Trump for defamation over his denial of her allegations and the hush money payments.

—Updated Friday at 11:34 a.m.

TAGS DONALD TRUMP DONALD TRUMP FEC FEDERAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION
HUSH MONEY PAYMENTS MICHAEL COHEN STORMY DANIELS

Copyright 2024 Nexstar Media Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

SHARE

POST



MORE

SPONSORED CONTENT

[Privacy Policy](#)

Amazon's Worst Nightmare: Thousands Canceling Prime for This Clever Hack

[Online Shopping Tools](#) | Sponsored

[Learn More](#)



12 Dumb Things Adults Waste Their Money On Every Month (You're Guilty of Num. 7)

Your Penny Saver | Sponsored

Learn More

Average Cost to Charter A Private Jet May Surprise You (See Prices)

Travel Deals | Sponsored

Access All TV Channels Anywhere, Anytime

NovaWave | Sponsored

Shop Now

Neuropathy is not from Low vitamin B. Meet the Real Enemy of Neuropathy (Stop Doing This)

Health Benefits | Sponsored

This New Outlander Has Left Us Speechless

Frequent Searches | Sponsored

2024 Buick's Are Turning Heads

SUVs | Search Ads | Sponsored

Learn More

More Campaign News





Trump, Orbán discuss 'Peace mission 5.0' at Mar-a-Lago

CAMPAIGN / 11 MINS AGO



First-term Colorado Democrat calls on Biden to 'pass the torch'

HOUSE / 20 MINS AGO



Congressional Republicans break fundraising record

CAMPAIGN / 53 MINS AGO



Biden campaign seizes on reports Trump allies have declared election illegitimate

CAMPAIGN / 1 HOUR AGO

[See All](#)





RISING
THE HILL  **NATION ON EDGE**

Rising: July 11, 2024

RISING / 21 HOURS AGO



BREAKING

RISING
THE HILL  **PELOSI WEIGHS IN**



Rising: July 9, 2024

RISING / 3 DAYS AGO

[See all Hill.TV](#)

[See all Video](#)

Top Stories





Jeffries meets with Biden as discontent grows among House Democrats

HOUSE / 40 MINS AGO

[See All](#)



2 Ossoff votes with Republicans to block controversial Biden nominee

3 Jeffries meets with Biden as discontent grows among House Democrats

4 GOP bill to fund legislative branch fails on House floor

5 After Clooney's call to action, Hollywood heavy hitters eye the exits with ...

What Do You Think?

Loading survey...



**DON'T MISS A BRIEF.
SIGN UP FOR OUR DAILY EMAIL.**

Send



HILL

Resources

[THE HILL APPS](#)

[PEOPLE](#)

[RSS](#)

Other Areas

[GALLERIES](#)

[THE HILL JOBS](#)

[NATIONAL JOBS](#)

Contributors

[SUBMIT OPINION CONTENT](#)

Follow Us On



Get the App



SUBSCRIPTIONS

PRIVACY POLICY 06/27/2024

TERMS & CONDITIONS

CONTACT

ADVERTISE

SUBSCRIBE TO PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

NEWSNATION

BESTREVIEWS

NEXSTAR DIGITAL

JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY

DO NOT SELL OR SHARE MY PERSONAL INFORMATION

THE HILL 1625 K STREET, NW SUITE 900 WASHINGTON DC 20006 | 202-628-8500 TEL | 202-628-8503 FAX

© 1998 - 2024 NEXSTAR MEDIA INC. | ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

