

Request for comment in article about counterterrorism training held by Threat Knowledge Group

9 messages

Wed, May 18, 2016 at 9:45 PM

To: daelene.mix@denvergov.org

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am an investigative reporter for the independent news outlet Unicorn Riot. I am currently working on an article that I was hoping you could answer some questions for. My article will deal directly with the safety department and I would prefer to include the department's stance or comment on this topic.

An April 29 payment made by the Department of Safety to "Threat Knowledge Group" led me to learn about a "counterterrorism seminar" given to Denver area law enforcement by one Sebastian Gorka. You can see the payment here -

<https://www.denvergov.org/transparency/checkbook#/payees/threat-knowledge-group/0001319599?page=1&year=2016>

I have also attached to this email the purchase order for the training, obtained via CORA request for this story.

The fact that Mr. Gorka is apparently being paid to educate Denver area law enforcement raises some questions. I would be grateful if you could answer the following for me -

Which personnel from which ranks of which Denver agencies attended the counterterrorism training given by Mr. Gorka? Were city personnel paid to attend the training?

Which individual or department was responsible for booking Mr. Gorka for this event?

Sebastian Gorka is closely associated with the right-wing news outlet Breitbart.com, having been at one time given an editorial position by Breitbart staff. Should this payment to Mr. Gorka be understood as an implicit endorsement of Breitbart's neoconservative political stances by Denver area law enforcement? And/or is it your understanding that many Denver law enforcement may support the positions taken by Breitbart themselves in an unofficial, personal capacity?

Mr. Gorka has said in one of his talks (available on youtube) that "we need to take political correctness out of the threat assessment." Does the Denver Department of Safety share this view held by Mr. Gorka, who has been paid to provide training to the department?

Mr. Gorka is a self-described "counterinsurgency expert." Does the Denver Safety Department consider itself to be currently engaged in "counterinsurgency"? If so, what populations or "threats" constitute

the "insurgency" that the department is attempting to counter?

Earlier this year, Politico wrote that Mr. Gorka has been paid in the past by Donald Trump's presidential campaign. Was the Dept of Safety aware of this association at the time it booked Mr. Gorka's seminar? Is the individual working within the City of Denver responsible for setting up this event themselves a supporter of Donald Trump's presidential campaign?

I would like to publish this article by this upcoming monday. I will wait for your comment until then. If we do not hear from you, we will publish that we reached out to you for comment but did not receive comment. If we hear from you after monday, we will update the article to include your comment.

thank you for your time,

 **PO_DISPATCHA.pdf**
28K

Mix, Daelene D. - MOS <Daelene.Mix@denvergov.org>

Fri, May 20, 2016 at 5:19 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: PIO - DPD <DPDPIO@denvergov.org>, "Dulacki, Mary J. - MOS" <Mary.Dulacki@denvergov.org>

Below please find responses to your questions. I have penned them to include the Denver Police Department, as I understand you sent the same inquiries to its PIO team, which is copied on this email.

Regards,

Daelene Mix | Strategic Advisor & Communications Director
Department of Public Safety | Director's Office | City and County of Denver
daelene.mix@denvergov.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 3:45 PM

To: Mix, Daelene D. - MOS <Daelene.Mix@denvergov.org>

Subject: Request for comment in article about counterterrorism training held by Threat Knowledge Group

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am an investigative reporter for the independent news outlet Unicorn Riot. I am currently working on an article that I was hoping you could answer some questions for. My article will deal directly with the safety department and I would prefer to include the department's stance or comment on this topic.

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[0001319599?page=1&year=2016](#)

I have also attached to this email the purchase order for the training, obtained via CORA request for this story.

The fact that Mr. Gorka is apparently being paid to educate Denver area law enforcement raises some questions. I would be grateful if you could answer the following for me -

Which personnel from which ranks of which Denver agencies attended the counterterrorism training given by Mr. Gorka? Were city personnel paid to attend the training?

A: Personnel from all ranks of the Denver Police Department attended the training. Personnel were not paid beyond their normal compensation to attend the training.

Which individual or department was responsible for booking Mr. Gorka for this event?

A: The Denver Police Department scheduled the training.

Sebastian Gorka is closely associated with the right-wing news outlet Breitbart.com, having been at one time given an editorial position by Breitbart staff. Should this payment to Mr. Gorka be understood as an implicit endorsement of Breitbart's neoconservative political stances by Denver area law enforcement?

A: No. The Denver Police Department/Department of Safety does not make inquiry into the political views or associations held by individuals hired for training.

And/or is it your understanding that many Denver law enforcement may support the positions taken by Breitbart themselves in an unofficial, personal capacity?

A: The Denver Police Department/Department of Safety does not make inquiry into the political view of its employees.

Mr. Gorka has said in one of his talks (available on youtube) that "we need to take political correctness out of the threat assessment."

Does the Denver Department of Safety share this view held by Mr. Gorka, who has been paid to provide training to the department?

A: The Denver Police Department/Department of Safety does not take a position on the political views held by any individual.

Mr. Gorka is a self-described "counterinsurgency expert." Does the Denver Safety Department consider itself to be currently engaged in "counterinsurgency"? If so, what populations or "threats" constitute the "insurgency" that the department is attempting to counter?

A: No

Earlier this year, Politico wrote that Mr. Gorka has been paid in the past by Donald Trump's presidential campaign. Was the Dept of Safety aware of this association at the time it booked Mr. Gorka's seminar?

A: The Denver Police Department/Department of Safety does not make inquiry into the political view or associations held by individuals hired for training.

Is the individual working within the City of Denver responsible for setting up this event themselves a supporter of Donald Trump's presidential campaign?

A: The Denver Police Department/Department of Safety does not make inquiry into the political views of its employees.

[Quoted text hidden]

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 1:53 AM

To: "Mix, Daelene D. - MOS" <Daelene.Mix@denvergov.org>

Cc: PIO - DPD <DPDPIO@denvergov.org>, "Dulacki, Mary J. - MOS" <Mary.Dulacki@denvergov.org>

Ms. Mix,

Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions. I have a few follow ups:

Who specifically within DPD booked this seminar? Was it booked by a specific unit within the department, such as the Joint Terrorism Task Force?

Best,

[Quoted text hidden]

Mix, Daelene D. - MOS <Daelene.Mix@denvergov.org>

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 8:25 PM

To:

Cc: PIO - DPD <DPDPIO@denvergov.org>, "Dulacki, Mary J. - MOS" <Mary.Dulacki@denvergov.org>

Staff from the Training Academy booked the seminar.

Regards,



Daelene Mix | Strategic Advisor & Communications Director

Department of Public Safety | Director's Office | City and County of Denver

daelene.mix@denvergov.org

From:

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 7:54 PM

To: Mix, Daelene D. - MOS <Daelene.Mix@denvergov.org>

Cc: PIO - DPD <DPDPIO@denvergov.org>; Dulacki, Mary J. - MOS <Mary.Dulacki@denvergov.org>

Subject: Re: Request for comment in article about counterterrorism training held by Threat Knowledge Group

[Quoted text hidden]

Fri, May 27, 2016 at 1:10 AM

To: "Mix, Daelene D. - MOS" <Daelene.Mix@denvergov.org>

Cc: PIO - DPD <DPDPIO@denvergov.org>, "Dulacki, Mary J. - MOS" <Mary.Dulacki@denvergov.org>

Ms. Mix,

One last clarification- was the seminar given to cadets in training at the Academy, or current sworn officers, or both?

Thank you for fielding these questions. I appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,

[Quoted text hidden]

Mix, Daelene D. - MOS <Daelene.Mix@denvergov.org>

Fri, May 27, 2016 at 4:34 PM

Cc: PIO - DPD <DPDPIO@denvergov.org>, "Dulacki, Mary J. - MOS" <Mary.Dulacki@denvergov.org>

Current sworn officers received the training.

Regards,



Daelene Mix | Strategic Advisor & Communications Director
Department of Public Safety | Director's Office | City and County of Denver
daelene.mix@denvergov.org

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 7:11 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Sun, May 29, 2016 at 6:42 AM

To: "Mix, Daelene D. - MOS" <Daelene.Mix@denvergov.org>

Cc: PIO - DPD <DPDPIO@denvergov.org>, "Dulacki, Mary J. - MOS" <Mary.Dulacki@denvergov.org>

Ms. Mix,

Thank you very much for answering all my questions.

[Quoted text hidden]

Mix, Daelene D. - MOS <Daelene.Mix@denvergov.org>

Tue, May 31, 2016 at 4:36 PM

To [Redacted]

You're welcome, [Redacted]



Daelene Mix | Strategic Advisor & Communications Director
Department of Public Safety | Director's Office | City and County of Denver
daelene.mix@denvergov.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2016 12:42 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED]
Draft To: "Mix, Daelene D. - MOS" <daelene.mix@denvergov.org>

Wed, Jun 1, 2016 at 7:04 PM

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