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Anchorage, Alaska

January 23, 2009

Attorney General Office
1031 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501-1994

To Attorney General Talis Colberg:

Please consider this ethics complaint naming governor's office employee Bill McAllister and what appear to be violations of the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act.

AS 39.52.120, Misuse of official position states that a public officer may not use, or attempt to use, an official position for personal gain, and may not intentionally secure or grant unwarranted benefits or treatment for any person. A public officer may not use or authorize the use of state funds, facilities, equipment, services, or another government asset or resource for partisan political purposes; ... in this paragraph, "for partisan political purposes" means having the intent to differentially benefit or harm a candidate or potential candidate for elective office; or political party or group.

Bill McAllister used his official position and state time, property and resources to benefit Sarah Palin's personal and political interests unrelated to state business. Following are some examples.

Travel documents show McAllister left for Minnesota and was on duty September 1 - 5, 2008 to provide staff support to the governor regarding state business while she attended the Republican National Convention. Payroll documents reflect that McAllister didn't take leave during that time.

A September 4, 2008 Anchorage Daily News article reports that state staffers followed Palin to Minnesota to attend the national republican convention. McAllister is quoted as saying that he doesn't get into national politics because they are working on state time, and that they're strictly working on state business, not campaign business. *"I don't get into national politics democrats versus Republicans," he said speaking of his own role.*

(Anchorage. Daily News, Palin staffers follow Palin to St. Paul <http://www.adn.com/politics/story/515514.html>)

Yet, an August 27, 2008 e-mail describes, among other things, McAllister's on-going collaboration with Republican National Committee convention staff:

Subject: current media itinerary in Minnesota
To: gov.Sarah@yahoo.com; Perry, Kristina Y (GOV); Mason, Janice L (GOV); Leighow, Sharon W (GOV)
From: "McAllister, William D (GOV)" </O=SOA/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=WDMCALLISTER>
Cc: Burkert, Erin E (GOV)

--The convention itself is requesting you to act as a surrogate for McCain for national media. Available blocs of time, daily, are 5-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Within those, they ask when you might be available for this purpose.

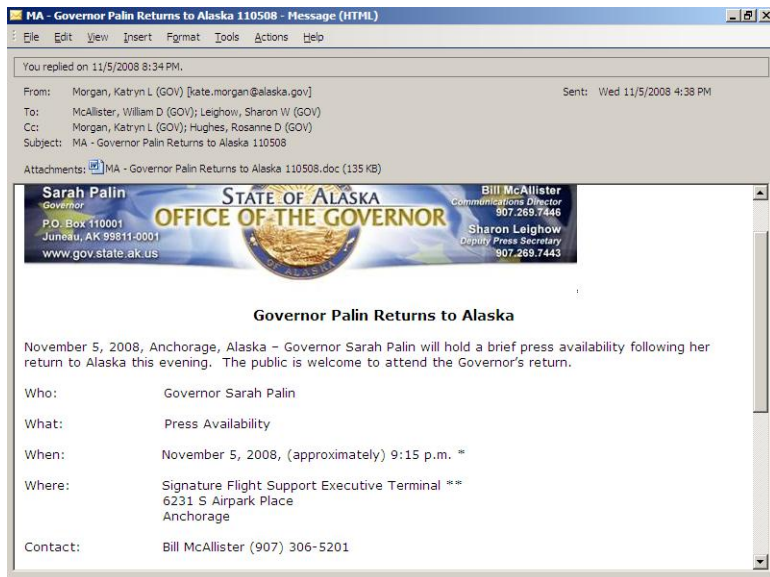
Anchorage Daily News, Before the Storm-Palin e-mails from Aug. 27th <http://community.adn.com/adn/node/136346>

Here is McAllister commenting on Alaska's KTUU news coverage on September 2nd wearing his official Palin communication's director hat speaking of partisan things although he was only to provide state-related staff support and was not to involve himself in republican convention activities:



"She's been in long, long briefings working on foreign policy, beginning to work on her speech she'll be delivering here when she accepts the nomination," said Bill McAllister, the governor's communications director. "It's a very intense operation. The McCain folks definitely know what they want. They're working with her all day long on various aspects of how this is going to go." McAllister said that Palin is feeling good and ready for

Wednesday night. It's going to be a friendly crowd here and the audience will likely embrace the governor." KTUU, Palin set to speak to millions <http://www.ktuu.com/global/story.asp?S=8941924>



On November 5th, the governor's press office sent out this notice, although this was clearly a partisan political event as evidenced by Palin, her family and others disembarking from the McCain/Palin jet.

This article contains a video of VP candidate Sarah Palin, her family and others disembarking from the McCain/Palin jet the night of November 5th with Palin/McCain spokesperson Meghan Stapleton alongside as Palin discusses her recent campaign experiences and other state and federal partisan political campaign issues. Clearly, this is campaign related and not state related.

Anchorage Daily News, Sarah Palin's Homecoming <http://community.adn.com/adn/node/134082>

After this event, there were numerous other instances where McAllister was present as Sarah Palin continued to discuss the recent national campaign and her very politically partisan experiences as republican vice-presidential candidate while on state property and on the state clock. Another ethics complaint is before you on that issue. However, McAllister failed in his duty to prohibit such partisan political discussions and events from happening on state property using state resources on state time. Henning ethics complaint, <http://community.adn.com/sites/community.adn.com/files/Henning%20Ethics%20Complaint.pdf>

Has a strategy been developed to separate Palin's personal conflicts of interests with her governor's role when it comes to calls for interviews? Apparently not since this appeared in an article: *"McAllister said he's not just getting calls from bookers; he's been getting personal requests from some of the people who want her on their shows."* Recent quotes from McAllister indicates this still to be the case as, more and more, McAllister acts in the role of Palin's personal public relations person. ADN, GOP governor's to get a look at Palin: interviewers line up <http://www.adn.com/sarah-palin/story/585042.html>

Recently, McAllister involved himself in partisan campaign related activities by mixing it up with a newly-announced 2010 gubernatorial candidate Bob Poe.

KTUU reports McAllister's response to Poe's intent to run for governor in a January 7, 2009 newscast: *"But a Palin spokesman says the governor has been putting her foot forward with state issues since returning from the campaign trail. 'It is unfortunate that Mr. Poe would claim, counter to the obvious facts, that the governor is putting national political aspirations above her role as chief executive of the state,' Palin administration spokesman Bill McAllister. 'Since the election, the governor has spent less than a day out of state attending to partisan politics, and has rejected literally hundreds of invitations to appear on national television and radio programs and in the country's foremost magazines and newspapers.'"*

KTUU, Democrat Bob Poe announces plan to run for governor <http://www.ktuu.com/global/story.asp?S=9636610>

KTUU reports McAllister's response to Poe's official announcement in a January 8, 2009 newscast:



"Poe says Palin is too focused on her own aspirations and not enough on the business of the state. But Palin's spokesman says that's not true. 'The governor is here has been gone a mere five days in the past two months,' Palin spokesman Bill McAllister said. 'Since the election, she has been in Alaska, is working, is focused, and doesn't need a nudge from Bob Poe to do it.' Poe also criticized Palin's handling of the gas pipeline, ... That's not true either, McAllister said. 'We have a defined project, we have a developer, we have a

license, we have a process, it is ludicrous to say that is not closer than we have ever been,' McAllister said." KTUU, Poe makes official announcement to run for governor <http://www.ktuu.com/global/story.asp?s=9643759>

January 9, 2009, a Juneau Empire/Associated Press and Anchorage Daily News article again has McAllister weighing in on what is clearly a campaign related issue: *"Palin spokesman Bill McAllister said it was presumptuous of Poe to comment on the internal workings of the administration. 'He doesn't know what he's talking about,' McAllister said.' McAllister rejected Poe's criticism that Palin's absences have hurt the state. Other governors, including George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, ran for national office while running their states. Since the election, Palin has been out of the state for five days and she's devoted less than one day to political activity despite numerous requests, McAllister said. As for the natural gas pipeline process....McAllister wondered if Poe wanted a return to closed negotiations and giveaways. 'I don't see any evidence that that's what the public wants,' McAllister said."*

AP Former commissioner looks to challenge Palin in 2021 http://juneauempire.com/stories/010909/sta_375556134.shtml

Anchorage Daily News, Poe vs. Palin <http://community.adn.com/adn/node/136411>

January 9, 2007, McAllister on Eddie Burke radio show discussing Bob Poe. Did McAllister call in while on the state clock using state phones or did he call during his break using his personal phone?

Gov. Palin Spokesperson Bill McAllister on Palin's Gubernatorial Rival Bob Poe

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1w4IFCL4AuM>

Here are other examples of McAllister using state resources, time and equipment for Palin's personal and private family matters, and carry-over from Palin's tenure as VP candidate vis-à-vis the media.

Governor Welcomes her First Grandchild <http://gov.state.ak.us/archive.php?id=1593&type=1>

Governor Says There You Go Again <http://gov.state.ak.us/archive.php?id=1598&type=1>

“Palin, who was not at the church at the time of the fire, stopped by Saturday. According to McAllister, Palin told an assistant pastor she was sorry if the fire was connected to the “undeserved negative attention” the church has received since she became the vice presidential candidate Aug. 29.” <http://www.newsminer.com/news/2008/dec/14/palins-burned-out-church-holds-services-elsewhere/>

A pattern emerges that signifies a national public relations strategy with an eye on Palin’s future political aspirations, and conflicts with Alaska’s and Alaskans’ interests.

Here’s an example of a press release highlighting Palin’s international expertise.
Governor Welcomes International Diplomats <http://gov.state.ak.us/archive.php?id=1595&type=1>

Even though Palin’s interests on national issues conflicts with her sworn duty to represent Alaska’s and Alaskans’ interests, McAllister keeps her in the national spotlight by releasing press releases highlighting Palin speaking to national issues and appealing to Americans, rather than Alaskan issues that appeal to Alaskans.

“We also have to be mindful about the effect of the stimulus package on the national debt and the future economic health of the country. We won’t achieve long-term stability if we continue borrowing massive sums from foreign countries and remain dependent on foreign sources of oil and gas,” Governor Palin said. Governor Notes Limits on Stimulus Package <http://gov.state.ak.us/archive.php?id=1601&type=1>

“Americans, please contact Congress and ask that all options stay on the table as we formulate our needed energy plan. Remind politicians about their promises to increase domestic oil and gas production.” Governor Issues Statement on ANWR Legislation <http://gov.state.ak.us/archive.php?id=1603&type=1>

Based on these facts, Bill McAllister violated the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act. He improperly used and continues to use his position and state resources to serve Sarah Palin’s present and future personal interests and gains. McAllister conducted partisan political activities that benefit Sarah Palin’s state and national partisan political interests and not the interests of the Alaska or its people.

The Scope of ethics code states:

...that each public officer holds office as a public trust, and any effort to benefit a personal or financial interest through official action is a violation of that trust;

...standards of ethical conduct for members of the executive branch need to distinguish between those minor and inconsequential conflicts that are unavoidable in a free society, and those conflicts of interests that are substantial and material.

The definitions of the ethics code states that “benefit” is defined as anything that is to a person’s advantage or self-interest, or from which a person profits, regardless of the financial gain...

I’m requesting that the Alaska Personnel Board investigate Bill McAllister’s misuse of official position and abuse of state time, property and resources for purposes unrelated to state interests, but rather to Sarah Palin’s present and future personal interests.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this.

Sincerely,