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Twitter's top ranks riddled with ex-FBI employees

Twitter Files: FBI Kept Busy Censoring Conservatives Instead Of Chasing Crooks

FBI Targeted Right Side Broadcasting Network

- Republicans Demand Answers After Latest Batch Of Twitter Files
- Poll: Two-Thirds of Voters Believe Social Media Engaged In Politically-Motivated Censorship And Demand Congressional Action

By lon Levine



More than a dozen former feds flocked to the company in the months and years prior to Elon Musk's purchase of the social network in October. Twitter

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Twitter's top ranks were riddled with ex-FBI agents and executives, stitching the company even closer to the federal agency now under fire for leaning on Twitter to meddle in the 2020 elections.

More than a dozen former feds flocked to the company in the months and years prior to Elon Musk's purchase of the social network in October.

The Post found FBI influence was considerably more significant than just James Baker, the FBI's former general counsel who later worked in the same role for Twitter. He was recently fired by Musk for interfering in the billionaire's efforts to come clean about past transgressions at the company.

In some cases, the former G-men and -women held positions that would have put them close to company leadership directly involved in censoring The Post's Hunter Biden coverage in October 2020.



Baker was the FBI's former general counsel who later worked in the same role for Twitter. Ron Sachs – CNP

Matthew Williams spent more than 15 years with the FBI, working mostly out of Seattle, where he served most recently as an intelligence program manager and senior supervisory intelligence analyst.

Williams joined Twitter in June 2020 — the <u>same month as Baker</u> — as a "senior director of product trust," according to his Linkedln. In June 2022 he moved into a more expansive position as "senior director of product trust, revenue policy, counsel systems & analytics at Twitter." He noted this made him "co-lead of Trust & Safety."

Twitter staff before the Musk takeover were famously liberal, with 99% of employee campaign donations heading to Democratic candidates. Williams gave small but consistent amounts to Democrats running for federal office during his years at the company, Federal Election Commission records show.



Matthew Williams joined Twitter in June 2020 after spending more than 15 years with the FBI.

Twitter Files Part 7 Released... The FBI & The Hunter Biden Laptop

Dawn Burton, a former federal prosecutor who served as deputy chief of staff to FBI boss James Comey, joined Twitter in September 2019 as director of strategy and operations and counsel organization, according to her <u>LinkedIn</u> and <u>Bloomberg</u>.

As a Comey insider, Burton would have been close to the agency's Hillary Clinton email investigation as well as it's probe into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. elections She continued to serve in her role after Comey's ouster in May 2017 and the appointment of Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

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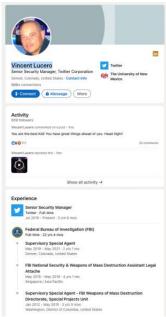
1. @elonmusk, Your new company @Twitter has many ex FBI/CIA agents in high ranks. Should probably do a little housecleaning.



9:31 PM · Dec 6, 2022

9,245 Retweets 2,324 Quote Tweets 21.1K Likes

A tweet calls on Musk to investigate former FBI agents in Twitter's ranks Twitter @nameredacted247



This LinkedIn profile shows the history of an employee who leapt from the FBI to Twitter LinkedIn Vincent Lucero

Advertisement

She also donated to Democrats. Burton left Twitter in July, before Musk's takeover, and now works at Google.

<u>Jeff Carlton worked for the FBI, CIA</u> and as an intelligence officer for the US Marines before joining Twitter in May 2021. His <u>now deleted LinkedIn</u> account says he led "Twitter's Strategic Response Team of 50+ employees/agents in resolving the highest-profile Trust & Safety escalation," which served to promote "healthy public conversations." In November 2021, <u>he</u> <u>donated \$100</u> to California Democratic House candidate Will Rollins.

Twitter's Trust and Safety team was lead by Yoel Roth, the now disgraced former company censor and an architect of the platform's expansive shadow-banning efforts. During the run-up the the 2020 presidential, Roth had regular meetings with the FBI, which he joked about, according to troves of internal communications recently released by Musk.



During the run-up the the 2020 presidential, Roth had regular meetings with the FBI.

"I was told in these meetings that the intelligence community expected that individuals associated with political campaigns would be subject to hacking attacks and that material obtained through those hacking attacks would likely be disseminated over social media platforms, including Twitter," said Roth in a Dec. 21, 2020, declaration to the Federal Election Commission. "I also learned in these meetings that there were rumors that a hack-and-leak operation would involve Hunter Biden."

Critics bashed the unholy alliance between Twitter and the FBI.

"A direct conduit between former FBI people and currently serving FBI people is part of the value Twitter's old regime was buying," said Jim Hanson, president of WorldStrat, an information warfare analysis and consulting firm. "They wanted that access, and that air cover and the FBI was willing to do some of the normal things they should do — like watching for crime and terrorism — but also using Twitter as a means of silencing dissent and attacking political opponents."

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), who will take over the House Judiciary Committee next year, has promised a sweeping probe into the politicization of the FBI, which will include Big Tech's censorship and suppression of The Post's Hunter Biden reporting.



Kevin Michelena did more than 12 years as an FBI intelligence analyst before coming to Twitter. linkedin

"I have concerns about whether the government was running a misinformation operation on We the People. We want to try to get to the bottom of Baker, but any other FBI people who were [at Twitter] is also a concern, and this is something we've got to look at," Jordan told The Post.

Kevin Michelena did more than 12 years as an FBI intelligence analyst before coming to Twitter to work as a "Senior Corporate Security Analyst" in July 2021.

Among his responsibilities were to "Partner with Software Engineering to create and optimize security products" and "Collaborate with public policy and site integrity leads to ensure policies are properly implemented, which has mitigated risk to users from identified threat actors," according to his LinkedIN, which has since been heavily redacted.

What do you think? Post a comment.

Michael Bertrand spent 23 years with the FBI working in counterterrorism, internal investigations and as chief of staff to the agency's top leaders. He joined Twitter in January.

Bertrand, an attorney, was responsible for "proactively and reactively lead[ing] teams to assess and manage global incidents and crises affecting Twitter's employees, offices and reputation," according to his LinkedIN.



Karen Walsh spent more than 20 years at the FBI before joining Twitter in March 2020. linkedin Karen Walsh

Karen Walsh spent more than 20 years at the FBI as a special agent focused on "Public-Private Sector Outreach." She joined Twitter as director of corporate resilience in March 2020.

Doug Hunt joined Twitter as a "senior director" after spending 20 years with the FBI as a supervisory special agent. Vincent Lucero also did more than two decades in the same role before joining Twitter in July 2019 as a "Senior Security Manager."

Mark Jaroszewski became a director of corporate security in August 2018 after doing his own two decades as a supervisory special agent with the FBI. In a 2018 FBI press release the agency noted his job was "focused on helping the FBI create strategic, mutually beneficial relationships with the private sector." He also began donating to Democrats after joining Twitter.

Twitter Files bombshell as emails show even chief censor feared the FBI was breaking the law helping US intelligence engage in domestic operations: Yoel Roth was 'uncomfortable' being grilled over 'state propaganda'



NEW Journalist Matt Taibbi, who released the first batch of internal files about the Hunter saga earlier in December, posted emails showing the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force wanted info about state-run media's use of the site. Taibbi dubbed this release 'Twitter Files Supplemental' and seemed to wonder why the agency was unsatisfied with the idea that it 'had not observed much recent activity from official propaganda actors.' Even Yoel Roth, the former 'Twitter censor' who was forced to flee after Elon Musk shared part of his thesis which suggested letting children access gay hook-up app Grindr, was uncomfortable with the FBI's requests

https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/faculty-research/case-studies/obama-power-social-media-technology

Obama and the Power of Social Media and Technology

In early 2007, Barack **Obama** was a little-known senator running for president against Democratic nominee ...

https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2017/01/did-america-need-a-social-media-president/512405/

Obama Was Too Good at Social Media - The AtlanticPresident Obama has been called the "first social-media president." It's both a true and a misleading characterization. On the one hand, ...

 $\underline{\text{https://www.cnbc.com/2022/04/21/obama-calls-for-tech-regulation-to-combat-disinformation-on-internet.html}$

Obama calls for tech regulation to combat disinformation on internet

Former President Barack Obama criticized social media companies for contributing to polarization through design choices on their platforms.

https://techcrunch.com/2022/04/21/obama-stanford-speech-misinformation/

Obama says social media is 'well designed' to destroy democracies

Throughout an hourlong speech, Obama framed misinformation, harassment and other issues that plague social networks as the result of platforms
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_media_use_by_Barack_Obama_
Social media use by Barack Obama - Wikipedia
Barack Obama won the 2008 United States presidential election on November 4, 2008. During campaign, by using social media and mobilizing the general public
https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2022-04-21/la-ent-obarna-disinformation-stanford_
Obama argues unregulated social media is a threat to democracy
Apr 21, 2022 In a Stanford speech, former President Barack Obama said it's 'time to pick a side' on whether social media platforms should be regulated.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/04/22/social-media-ballooned-under-obama-can-he-now-help-rein-it/
Social media ballooned under Obama. Can he now help rein it in?
One lawmaker leading efforts to regulate social media said the remarks as China's government tries to control a coronavirus outbreak.
https://fortune.com/2020/10/01/barack-obama-social-media-facebook-twitter-youtube-dividing-americans/
Obama: Social media is isolating and dividing Americans - Fortune
Former U.S. President Barack Obama said the Internet and social media has helped isolate the American people and aided in perpetuating their
https://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/10/business/media/10carr.html
Have Observe Toward Into Control Not worked Province
How Obama Tapped Into Social Networks' Power

There's every reason to believe that President-elect Barack **Obama** will use his **network** of supporters not just to campaign, but to govern.