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From: "Jarrett, Valerie" <valerie_jarrett@who.eop.gov>
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Politico (Epstein): After Gripes, Congressional Black Caucus Says Meeting with Obama Satisfied

From: Lewis, Kevin S.
Sent: Tuesday, July 09, 2013 01:28 PM
To: DL-WHO-Press; Abraham, Yohannes; Aniskoff, Paulette; August, Hannah; Bates, Andrew J.; Bhowmik, Rachana; Branch, Katherine Y.; Carney, Jay; Cobbina, Awenate; Cunnane, Pat; DL-WHO-MediaAffairs; Earnest, Joshua R.; FN-WHO-FirstLadyPress; Foster, Heather; Frye, Jocelyn; Gilson, Shannon; Gray, Danielle; Gwin, Michael (Intern); Hankins, Hannah R.; Inouye, Shin; Isaac, Nicole M.; James, Jewel; Jarrett, Valerie; Lee, Jesse C.; Lee, Marisa; McDonough, Denis R.; Monteiro, D. Paul; Munoz, Cecilia; Palmieri, Jennifer; Pfeiffer, Dan; Richardson, Karen E.; Robinson, Tonya; Rosholm, Joanna; Rouse, Peter M.; Russell, Racquel; Samuels, Jonathan D.; Schake, Kristina; Simas, David M.; Valencia, Stephanie M.; Vargas, Katherine; Zarzuelo, Diana; Dorsainvil, Monique
Cc: Samuels, Jonathan D.; Isaac, Nicole M.; Fernandez, Micaela
Subject: Politico (Epstein): After Gripes, Congressional Black Caucus Says Meeting with Obama Satisfied

Fudge: "I've been the chair about six months, and the request we made to the president [for a meeting] has been answered. I am pleased," she said. "I think that the lines of communication have not only been open but will actually, we will have broader and deeper discussions as a result of our meeting today."

<http://www.politico.com/politico44/2013/07/after-gripes-congressional-black-caucus-says-meeting-167872.html>

After Gripes, Congressional Black Caucus Says Meeting with Obama Satisfied

Politico – Jennifer Epstein – July 9, 2013

The Congressional Black Caucus went more than two years without a meeting with President Barack Obama and, during that time, often complained that he wasn't paying enough attention to black Americans.

But, on Tuesday, after spending an hour and a half with Obama, the CBC had few complaints as they spoke to reporters outside the White House.

Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio), the caucus's chair, said the meeting wasn't contentious. "No, I don't believe so. I mean, certainly there are some obvious differences in how we think things should go forward and the way that the White House wants them to move forward. But we are on the same page.

The members, Fudge said, did not bring up the fact that their last group meeting with Obama

was in May 2011, as she tried to downplay the once simmering tensions between black members of Congress and the first black president.

"I've been the chair about six months, and the request we made to the president [for a meeting] has been answered. I am pleased," she said. "I think that the lines of communication have not only been open but will actually, we will have broader and deeper discussions as a result of our meeting today."

The conversation began with a discussion of the Supreme Court's recent ruling rejecting a key piece of the Voting Rights Act, and also included discussion about programs aimed at helping low-income Americans, including Promise Neighborhoods and student loans.

Though some in the CBC has publicly aired their concerns that there were too few African Americans in the president's second-term Cabinet, Fudge said she was satisfied with Obama's eventual picks to lead the Transportation Department and the Federal Housing Administration. "I thanked the president for Anthony Foxx and for Mel Watt," she said.

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