

7 COMMENTS



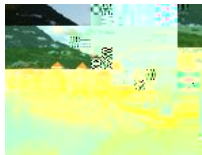
election in which Christie, eyeing a presidential bid, was trying to rack up bipartisan support.

The state's conflict-of-interest law and ethics codes specify that state time and resources cannot be used in pursuit of political activities.

At a recent news conference, Christie said "clear instructions were sent throughout the administration that if you wanted to volunteer time for our campaign or for any other campaign . . . that that had to be done during your free time."

"I think those lines were fairly clear," he said.

On Tuesday, lawmakers pressed Renna, former director of the intergovernmental affairs office (IGAHe(IGA3-6.hihede)-1.2(6.2(ter)-5.5a)-5.3(w)-7-5.5dutde.tffe-6.hihrsnrue-7-5.5du2(6.2(



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"mandatory directives" not to return phone calls quickly from certain mayors.

On Tuesday, Renna objected to the firm's use of "mandatory directives." She also denied the existence of a "hands-off mayors list" - a phrase another staff member used in a text message.

"The directive was never, 'Don't return this mayor's phone call,'" Renna said. "IGA conducted proactive outreach . . . that's what this meant. Let's pull back on the proactive outreach."

The summaries of the 75 interviews conducted by Gibson Dunn - which laid blame for the closures on Kelly and David Wildstein, a former official of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, while clearing Christie of wrongdoing - include several additional mentions of possible overlapping of government and campaign work.

Another IGA staffer told Gibson Dunn lawyers he remembered Kelly saying "that she had to check with 'Bridgewater' - meaning the campaign or [campaign manager Bill] Stepien - before approving certain things."

Stepien had served as deputy chief of staff for intergovernmental affairs before joining Christie's campaign in April 2013. He also ran Christie's 2009 campaign.

According to an e-mail provided to the committee by Renna, in January 2013, Stepien e-mailed Kelly and another IGA

staffed by former campaign workers with political backgrounds.

"It's the nature of the job. Mayors are also political," the staffer said.

But it was not past practice for office staff to also work on securing endorsements from mayors, the former staffer said.

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Inquirer Trenton Bureau

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