



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

December 1, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives  
2132 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives  
2056 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graham, Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Feinstein, and Ranking Member Jordan:

On May 13, 2019, I directed John Durham, U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut, to investigate certain intelligence and law-enforcement activities surrounding the 2016 presidential election. Although I had expected Mr. Durham to complete his work by the summer of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as additional information he uncovered, prevented him from doing so. In advance of the presidential election, I decided to appoint Mr. Durham as a Special Counsel to provide him and his team with the assurance that they could complete their work, without regard to the outcome of the election.

Accordingly, on October 19, 2020, I appointed Mr. Durham with the powers and authority of a Special Counsel under the regulations of the Department of Justice. *See* 28 C.F.R. §§ 600.4–600.10.

I am providing this notification pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 600.9(a)(1), having previously determined that it was in the public interest to toll notification given the proximity to the presidential election.

Sincerely,

William P. Barr  
Attorney General



**Office of the Attorney General**  
**Washington, D. C. 20530**

ORDER NO. 4878-2020

**APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE MATTERS RELATED TO  
INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND INVESTIGATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE 2016  
PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS**

On May 13, 2019, I directed United States Attorney John Durham to conduct a preliminary review into certain matters related to the 2016 presidential election campaigns, and Mr. Durham's review subsequently developed into a criminal investigation, which remains ongoing. Following consultation with Mr. Durham, I have determined that, in light of the extraordinary circumstances relating to these matters, the public interest warrants Mr. Durham continuing this investigation pursuant to the powers and independence afforded by the Special Counsel regulations. Accordingly, by virtue of the authority vested in the Attorney General, including 28 U.S.C. §§ 509, 510, and 515, in order to discharge my responsibility to provide supervision and management of the Department of Justice, and to ensure a full and thorough investigation of these matters, I hereby order as follows:

(a) John Durham, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, is appointed to serve as Special Counsel for the Department of Justice.

(b) The Special Counsel is authorized to investigate whether any federal official, employee, or any other person or entity violated the law in connection with the intelligence, counter-intelligence, or law-enforcement activities directed at the 2016 presidential campaigns, individuals associated with those campaigns, and individuals associated with the administration

of President Donald J. Trump, including but not limited to Crossfire Hurricane and the investigation of Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III.

(c) If the Special Counsel believes it is necessary and appropriate, the Special Counsel is authorized to prosecute federal crimes arising from his investigation of these matters.

(d) 28 C.F.R. §§ 600.4 to 600.10 are applicable to the Special Counsel.

(e) Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 600.9(b), I have determined that the notification requirement in 28 C.F.R. § 600.9(a)(1) should be tolled until at least after the November 3, 2020 election because legitimate investigative and privacy concerns warrant confidentiality.

(f) In addition to the confidential report required by 28 C.F.R. § 600.8(c), the Special Counsel, to the maximum extent possible and consistent with the law and the policies and practices of the Department of Justice, shall submit to the Attorney General a final report, and such interim reports as he deems appropriate, in a form that will permit public dissemination.

10/19/20  
Date

W.P. Barr  
William P. Barr  
Attorney General