



Top spokeswoman for Foxx quits post

Director of external affairs departs amid fallout over Smollett case

BY MEGAN CREPEAU
Chicago Tribune

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's chief spokeswoman has left her post amid the fallout over the office's abrupt dismissal of all charges against "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett.

The sudden departure comes as a document dump earlier this week revealed that the office was

largely caught flat-footed by the massive negative response to the stunning reversal to let Smollett walk despite allegedly staging an attack on himself.

Office spokeswoman Tandra Simonton confirmed that Kiera Ellis, who held the title of director of external affairs, was no longer with the office. Simonton declined to elaborate, including on whether Ellis had been fired or when she

left.

Ellis, who joined the office in October, had been on the job and answering text messages from a Tribune reporter as recently as Thursday. But calls to her Friday went unanswered.

Shortly before 5 p.m., however, she sent an email addressed to colleagues with the subject line "Thank you and let's stay in touch!"

"Working with Kim and the State's Attorney's Office was the opportunity of a lifetime," Ellis wrote. "It has been an absolute honor to serve the people of Cook County. I've left to pursue another exciting opportunity, which I will share with you soon."

Ellis' departure comes as two other high-level Foxx deputies submitted their separate resignations, both effective May 3.

April Perry, a former federal prosecutor who was brought on as Foxx's chief ethics officer, is taking

a job as general counsel for a tech startup, according to an internal email from Foxx obtained by the Chicago Tribune.

Mark Rotert, a longtime criminal defense lawyer who held federal and state posts before that, acknowledged in a telephone interview that he is stepping down after almost two years leading the office's Conviction Integrity Unit, which reviews alleged wrongful convictions.

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Trump fuming over staff testimony

Democrats subpoena Mueller report amid impeachment calls

BY JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a dramatic departure from the upbeat public face the White House had put on it just 24 hours earlier, President Donald Trump lashed out Friday at current and former aides who cooperated with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, rejecting the deeply unflattering picture they painted of him and his administration.

Meanwhile, Democrats intensified their investigation of the president as the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee issued a subpoena Friday for Mueller's full report although leaders stopped short of demands by the party's liberal wing for impeachment proceedings.

In a series of angry tweets from Palm Beach, Fla., Trump laced into those who, under oath, had shared with Mueller their accounts of how Trump tried numerous times to squash or influence the investigation and portrayed the White House as infected by a culture of lies, deceit and deception.

"Statements are made about me by certain people in the Crazy Mueller Report, in itself written by 18 Angry Democrat Trump Haters, which are fabricated & totally untrue," Trump wrote, adding that some were "total bullshit & only given to make the other person look good (or me to look bad)."

On Thursday, the president had celebrated the findings in the redacted report as full exoneration and his counselor Kellyanne Conway called it "the best day" for Trump's team since his election.

While the president, according to people close to him, did feel vindicated by the report, he also felt betrayed by those who had painted him in

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ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Cristina Pacheco, left, and Elida Arriaga, girlfriend of Pacheco's son, pack clothing and medicines for Luis Ugalde-Pacheco after arriving at Jerome Combs Detention Center in Kankakee on Thursday.

Diagnosed with cancer, now deported to Mexico

BY ELVIA MALAGON
Chicago Tribune

The family of Luis Ugalde-Pacheco worried that he would die in immigration custody. Now they fear he will die in a country he barely knows.

Ugalde-Pacheco, 28, who was recently diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, was deported to Mexico on Friday, according to his attorney. He'd called Chicago's southwest suburbs home since he was about 7 years old when he came to the United States illegally with his father, said Lourdes Cristina

Luis Ugalde-Pacheco, suffering from non-Hodgkin lymphoma, called Chicago area home since age 7

Pacheco, his mother.

In March, he was placed into the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which began deportation proceedings. That was after he completed a two-year prison sentence for felony convictions of intimidation and aggravated battery for threatening and pushing a woman.

It was at the end of that prison stint that he was diagnosed with cancer, according to

medical records provided by his attorney. Since then, his advocates have fought for him to receive medical treatment for his lymphoma, which they say ICE did not provide.

But their efforts shifted abruptly this week when they learned that ICE planned to swiftly deport him to Mexico, which apparently happened on Friday, though the immigration agency did not confirm that.

Thursday, his mother and his

girlfriend, Elida Arriaga, rushed to Kankakee County Jail, where ICE was holding Ugalde-Pacheco, to drop off a bag of clothing for him. His mother — worried about where exactly her son will end up and whether she will see him again — shed tears outside the jail.

She said she's been scrambling to find any relative in Mexico who can help her son once he arrives. The family is originally from Temascalcingo, more than 600 miles south of the U.S. border. Ugalde-Pacheco

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Brother of missing Crystal Lake boy in DCFS custody

Police investigating home of 5-year-old last seen Wednesday

BY AMANDA MARRAZZO AND ROBERT MCCOPPIN
Chicago Tribune

The whereabouts of a 5-year-old Crystal Lake boy remained unknown Friday, a day after he was reported missing, but police said their investigation was focusing on his home and that they don't believe he was abducted.

Late Friday afternoon, a team of police in about seven vehicles pulled up to the house and went inside. At least one of them said, "Crystal Lake police. We got a search warrant."

Some of them later came back outside but then returned into the

house carrying unfolded boxes. Later in the evening, police could be seen leaving the home.

In another development late Friday afternoon, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services said it has had contact with the family of the boy, Andrew "AJ" Freund, since he was born in 2013 with opiates in his system.

DCFS continued having contact off and on until late 2018, a spokesman said. A younger son was placed in DCFS custody, officials said.

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Andrew Freund



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

After being placed in DCFS custody, the younger brother of Andrew "AJ" Freund was at the Crystal Lake police station Friday.

BASEBALL

Sox flap fallout; Cubs remain hot

■ White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson and manager Rick Renteria were fined and suspended one game by Major League Baseball on Friday for their roles in an on-field scum Wednesday, which came soon after Anderson's home-run bat flip against the Royals.

■ Kyle Hendricks pitched seven shutout innings on a cold, windy day Friday afternoon at Wrigley Field, earning his first win of the season in the Cubs' 5-1 victory over the Diamondbacks. By getting their fourth straight win the Cubs (9-9) climbed back to .500.

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Tom Skilling's forecast High 64 Low 38

Chicago Weather Center: Complete forecast on back of Chicago Sports

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