Is Walker the political candidate referenced in an FBI agent's affidavit related to the indictment of Russian operative Maria Butina? Spokesperson also refused to deny whether Walker staff has been contacted.

MILWAUKEE, WI - In new reporting by Patrick Marley and Molly Beck at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Scott Walker's spokesperson Brian Reisinger refused to confirm or deny whether Walker is the political candidate referenced in an FBI agent's affidavit related to the indictment of Russian operative Maria Butina.

Reisinger further refused to confirm or deny whether members of Walker's staff have been contacted by the FBI in relation to Butina, although he denied that Walker was personally contacted by the FBI.

Excerpt:

"Walker met the woman, Maria Butina, at a National Rifle Association meeting in 2015 as he prepared to launch his short-lived run for the GOP presidential nomination. She later attended his campaign kickoff in Waukesha.

"An affidavit from an FBI agent alleges a "Russian official" requested that Butina write a brief

report about a political event she was to attend. The filing does not include the name of the politician or the names of groups she was allegedly trying to infiltrate.

"The next day, Butina wrote a report that "included descriptions of her speaking to a political candidate on the night of the announcement, as well as Butina's previous private meeting with the candidate at the 2015 annual gun rights organization members' meeting."

Reisinger did not say whether that portion of the affidavit referred to Walker, but noted it did not explicitly name him.

Read more here .

Additional background:

- Walker's PAC took over $1 million from a Putin-linked oligarch, whose contributions have come under scrutiny as part of the special counsel's investigation

- Yesterday, Walker declined to take a position in response to a question about Trump's joint press conference with Putin in Helsinki, during which Trump sided with Putin over the US Intelligence Community.

Statement issued earlier Tuesday by **DPW Chairwoman Martha Laning**:

[redacted]