

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:00:51 a.m. [TEASE]

12 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Whistleblower Claims; Preferential Treatment for Hunter Biden?]

REBECCA JARVIS: New this morning, an IRS whistleblower claiming the federal investigation into Hunter Biden is being mishandled. ABC News learning the President's son is allegedly getting preferential treatment.

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7:08:15 a.m.

1 minute and 57 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Overnight; Preferential Treatment for Hunter Biden?; Sources: Whistleblower Claims Mishandling of Probe into President's Son]

JARVIS: We turn now to allegations that the investigation into Hunter Biden is being mishandled. Chief Justice correspondent Pierre Thomas joins us with more from Capitol Hill. Good morning, Pierre.

PIERRE THOMAS: Rebecca, good morning. We've been waiting for months to see whether the investigation of Hunter Biden will result in charges. But now, allegations that the President's son has been getting preferential treatment. This morning ABC News learning that an IRS whistleblower is challenging assurances by the Justice Department that the investigation into Hunter Biden is not being watered down.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MERRICK GARLAND [03/01/23]: The U.S. Attorney in Delaware has been advised that he has full authority. [SCREEN WIPE] He has been advised that he is not to be denied anything that he needs. [SCREEN WIPE] He's not restricted in his investigation in any way.

THOMAS: But in a letter to Congress obtained by ABC News, an attorney representing an IRS agent who claims to be involved in the case says his client knows of details "of preferential treatment and politics improperly infecting decisions" in the investigation.

MARK LYTTLE: He's lost sleep over whether to come forward. And, you know, at the end of the day, he's decided that he would feel worse about himself if he did nothing and stayed quiet.

THOMAS: The attorney for the agent, whose name is being withheld until he gets whistleblower status, does not name the target of the probe. But sources telling ABC News, he's talking about Hunter Biden. The President's son, who says his name will be cleared, has been under

investigation by the Justice Department since during the Trump administration. One front of the investigation involving his taxes, another involving whether he made a false statement on a gun purchasing form. Sources told ABC News that, last fall, the FBI and ATF concluded there is enough evidence to bring charges on both fronts.

FBI DIRECTOR CHRIS WRAY [on 03/09/23]: There is an on going investigation run by U.S. Attorney out of Delaware from the prior administration. [SCREEN WIPE] Our Baltimore field office is working very hard with that U.S. Attorney, and I expect them to pursue that case.

THOMAS: But after all these months, no resolution from a Trump-appointed U.S. Attorney, the Biden administration and attorney general have allowed to remain in place to avoid the appearance of meddling. But despite those assurances, the Hunter Biden case will get more scrutiny. Republican chairman of the House Oversight Committee is demanding answers, and he's accusing the Biden administration of blocking efforts to bring tax charges against Hunter Biden. George?

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: K, Pierre. Thanks very much.