

Report: Trump demanded clearance for Kushner

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump last year ordered officials to grant top-secret security clearance to his son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, according to a report published Thursday by The New York Times.

Kushner was granted the high-level clearance last May after a lengthy background check.

The Times, citing anonymous sources, said Trump demanded Kushner's clearance despite the concerns of intelligence officials, then-Chief of Staff John Kelly and then-White House counsel Don McGahn.

Kelly wrote in an internal memo that he had been "ordered" to give top-secret clearance to Kushner, the newspaper said. McGahn wrote a memo in which he advised against such clearance.

Peter Mirijanian, a spokesman for Kushner lawyer Abbe Lowell, responded Thursday to the Times story with a statement, saying: "In 2018, White House and security clearance officials affirmed



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, right, stands behind President Donald Trump in October during a news conference about Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

that Mr. Kushner's security clearance was handled in the regular process with no pressure from anyone. That was conveyed to the media

at the time, and new stories, if accurate, do not change what was affirmed at the time."

White House Press

Secretary Sarah Sanders declined to comment on the Times story.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, chairman of the House

Committee on Oversight and Reform, said Thursday that the Times report "indicates that President Trump may have granted access

to our country's most sensitive classified information to his son-in-law against the advice of career staff—directly contradicting the President's public denials that he played any role."

Trump told Times reporters in January that he "was never involved" with Kushner's security clearance.

Cummings, D-Md., noted that his committee has launched an investigation into the security clearance process and requested documents and interviews relating to Kushner's clearance.

"To date, the White House has not produced a single document or scheduled a single interview," Cummings said in a statement. "The Committee expects full compliance with its requests as soon as possible, or it may become necessary to consider alternative means to compel compliance."

Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and Kushner's wife, said in February that the president did not play a role in granting security clearances to her or Kushner.

Rape: 'She's a little more vulnerable than we are'

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who are not well," Paiz said through a translator.

About seven months after the first incident, Paiz met his second victim at the bus station in Astoria. He took up a dinner invitation one night from the victim, but then shortly after moved into her home uninvited.

He stayed there for a little over three months and sexually assaulted her multiple times, the woman testified.

After being assaulted

in September, the victim decided to call her brother to tell him what was happening. He called Warrenton police, who took the victim to the hospital.

Though fit to aid and assist in the trial, the state asked the jury to consider the fact that the second victim also experienced a degree of mental impairment from a previous brain injury and requires a caseworker to help manage her day-to-day living.

"She's a little more vulnerable than we are," Buz-

zard said.

Paiz again denied the allegations, arguing he always had permission to have sex with her.

"I never did anything forcefully ... that's where the mistake is," Paiz said through a translator in his closing argument.

Paiz was also arraigned and pleaded not guilty on Thursday to two counts of first-degree sex abuse and two counts of first-degree sodomy for allegedly having sex with a 9-year-old between 2013 and 2014.

Solar: Grants could bring more than 1,000 kilowatts of solar power online

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program, through which customers voluntarily choose to get part or all of their energy from renewable sources, while supporting community-based renewable energy projects.

The most recent round of Blue Sky grants could bring more than 1,000 kilowatts of solar power online. The program in 2015 provided \$169,000 for the installation of a 30-kilowatt turbine by the city of Astoria at the Bear Creek Dam, along with \$25,000 for a feasibility study preceding the project.

"We are proud to facilitate this partnership between the funding recipients and

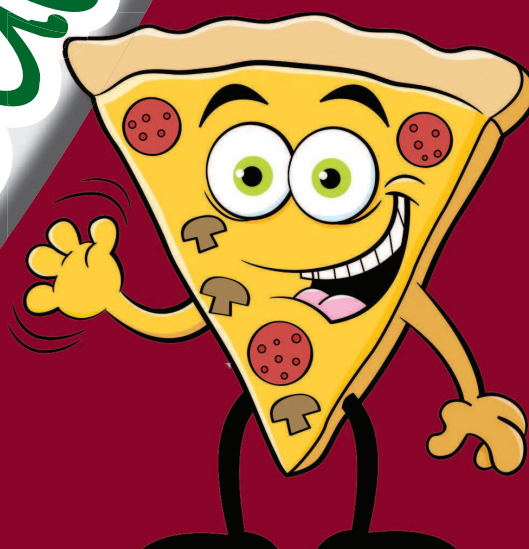
our Blue Sky Block participants," Berit Kling, Pacific Power program manager, said in a news release. "These solar projects raise the profile of renewable technologies in these communities and will have lasting benefits through reducing their carbon footprint."

While the new Astoria Co-op is not pursuing sustainability certification, Stanley said, "We're exploring as many green options as we can."

The grocery is looking to incorporate sustainable products and building materials, along with edible components to its landscaping. While funding for the solar array is not guaranteed, the co-op can always pursue it in the future, Stanley said.

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