

TWO INCONSISTENT STORIES ON ADDITIONAL SEARCHES OF TRUMP'S PROPERTY

WaPo and CNN both have stories about searches by a professional firm on additional Trump properties, looking for stolen classified documents.

In addition to at least three paragraphs that are affirmatively misleading (one that does not push back on a bullshit quote about how cooperative Trump has been, one that described Trump's outright obstruction as a "breakdown ... in trust," and one that claims Trump is trying to avoid another high profile search when the further search was ordered by Chief Judge Beryl Howell) WaPo describes only searches of Bedminster and, later, Trump Tower.

Trump's legal team hired an outside firm to carry out the search of his golf club in Bedminster, N.J., and, more recently, Trump Tower in New York, according to the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information.

In one paragraph, it describes that *Trump's lawyers* told DOJ they did not turn up more documents, but in a follow-up, WaPo describes an attestation that may or may not apply to just Bedminster.

Trump's lawyers have told the Justice Department that the outside team did not turn up any new classified information during their search, according to people familiar with the process, and have said they utilized a firm that had expertise in searching for documents.

[snip]

The group first conducted a search of Bedminster, and Trump's attorneys have now attested to the Justice Department that no further materials were found, two people familiar with the matter said.

CNN's story, however, describes searches of four properties.

Lawyers for former President Donald Trump recently hired a team to search four of his properties for any potentially remaining classified materials, according to a source familiar the matter.

The team of two searched Trump Tower in New York, the Bedminster golf club and two other properties amid lingering concerns from the Justice Department that not all documents had been returned to the federal government.

And while CNN's single source would not reveal *what* Trump's lawyers told DOJ about the results, it specifically said that "they" did not make an attestation.

The source would not detail what they have told the Justice Department about the search, but did say they have not attested to the Justice Department that no new material was found during the search.

That double negative – have not attested that no new material was found – might either suggest the lawyers or those doing the search have their own questions. Or it might suggest additional documents were found.

If more documents *were* found, it would change DOJ's options on venue for charges, making Southern District of New York, New Jersey, or possibly even Northern Virginia, depending on

where any additional documents were found.

Update: WaPo has updated their story to reflect that classified documents were found in a storage facility in Florida. Which might explain a good deal of the discrepancy.

People familiar with the matter said the storage unit had a mix of boxes, gifts, suits and clothes, among other things. "It was suits and swords and wrestling belts and all sorts of things," this person said. "To my knowledge, he has never even been to that storage unit. I don't think anyone in Trump world could tell you what's in that storage unit."

There was no cataloguing of what was put in the storage unit, Trump advisers said – just as there was no cataloguing of what classified documents were taken to a room underneath Mar-a-Lago.