

Trump Outlines Plans for First Day in Office, Meets With More Cabinet Hopefuls

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON (Reuters) – President-elect Donald Trump outlined plans on Monday for his first day in office, including withdrawing from a major trade accord and investigating abuses of work visa programs, and met with Cabinet hopefuls at his Manhattan office tower.

Trump met with Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, Democratic Representative Tulsi Gabbard and former Texas Governor Rick Perry on Monday. But he announced no further appointments, keeping candidates and the public guessing about the shape of the administration that will take office on Jan. 20.



REUTERS/Mike Segar

Vice President-elect Mike Pence arrives to meet with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump at Trump Tower in New York, Tuesday.

Trump, who has not held a news conference since his election, issued a video on Monday evening outlining some of his plans for his first day in office, including formally declaring his intent to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, trade deal, which he called “a potential disaster for our country.”

Statement of Ezra Friedlander on The Nomination of Sessions as AG

(The Friedlander Group) – Ezra Friedlander, CEO of The Friedlander Group, issued the following statement on the news of President-elect Donald Trump’s nomination of Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) as United States Attorney General:

Congratulations to Senator Jeff Sessions on your nomination to be our next U.S. Attorney General. In all my conversations with you, I have been impressed with the Senator’s deep interest to learn more about the perspective of the Orthodox Jewish community pertaining to our issues of concern.

We anticipate that this policy will continue as you assume the critically important position of chief law enforcement officer of the United States.

The 12-nation TPP is President Barack Obama’s signature trade initiative and was signed by the United States earlier this year but has not been ratified by the Senate.

The president-elect said he would replace the accord with bilaterally negotiated trade deals that would “bring jobs and industry back onto American shores.”

“My agenda will be based on a simple core principle: putting America first. Whether it’s producing steel, building cars or curing disease, I want the next generation of production and innovation to happen right here on our great homeland, America, creating wealth and jobs for American workers,” he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday the TPP “would be meaningless without the United States.”

Trump said he would cancel some restrictions on producing energy in the United States on his first day in office, particularly shale oil and “clean coal,” which he said would create “many millions of high-paying jobs.”

He promised to direct the Labor Department to investigate abuses of visa programs for immigrant workers. The main U.S. visa program for technology workers could face tough scrutiny under Trump and his proposed attorney general, Senator Jeff Sessions, a longtime critic of the program.

Trump had made eliminating regulations and withdrawing from the TPP central to his campaign, but he sent mixed signals during the campaign about his views on visa programs including the main H-1B visa for high-tech industry workers.

Trump has so far picked two Cabinet members and three top White House advisers, but didn’t make further announcements.

For Thanksgiving, Trump planned to travel on Tuesday to Mar-a-Lago, a golf resort he owns in Florida, a spokesman said.

Trump’s Charity Admits to Violating IRS Self-Dealing Ban

WASHINGTON (AP) – President-elect Donald Trump’s charity has admitted that it violated IRS regulations barring it from using its money or assets to benefit Trump, his family, his companies or substantial contributors to the foundation.

According to a 2015 tax return posted on the nonprofit monitoring website GuideStar, the Donald J. Trump Foundation acknowledged that it used money or assets in violation of the regulations not only during 2015, but in prior years.

Charities are barred from engaging in political activities, and the president-elect’s staff says the check he signed was mistakenly issued following a series of inexplicable clerical errors. Earlier this year, the Trump Foundation paid a \$2,500 fine to the IRS over the check.

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