

RELEASE IN FULL

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Sent: Friday, August 13, 2010 12:43 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: (AP) Waters defends herself against ethics allegations

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To: NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-H
Cc: SES-O_Shift-II
Sent: Fri Aug 13 12:22:59 2010
Subject: (AP) Waters defends herself against ethics allegations

WASHINGTON (AP) – Veteran Rep. Maxine Waters says she violated no House rules and did no wrong in connection with alleged ethics violations, including an assertion she sought federal assistance for a bank where her husband served on the board. The California Democrat said "I have not violated any rules." She also told a Capitol Hill news conference that she's gone "above and beyond" what was required by House rules in reporting her activities. Waters said she had worked to improve access to federal regulators for the National Bankers Association, which represents 133 minority banks, including OneUnited Bank, where her husband also owned stock. Waters contends the association requested a meeting with Treasury officials, which was held on behalf of the organization, not OneUnited. That institution eventually got \$12 million in bailout money.