



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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July 23, 2020

The Honorable Mazie Hirono  
United States Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hirono:

I am writing to update you on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) response to your request that the OIG investigate the involvement of DOJ law enforcement personnel in responding to ongoing protests in cities throughout the country. You also asked that the OIG address the role of the Attorney General and DOJ law enforcement personnel in the events at Lafayette Square on Monday, June 1, 2020. In my previous letter to you, I indicated that the OIG was assessing the issues raised in your June 15, 2020 letter, and would update you as soon as we were able to do so. Since that time, we have also received requests to review DOJ's response to protest activity and civil unrest in Portland, Oregon.

After assessing these issues, and in response your request and those from other Members of Congress and the public, the DOJ OIG is initiating a review to examine the DOJ's and its law enforcement components' roles and responsibilities in responding to protest activity and civil unrest in Washington, D.C., and in Portland, Oregon over the prior two months. The review will include examining the training and instruction that was provided to the DOJ law enforcement personnel; compliance with applicable identification requirements, rules of engagement, and legal authorities; and adherence to DOJ policies regarding the use of less-lethal munitions, chemical agents, and other uses of force. With regard to events in Lafayette Square on June 1, 2020, the DOJ OIG will coordinate our review with the Department of Interior OIG, which recently announced its review of those events. If circumstances warrant, the OIG will consider including other issues that may arise during the course of the review.

Additionally, in response to related Congressional requests, complaints received by the OIG, and a referral from the U.S. Attorney in Oregon, the DOJ OIG has opened an investigation into use of force allegations involving DOJ law enforcement personnel in Portland, Oregon in July 2020. The DOJ OIG will coordinate our investigation with the Department of Homeland Security OIG.

Thank you for your continued support of the OIG. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me or Adam Miles, Counselor to the Inspector General, at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Horowitz  
Inspector General

cc: Senator Lindsey Graham, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senator Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senator Richard Blumenthal  
Senator Edward J. Markey  
Senator Jeffrey A. Merkley  
Senator Thomas R. Carper  
Senator Chris Van Hollen  
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
Senator Kamala D. Harris  
Senator Tim Kaine  
Senator Ron Wyden  
Senator Bernard Sanders  
Senator Amy Klobuchar  
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
Senator Richard J. Durbin  
Senator Sherrod Brown  
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Senator Tammy Duckworth  
Senator Christopher A. Coons  
Senator Patrick Leahy  
Senator Cory A. Booker  
Senator Mark R. Warner