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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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LAWRENCE J. BRADY  
STAFF DIRECTOR

April 18, 2012

The Honorable Mark J. Sullivan  
Director  
U.S. Secret Service  
950 H Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Director Sullivan:

Our nation's capacity to protect the President, the Vice President, and visiting foreign leaders, among others, is dependent on the character and judgment of the agents and officers of the U.S. Secret Service (USSS). The actions of at least 11 agents and officers in Colombia last week showed an alarming lack of both. Your task is to restore the world's confidence in the U.S. Secret Service.

In a briefing on Monday, you outlined the steps the agency has taken to investigate this matter and your plans for preventing a recurrence. The immediate response to this scandal – which included bringing the agents home immediately, interviewing them, and revoking their clearances – was critical to determining the extent of the potential threat to national security. We appreciate your commitment to keep the Committee informed as the investigation proceeds, and to provide any investigative findings and after-action reports.

The facts as you described them raised questions about the agency's culture. The incident in Cartagena is troubling because Secret Service agents and officers made a range of bad decisions, from drinking too much, to engaging with prostitutes, to bringing foreign nationals into contact with sensitive security information, to exposing themselves to blackmail and other forms of potential compromise. It was helpful to hear the facts as they are known to the agency directly from you. So that the Committee can develop a more complete factual record and better understand whether the culture of the U.S. Secret Service may have led to this incident, please provide the following information no later than noon on May 1, 2012:

1. A detailed description of the Secret Service's current understanding of possible agent misconduct that occurred on the evening of Wednesday, April 11 and the morning of Thursday, April 12. Please include a description of events that preceded and led to the public revelation of misconduct.
2. A complete description and account of all U.S. Government personnel who were involved in or had contemporaneous knowledge of misconduct by agents and officers on the evening of April 12 or morning of April 13.

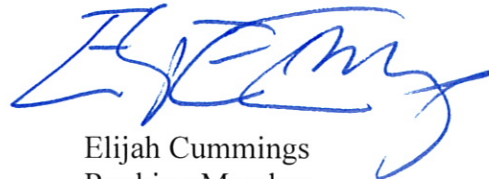
3. A factual timeline of events, beginning on Thursday, April 12 through Tuesday, April 17, related to the USSS response to allegations of agent misconduct in Cartagena, Colombia.
4. A description of information the USSS is using to determine what occurred on April 12-13, including the extent of cooperation the Secret Service is receiving from Colombian authorities.
5. Summaries of any disciplinary actions taken against the 11 agents and officers involved in this incident since 2002.
6. Summaries of any past disciplinary actions taken against USSS agents and officers for misconduct committed while on official overseas trips since 2007.
7. A description of the efforts of the USSS and other law enforcement agencies to determine if Secret Service personnel have engaged in similar conduct and rules violations during past official overseas trips.
8. Has the USSS been able to determine that all women involved in this incident were at least 18 years of age? The involvement of individuals under 18 could implicate 18 U.S.C. § 2423(c), which makes it illegal for any U.S. citizen who travels to a foreign place to engage in illicit sexual conduct.
9. What agency failures or lapses has the USSS identified that contributed to this incident?
10. Moving forward, what steps does the USSS intend to take to prevent a recurrence of a similar serious security failure and diplomatic embarrassment?

Your swift and decisive action in response to this scandal has given us confidence that the agency will complete a thorough investigation and take steps to ensure that similar lapses in judgment will never again jeopardize the important work of the U.S. Secret Service. We appreciate your efforts to contact the committee on the progress of your investigation. We look forward to continuing to work with you to identify ways – legislative or otherwise – to improve the training and supervision of agents and officers whose duties require them to travel abroad. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa  
Chairman



Elijah Cummings  
Ranking Member