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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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April 4, 2012

The Honorable Brian D. Miller
Inspector General
U.S. General Services Administration
Office of Inspector General (J)
1800 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Mr. Miller:

Thank you for briefing Committee staff on your investigation into the General Services Administration's (GSA) Public Buildings Service (PBS) 2010 Western Regions Conference (WRC), held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in October 2010. This briefing occurred less than 48 hours after your office publicly released its management deficiency report detailing excessive and wasteful spending by GSA at the 2010 WRC, and I commend you and your staff for the prompt response to the Committee's request.

At today's briefing, your staff provided Committee staff with information and materials related to your investigation of the 2010 WRC. Committee staff received source materials used to prepare the report. Also during today's briefing, your staff provided details and documents to Committee staff regarding the May 3, 2011, briefing your office provided former GSA Administrator Martha Johnson and Steven Leeds, former Senior Counselor to the Administrator, about your investigation into the 2010 WRC.¹

At the May 3, 2011, briefing on the 2010 WRC investigation, you delivered a 30-slide PowerPoint presentation entitled "OIG Interim Alert Report on Investigation into Potential Fraud, Waste, and Abuse" to Johnson and Leeds.² This PowerPoint presentation included the basis for your office's investigation; an accounting of the proposed conference budget; a detailed accounting of conference expenses – including both conference planning expenses and actual conference expenses; potential legal violations committed by GSA employees; a list of GSA employees involved in the planning and execution of the conference; the role these employees

¹ Briefing by Gen. Serv. Admin. Office of Inspector Gen. for Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform Staff, Rayburn House Office Building, Apr. 4, 2012.

² *Id.*

The Honorable Brian D. Miller

April 4, 2012

Page 2 of 3

played in planning and executing the conference; possible legal violations these employees committed; and over 60 photos from the conference.³

In addition, your staff informed the Committee that your office sent a draft management deficiency report to the Office of the Administrator for formal review and comment on February 17, 2012.⁴ According to your staff, your office briefed the Office of the Administrator three to four times on the report between February 17, 2012, and March 13, 2012.⁵ During this time, the Office of the Administrator requested a 30-day extension for formal review and comment, which your office granted.⁶ At our briefing, your staff also stated that you had not briefed any White House employees on matters pertaining to this investigation.⁷

To further assist the Committee in its continuing investigation into this matter, please provide responses, on or before April 18, 2012, to the following requests for information:

1. Provide the names, titles and agency affiliation of all persons attending the May 3, 2011, briefing delivered to the Administrator.
2. Provide any correspondence between your office and the Office of the Administrator following the May 3, 2011, briefing related to your investigation into the 2010 WRC.
3. Provide any available details regarding disciplinary action taken with respect to GSA employees involved in the planning or execution of the 2010 WRC that took place after the May 3, 2011, briefing but prior to April 2, 2012.
4. Detail and provide documentation on disciplinary action related to the 2010 WRC prior to April 2, 2012. Please articulate if, to the best of your understanding, the April 2, 2012, disciplinary actions were a response to shortcomings in agency response to the problems brought to light by your investigation.
5. Provide copies of any draft management deficiency reports examining the 2010 WRC that were shared with individuals outside of your office. In addition, detail changes made to each draft and the basis for these changes.
6. Provide information on any and all briefings your office conducted with individuals outside of your office to discuss the draft management deficiency reports. Include the dates, times, locations and persons attending, as well as titles and agency affiliation. In addition, please identify any briefings White House Liaison Gregory M. Mecher, or any other White House personnel, attended.

³ Gen. Serv. Admin., Office of Inspector Gen., Western Regions Conference OIG Interim Alert Report on Investigation into Potential Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (May 2011).

⁴ Briefing by Gen. Serv. Admin. Office of Inspector Gen. for Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform Staff, Rayburn House Office Building, Apr. 4, 2012.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

The Honorable Brian D. Miller

April 4, 2012

Page 3 of 3

7. Detail the information media outlets have reported that is inconsistent with facts in your management deficiency report. In addition, describe any contact with the media relating to the contradictory information.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Ashley Callen or Ryan Little of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member