

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

January 16, 2021

Chief Art Acevedo  
President  
Major Cities Chiefs Association  
315 E 200 S Fl 8  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2106

Dear Chief Acevedo:

The Committee is writing to request your organization's assistance to identify and prevent the ongoing threat of additional violent attacks in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere over the coming days. With police being called upon to serve and protect not only their communities, but the nation's capital, the entire law enforcement community must respond with a single voice and clear, decisive action to this threat.

On January 6, 2021, insurrectionists stormed the Capitol building in an act of domestic terrorism to prevent Congress from performing its Constitutional duty to affirm Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as the next President and Vice President of the United States. Five people died as a result of the attack, including U.S. Capitol Police Officer Brian D. Sicknick, who was reportedly viciously attacked by the mob.<sup>1</sup>

The courageous actions of hundreds of law enforcement officers, including those from the Capitol Police force, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the National Guard, saved the lives of hundreds and helped to preserve the continuity of our democracy.<sup>2</sup>

Immediately following the attack, the Committee, along with other Committees of Congress, demanded information from federal authorities on the steps they are taking to ensure that the perpetrators of the January 6 attack at the U.S. Capitol, as well as any instigators, are held fully accountable under the law.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *He Dreamed of Being a Police Officer, Then Was Killed by a Pro-Trump Mob*, New York Times (Jan. 8, 2021) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2021/01/08/us/politics/police-officer-killed-capitol.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/08/us/politics/police-officer-killed-capitol.html)).

<sup>2</sup> *See, e.g., Eugene Goodman, Capitol Officer Who Lured Mob Away, Hailed by His Former Airborne Corps*, Newsweek (Jan. 14, 2021) (online at [www.newsweek.com/eugene-goodman-hailed-former-airborne-corps-1561455](http://www.newsweek.com/eugene-goodman-hailed-former-airborne-corps-1561455)).

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, et al., to Director Christopher Wray, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Jan. 7, 2021) (online at

As numerous police officers and law enforcement agencies from around the country mobilize to defend our state and national institutions and values, we are deeply disturbed by reports that a small number of law enforcement officers participated directly in this despicable act of violence against the U.S. Government, thereby placing innocent people and their fellow officers at risk.

This week, the Department of Justice charged two police officers from Rocky Mount, Virginia, with federal crimes after they shared photos of themselves inside the Capitol on January 6.<sup>4</sup> One officer allegedly posted on social media that some “are just mad because we actually attacked the government who is the problem and not some random small business,” adding “The right IN ONE DAY took the f\*\*\*\*\* U.S. Capitol. Keep poking us.”<sup>5</sup>

In Seattle, two police officers have been placed on administrative leave because of their roles in the Capitol attack.<sup>6</sup> Even in your own Houston Police Department, you said an 18-year veteran of the force is under investigation, stating: “It absolutely is clear that he penetrated the Capitol.”<sup>7</sup>

Our concerns are compounded by the FBI’s recent warning that there are ongoing threats of continued violence and armed attacks in Washington, D.C., through Inauguration Day, including calls by white supremacist groups for a “Million Militia March” on January 20, 2021. Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser has urged Americans to stay away from Washington, D.C., because of the threat of violence.<sup>8</sup>

While everyone who participated in the insurrection at the Capitol must be brought to justice, the participation of certain law enforcement personnel, who are entrusted to protect American lives and values, is particularly disturbing and warrants swift investigation. As law enforcement officers fulfill their responsibility—and put their lives on the line—to defend our country, we must work to identify any individuals within police ranks who have taken action to undermine those efforts, and prevent others who seek to join them.

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<https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2021-01-07.CBM%20et%20al%20to%20Wray%20re%20Capitol%20Insurrection.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> *2 Virginia Police Officers Face Federal Charges In Capitol Riots*, CBS News (Jan. 13, 2021) (online at [www.cbsnews.com/news/capitol-riots-virginia-police-officers-arrested/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/capitol-riots-virginia-police-officers-arrested/)).

<sup>5</sup> Department of Justice, *Two Off-Duty Virginia Police Officers Charged in Federal Court Following Events at the U.S. Capitol* (Jan. 13, 2021) (online at [www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/two-duty-virginia-police-officers-charged-federal-court-following-events-us-capitol](http://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/two-duty-virginia-police-officers-charged-federal-court-following-events-us-capitol)).

<sup>6</sup> *Seattle Police Officers Who Were in DC During Riot at US Capitol Placed on Administrative Leave*, Seattle Times (Jan. 8, 2021) (online at [www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-police-officers-who-were-in-dc-during-wednesday-riots-placed-on-administrative-leave/](http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-police-officers-who-were-in-dc-during-wednesday-riots-placed-on-administrative-leave/)).

<sup>7</sup> *More Arrests Made Amid New Calls For Investigation of Capitol Attack*, New York Times (Jan. 13, 2021) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2021/01/13/us/politics/capitol-riot-investigation.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/13/us/politics/capitol-riot-investigation.html)).

<sup>8</sup> *D.C. Battens Down Amid Threats of Violent Protests, Tense Inauguration Day*, Washington Post (Jan. 12, 2021) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/dc-battens-down-amid-threats-of-violent-protests-tense-inauguration-day/2021/01/12/50700814-5513-11eb-a931-5b162d0d033d\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/dc-battens-down-amid-threats-of-violent-protests-tense-inauguration-day/2021/01/12/50700814-5513-11eb-a931-5b162d0d033d_story.html)).

Our Committee's Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties has been warning about the threat of extremists within police departments across the country. On September 29, 2020, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the problem of white supremacist infiltration of law enforcement, and is conducting several ongoing investigations into law enforcement agencies that have been revealed to have extremists in their ranks.<sup>9</sup> Last week's attack on the Capitol has proven the need for immediate action.

For all of these reasons, the Committee requests that you respond to the following questions as soon as possible:

1. What steps are you taking to ensure that member chiefs of police identify and take appropriate action against any personnel who participated in the attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021?
2. What steps are you taking to ensure that member chiefs of police prevent their forces from participating in their personal capacities at future insurrectionist or seditious events leading up to the Inauguration?
3. What steps are you taking to assist member chiefs of police in ensuring that officers who endorse violent extremism or white supremacist ideologies do not compromise or degrade the law enforcement response to expected violence across the country at the Inauguration?
4. What steps are you taking to support Washington, D.C., a member city of your organization, in the wake of the January 6 attack and in light of threats of violence against the Inauguration in the days leading up to January 20, 2021?

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. An attachment to this letter provides additional instructions for responding to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Chairwoman



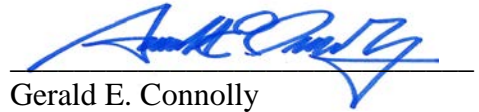
Jamie Raskin  
Member

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<sup>9</sup> See, e.g., Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, *Hearing on Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part IV): White Supremacy in Blue—The Infiltration of Local Police Departments* (Sept. 29, 2020) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/confronting-violent-white-supremacy-part-iv-white-supremacy-in-blue-the>).



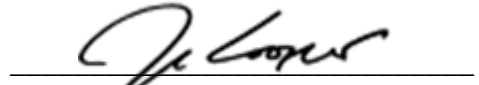
Stephen F. Lych  
Member



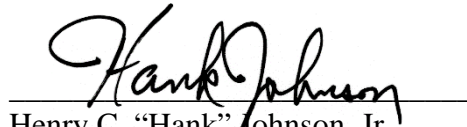
Gerald E. Connolly  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member



Jim Cooper  
Member



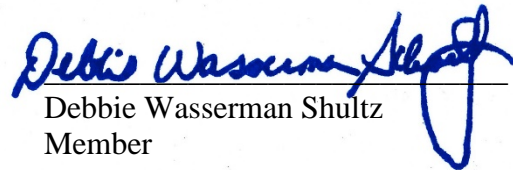
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member



Katie Porter  
Member



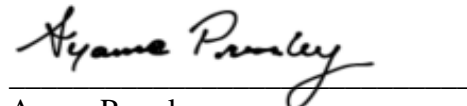
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member



Jackie Speier  
Member



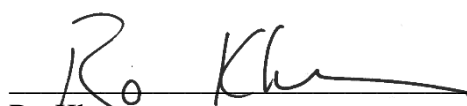
Robin Kelly  
Member



Ayana Pressley  
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Peter Welch  
Member



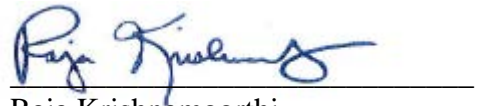
Ro Khanna  
Member



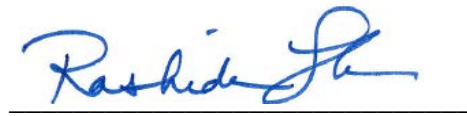
Brenda Lawrence  
Member



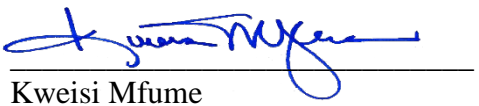
Jimmy Gomez  
Member



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member



Rashida Tlaib  
Member



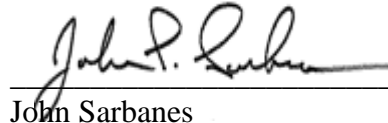
Kweisi Mfume  
Member



Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez  
Member



Cori Bush  
Member



John Sarbanes  
Member



Danny K. Davis  
Member

cc: The Honorable James R. Comer, Ranking Member