

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

July 12, 2018

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to request that you issue a subpoena to compel the White House to produce documents it is withholding regarding Martese Edwards, a National Security Council contractor, who was arrested on June 5, 2018 at a Secret Service checkpoint based on an outstanding arrest warrant for attempted first-degree murder.

On June 5, 2018, Mr. Edwards was arrested at a Secret Service checkpoint based on a nearly three-week old outstanding arrest warrant for attempted first-degree murder.¹ At the time he was hired, Mr. Edwards had at least two prior encounters with the law: an August 2013 charge for domestic violence, and an August 2015 charge for second-degree assault.²

On June 7, 2018, I wrote to the White House to request documents and information relating to the White House vetting process for Mr. Martese, as well as the White House security clearance system.³ The White House has not responded to that letter, nor did it provide any of the documents requested.

We are the Committee of jurisdiction for matters relating to the security clearance system. In order that we conduct oversight of the White House's flawed security clearance system, I request that you issue a subpoena to compel the White House to produce the following

¹ See, e.g., *White House Contractor Arrested on Attempted Murder Warrant*, Associated Press (June 5, 2018) (online at www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/06/05/reports-white-house-contractor-arrested-attempted-murder-warrant/675724002/).

² *National Security Council Contractor Arrested at White House Held a Security Clearance*, Daily Beast (June 6, 2018) (online at www.thedailybeast.com/national-security-council-contractor-martese-maurice-edward-was-previously-charged-with-domestic-violence).

³ Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to General John F. Kelly, White House Chief of Staff (June 7, 2018) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2018-06-07.EEC%20to%20Kelly-WH%20re%20Edwards%20Security%20Clearance.pdf>).

documents:

- (1) all documents and communications referring or relating to Martese Edwards' clearance to access the White House complex, including documents he completed as a condition of his work on the White House complex, including but not limited to an SF-86 application, consent forms for criminal and tax checks, and any other supplemental vetting forms;
- (2) all documents and communications referring or relating to investigations or database searches conducted by the White House or its agents for Martese Edwards' clearance to access the White House complex, including any reports that provided information on an active warrant;
- (3) all documents and communications referring or relating to the information systems, level of classification, databases, documents, and computer networks that Martese Edwards could access in the White House complex, as well as any records reflecting information that Mr. Edwards actually accessed;
- (4) all documents and communications referring or relating to allegations of domestic abuse made against Martese Edwards or any other White House employee or contractor; and
- (5) all documents and communications referring or relating to Martese Edwards' outstanding arrest warrant, including all documents and communications referring or relating to the Criminal Justice Information System.

If you decide not to issue this subpoena, then I ask you to place this matter on the agenda for our next regularly scheduled business meeting so all Committee Members will have the opportunity to debate and vote on this motion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member