

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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March 22, 2015

The Honorable Joseph P. Clancy
Director
U.S. Secret Service
950 H Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Director Clancy:

We were very disappointed to receive your letter on Friday stating that you plan to be the “sole” witness testifying before the Committee at a hearing on March 24, 2015. The four other officers and agents the Committee invited to testify are witnesses in the Committee’s ongoing investigation of the March 4, 2015 incident in which two high-ranking agency officials drove into an active crime scene related to a suspicious package near the White House while the President was in the residence. We invited additional witnesses to answer fundamental questions about the incident and the agency’s response that you have been unable to answer during two congressional hearings and one closed-door briefing for a bipartisan group of Members and staff.

On March 12, 2015, the Committee asked for surveillance video and requested a briefing on this matter. At the briefing on March 17 – nearly two weeks after the incident – you were unable to answer questions from Members about what happened, the actions of the officers, how the suspect left the crime scene, the inability of the Secret Service to apprehend the suspect, and your inability to obtain information about the incident, among other things.

It is unclear whether actions have been taken to identify whether the circumstances on March 4, 2015 are indicative of larger security gaps and, if so, whether these security gaps have been addressed in a manner that best protects the White House. Your failure to turn over additional video footage of the incident – which may answer some of the questions that you were unable to – has further limited the Committee’s understanding of the March 4 incident.

After the briefing on March 17, it was clear that we needed to seek answers from other witnesses. The Committee announced a hearing scheduled for March 24, 2015 and invited you and four Secret Service officers and agents to testify and take questions from Members of the Committee. We believe these four officers and agents are in a position to help us understand what went wrong on the night of March 4.

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In your response on Friday, you stated that you would be the only agency witness at Tuesday's hearing, but your letter was completely silent on why the other Secret Service witnesses would not be attending and you provided no explanation whatsoever about the reasons behind your position. Your letter also provided no proposals for alternative ways the Committee might be able to obtain the information we need to fulfill our constitutional oversight responsibilities.

Your position is not acceptable – both because of the public interest in transparency with respect to the agency's ability to protect the President and his family and because you have not answered our questions adequately to date.

We urge you to allow Captain Michael Braun, Special Agent in Charge Robert Buster, Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge Thomas Rizza, and Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge Kimberly Tello to testify. We expect they will be able to answer some of the questions that you have not, and their testimony is important to the Committee's investigation.

Please confirm no later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2015 that Captain Braun and Agents Buster, Rizza, and Tello will be allowed to appear voluntarily and testify at the Committee's March 24, 2015 hearing.

Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: Ron DeSantis, Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security
Stephen F. Lynch, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on National Security