

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

July 7, 2023

Ms. Kimberly Cheatle
Director
United States Secret Service
245 Murray Ln SW – Bldg. T-5
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Director Cheatle:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is investigating the details surrounding the discovery of cocaine in the White House. This alarming development requires the Committee to assess White House security practices and determine whose failures led to an evacuation of the building and finding of the illegal substance. The Committee requests the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) provide additional information.

The presence of illegal drugs in the White House is unacceptable and a shameful moment in the White House's history. According to a senior law-enforcement official, the cocaine was found in a storage facility that is "routinely used by White House staff and guests to store cell phones."¹ According to reports, USSS agents discovered a suspicious white powder inside the White House, prompting an evacuation of White House staff and personnel.² The substance has since been confirmed to be cocaine.³

This incident has raised additional concerns with the Committee regarding the level of security maintained at the White House. In order to assist the Committee with its investigation, please provide a staff level briefing on this matter by July 14, 2023. You may contact the Committee at (202) 225-5074 to schedule the briefing.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X.

¹ Jim Geraghty, *Who Brought Cocaine into the White House*, NAT'L REVIEW (July 5, 2023).

² Peter Hermann & Tyler Pager, *Secret Service investigating suspected cocaine found in White House*, WASH. POST (July 3, 2023).

³ Kevin Liptak, *Lab tests show substance found at White House was cocaine*, CNN (July 5, 2023).

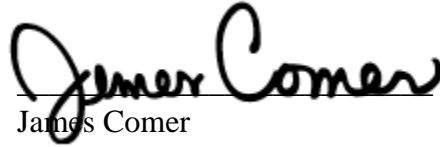
Director Kimberly Cheatle

July 7, 2023

Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "C".

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability