

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

May 30, 2024

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 recent reports of potential vulnerabilities within the U.S. Secret Service preventing it from fulfilling its mission¹ to ensure the safety and security of its protectees. These protectees include the President and Vice President of the United States and their immediate families; foreign heads of state and their spouses while visiting the United States; former presidents and their spouses and minor children; and major presidential and vice presidential candidates and their spouses—key facilities including the White House and grounds and the Treasury building, and events designated as National Special Security Events by the Secretary of Homeland Security. The Committee requests a briefing from the U.S. Secret Service to address these reports and how the agency is responding to quickly remedy any vulnerabilities.

It was recently reported that a Secret Service agent, tasked with protecting Vice President Kamala Harris, physically attacked her superior (and the commanding agent in charge) and other agents trying to subdue her while on duty at Joint Base Andrews and assigned to the Vice President’s protective detail.² A Secret Service spokesperson confirmed that the agent had been “removed from their assignment” following the attack and that the agent “began displaying behavior their colleagues found distressing” and further described the incident as a “medical matter.”³ Other sources described more harrowing details of the incident to the media, including that the agent chest-bumped and shoved her superior, then tackled and punched him while still having her gun in her holster, which concerned her colleagues.⁴

This incident raised concerns within the agency about the hiring and screening process for this agent: specifically whether previous incidents in her work history were overlooked during the hiring process as years of staff shortages had led the agency to lower once stricter standards as part of a diversity, equity and inclusion effort.⁵ On May 9, 2024, a Bloomberg News

¹ 18 U.S.C. § 3056.

² Susan Crabtree, *Secret Service Scuffle Prompts DEI, Vetting Scrutiny*, REAL CLEAR POLITICS (April 25, 2024).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

The Hon. Kimberly Cheatle

May 30, 2024

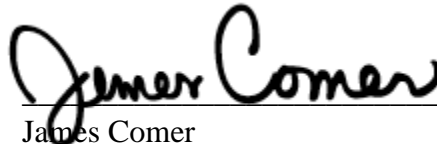
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reporter revealed that there is a petition circulating inside the agency that flags concerns about “a number of recent Secret Service incidents indicative of inadequate training,” a double standard in disciplinary actions, and a vulnerability “to potential insider threats” that could pose a risk to U.S. national security.⁶

To assist the Committee’s oversight in this matter, we request you designate the appropriate officials with the U.S. Secret Service to provide a briefing to Committee staff on or before June 13, 2024. To schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority Staff at (202) 225-5074.

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. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

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

⁶ Jennifer Jacobs (@jenniferJacobs), X, (May 9, 2024, 12:59PM), *available at* <https://twitter.com/JenniferJJacobs/status/1788614759195038115>.