ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

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July 18, 2024

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray Director Federal Bureau of Investigation 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

The Committee on the Judiciary is conducting oversight of the attempted assassination of President Donald J. Trump on July 13, 2024, and investigative actions taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in advance of and following the shooting. Information provided to this Committee raises serious questions about the thoroughness of the security planning by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in support of President Trump's campaign rally. Law enforcement overlooked a number of vulnerabilities prior to and during the event in Butler, Pennsylvania, allowing an assassin to shoot a President, murder an attendee, and critically wound two others. This tragedy demands a full and transparent investigation.

After U.S. Secret Service (USSS) cleared the scene, the FBI immediately began investigating the incident as an attempted assassination and suspected act of domestic terrorism.² According to FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate, the FBI's Pittsburgh Field Office is leading the investigation, with support from FBI headquarters' National Security Branch.³ Deputy Director Abbate stated that the FBI will conduct a "rapid" investigation with "maximum transparency."⁴

Whistleblowers have disclosed to the Committee that the USSS led two briefings regarding the July 13 campaign rally on July 8, 2024, with the Western Pennsylvania Fusion Center (WPFC) and other stakeholders, to discuss the upcoming, unrelated visits by President Trump and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden. The USSS Special Agent in Charge Tim Burke reportedly told law enforcement partners that the USSS had limited resources that week because the agency

¹ C. Ryan Barber et al., *Trump Shooting Is Secret Service's Most Stunning Failure in Decades*, WALL St. J. (July 14, 2024).

² Press Release, Update on the FBI Investigation of the Attempted Assassination of Former President Donald Trump, Fed. Bureau of Investigation (July 15, 2024).

³ Briefing from Deputy Dir. Paul Abbate, Fed. Bureau of Investigation, to Reps. Jim Jordan & Jerrold Nadler, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (July 15, 2024).

⁴ *Id*.

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was covering the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit in Washington, D.C. FBI personnel were present at those briefings. While the Committee recognizes that the FBI is one of many agencies represented in the WPFC, it is the lead federal investigative arm and a key source of intelligence on potential threats for special events in its area of responsibility.⁵

The Committee has several unanswered questions about the failures that led to the attempted assassination of a president—the first in over forty years—as well as the FBI's ability to conduct a rapid, transparent, and thorough investigation in the wake of its recent scandals. Accordingly, to ensure that the Committee can effectively evaluate these matters during your testimony on July 24, 2024, we request that you be prepared to fully address all questions about the attempted assassination of President Trump and the FBI's investigation of it. In particular, we expect our Members to require information including, but not limited to the following:

- 1. How many agents, analysts, and support personnel has the FBI dedicated to the investigation?
- 2. Was there coordination between the FBI, USSS, and the WPFC prior to President Trump's event on July 13?
- 3. How many buildings had to be secured inside and outside of the security perimeter for President Trump's event on July 13?
- 4. Why was the roof of the AGR International building left unsecured?
- 5. How much time elapsed between identifying the shooter as a potential threat and the attempted assassination?
- 6. How much time elapsed between the local police officer encountering the shooter on the sloped roof and the attempted assassination?
- 7. Has the FBI interviewed the local police officer who encountered the shooter?
- 8. What does the FBI's evaluation of the shooter's phone and digital activity show about his actions and movements in the days and hours leading up to the attempted assassination?
- 9. Is the FBI's investigation limited to the shooter and his motivations or does it include the security failures that led to the attempted assassination?
- 10. Was the security posture at President Trump's event limited due to resource constraints with the NATO Summit and/or First Lady Dr. Jill Biden's event in

⁵ See generally Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Fusion Centers & Intelligence Sharing, https://bja.ojp.gov/program/it/national-initiatives/fusion-centers (last visited Jul. 17, 2024); U.S. Dep't of Homeland Security, Intelligence & Analysis, Fusion Centers, https://www.dhs.gov/fusion-centers (last visited Jul. 17, 2024).

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Pittsburgh?

- 11. How did communications breakdowns between various law enforcement entities affect the ability of local law enforcement and USSS to identify the shooter as a potential threat and mitigate the threat before he took action?
- 12. What actions did the USSS take to remove or cover President Trump after a threat was known or detected?

In addition, to advance our oversight, please provide the following documents and information:

- 1. All FBI reports, analyses, or threat assessments conducted or prepared referring or relating to President Trump's event on July 13, 2024;
- 2. All documents and communications between or among personnel at the WPFC and the FBI regarding President Trump's event, including but not limited to, any requests for additional analytic resources made by the WPFC;
- 3. All documents and communications between the FBI and USSS regarding President Trump's event on July 13; and
- 4. All FD-1023s and FD-302s, of confidential human source reporting, and review of pending and closed domestic terrorism investigations in the Pittsburgh area for potential threat intelligence directed at President Trump's event on July 13.

So that the Committee may effectively utilize this material to inform our questions during your testimony, please provide this material, in its entirety and without redactions, as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 23, 2024.

The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of the FBI pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.⁶ If you have any questions about this request, please contact Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6906.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Jordan

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

cc:

⁶ Rules of the House of Representatives, R. X, 118th Cong. (2023).