

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2024

## VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security

Ms. Kimberly A. Cheatle  
Director  
United States Secret Service

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Director Cheatle:

On July 13, 2024, a gunman opened fire in an assassination attempt against former President Trump as he spoke to his supporters at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.<sup>1</sup> President Trump was almost killed and suffered injuries resulting from the shooting. One attendee was killed and two others were critically injured by the shooter.<sup>2</sup> The gunman made his way to the top of a building and set up his sniper rifle merely 400 feet or so from the stage where President Trump spoke.<sup>3</sup> Reports and photos that day indicate that witnesses saw the gunman in advance and later on the roof and attempted to warn law enforcement officers of his position prior to him opening fire, but it's unclear when, if, or how these messages were communicated to Secret Service agents on duty.<sup>4</sup> At this time, the lack of information from your agencies is unacceptable. You owe Congress and the American people full and complete transparency on how this tragedy could possibly occur. Accordingly, I write today for information concerning whether USSS policies and procedures were followed prior to, during, and after the assassination attempt against former President Trump, including how the USSS was or was not alerted to the gunman's position when multiple reports provided that witnesses within the crowd attempted to alert local law enforcement of the gunman's location.

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<sup>1</sup> Ellie Cook, *Donald Trump Shooting Raises Security Questions: 'Lapses'*, Newsweek (Jul. 14, 2024)

<https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-shooting-security-questions-secret-service-fbi-pennsylvania-1924899>.

<sup>2</sup> Sarah Rumpf-Whitten, Brooke Singman, and Lucas Y. Tomlinson, *Assassination attempt on Trump at Pennsylvania rally leaves 2 hurt, 2 dead, including shooter*, Fox News (Jul. 13, 2024) <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/assassination-attempt-trump-pennsylvania-rally-2-hurt-2-dead-including-shooter>.

<sup>3</sup> Katherine Donlevy, *Witnesses frantically tried to warn police of rifle-carrying sniper on roof before Trump assassination attempt*, New York Post (Jul. 13, 2024) <https://nypost.com/2024/07/13/us-news/witnesses-frantically-tried-to-warn-police-of-rifle-carrying-sniper-on-roof-before-trump-assassination-attempt/>.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* Associated Press, *AP PHOTOS: Shooting at Trump rally in Pennsylvania*, (Updated Jul. 14, 2024)

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-rally-shooting-photo-gallery-561478b3f90c950c741ecaa24c6dc159>; Isabel Keane, *Horrifying Video Shows Would-be Assassin Open Fire on Former President Trump from Rooftop*, New York Post (July. 14, 2024). <https://nypost.com/2024/07/14/us-news/horrifying-video-shows-would-be-assassin-open-fire-on-former-president-trump-from-rooftop/>; New York Post, *Witness Describes Desperately Trying to Warn Police that Gunman was on Roof at Trump Rally*, (Jul. 14, 2024) <https://nypost.com/video/witness-describes-desperately-trying-to-warn-police-that-gunman-was-on-roof-at-trump-rally/>.

Secret Service has confirmed that it worked with local police to fill out their ranks at the Butler, PA rally.<sup>5</sup> Typically, Secret Service collaborates with local law enforcement teams, to include local police, state police and sheriff's offices, at these types of events for coordination and protection of the outer perimeter of a site.<sup>6</sup> Anthony Gugliemi, Secret Service spokesman, told the Washington Post that the two additional counter-sniper teams that had been recommended for protection were staffed by local units rather than Secret Service counter-sniper personnel.<sup>7</sup> These claims and statements come as news outlets have reported that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) denied repeated requests for more Secret Service protection for former President Trump, even though he has received several threats made against him in the past.<sup>8</sup> Those reports have been publicly denied by the Secret Service but without details with respect to the service's assertion that additional resources were added.<sup>9</sup> To put this matter to rest one way or the other, you must provide details with respect to what additional resources were added and when.

DHS special review panels and their Office of Inspector General (DHS OIG) have identified a number of longstanding, serious issues concerning the USSS which threaten the agency's ability to carry out its core function and mission: protective detail.<sup>10</sup> For example, following the September 29, 2014, incident when an intruder jumped the White House fence and entered the White House before being apprehended by Secret Service agents, DHS established the Protective Mission Panel (PMP) to review the USSS protective mission.<sup>11</sup> The PMP completed its review in December 15, 2014, and made classified recommendations, as well as 19 unclassified recommendations in their report.<sup>12</sup> In January 2022, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a report analyzing the USSS

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<sup>5</sup> Carol D. Leoning, Isaac Stanley-Becker, and Josh Dawsey, *Secret Service under pressure for shooter who got clear shot at Trump*, The Washington Post (Jul. 14, 2024), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/07/14/secret-service-trump-rally-shooting/>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth Elkind, *Mayorkas denied 'repeated requests' for more Secret Service protection for Trump*, GOP lawmaker says, Fox News (Jul. 13, 2024) <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mayorkas-denied-repeated-requests-more-secret-service-protection-trump-gop-lawmaker-says>; see CBS News, *Several threats made against Trump per day: Secret Service director*, Jun. 1, 2017) <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/several-threats-made-against-president-trump-secret-service-director-randolph-alles/>; The Guardian, *Chicago woman arrested over alleged threats to kill Trump and son Barron*, The Guardian (Aug. 21, 2023) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/aug/21/chicago-woman-arrested-trump-son-barron>.

<sup>9</sup> See X account, formerly known as Twitter, of Anthony Guglielmi, Chief of Communications for the United States Secret Service. Post from July 14, 2024 at 7:38AM states “*Theres an untrue assertion that a member of the former President's team requested additional security resources & that those were rebuffed. This is absolutely false. In fact, we added protective resources & technology & capabilities as part of the increased campaign travel tempo*”. See:

<https://x.com/SecretSvcSpox/status/1812451649387933912>. (last accessed: 7/16/24); Elizabeth Elkind, *Mayorkas Denied 'repeated requests' for more Secret Service protection for Trump*, GOP lawmaker says, Fox News (July 13, 2024). <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mayorkas-denied-repeated-requests-more-secret-service-protection-trump-gop-lawmaker-says>.

<sup>10</sup> Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General, *The Secret Service Has Taken Action to Address the Recommendations of the Protective Mission Panel*, (Nov. 10, 2016) <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2017/OIG-17-10-Nov16.pdf>; Joseph Hagin, Thomas Perrelli, Danielle Gray, Mark Filip, United States Secret Service Protective Mission Panel (USSSPMP). *Executive Summary to Report from the United States Secret Service Protective Mission Panel to the Secretary of Homeland Security*, (Dec. 15, 2014) See: [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/14\\_1218\\_usspmp%281%29.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/14_1218_usspmp%281%29.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 1.

implementation of the PMP recommendations.<sup>13</sup> According to the GAO report, the PMP recommended that the Secret Service needs to align its operations with its priorities and the “Secret Service’s leadership must make those choices in a manner to ensure that its core protective mission remains first priority.”<sup>14</sup> The GAO report states that at that time the “Secret Service [had] not fully aligned its operations with its priorities” because the agency hadn’t significantly increased the number of training hours for its special agents and “from fiscal years 2017 through 2020, Secret Service staffing levels fell short of its planned staffing levels for 3 of these 4 fiscal years by 275 individuals.”<sup>15</sup> If the USSS has updates with respect to this matter, please explain.

Further, issues with inadequate USSS staffing levels is a long-recognized problem at the agency. In October 2015, the DHS OIG issued a Management Alert highlighting that USSS officer low staffing levels and scheduling contributed to officer fatigue and low morale which could impact USSS from carrying out its mission.<sup>16</sup> In regards to training, the January 2022 GAO report provides that the implementation of the PMP recommendation that front-line supervisors consistently test the readiness of USSS officers continues to be in progress.<sup>17</sup> GAO had previously reported in 2019 that the USSS planned to study whether to introduce a “random check” program to ensure their agents were prepared to handle different emergency scenarios.<sup>18</sup> However, GAO found in its January 2022 report that since that 2019 review, “no significant changes have been made to ensure forces are held accountable for performance by using frontline supervisors to constantly test readiness” and USSS plans to take no further action on the recommendation.<sup>19</sup> It is unclear if this, as well as other recommendations from the panel, have been implemented.<sup>20</sup>

In addition, in December 2015 the DHS OIG published their review of the USSS handling of an incident where shots were fired from a rifle that hit the White House in 2011. That review noted that USSS did not conduct their own formal review of the incident to learn how their response and investigation could be improved.<sup>21</sup> While the DHS OIG didn’t make formal recommendations, the report admonished the USSS for not conducting a review of the situation by stating that even though other law enforcement agencies were involved in the investigation “this does not relieve the Secret Service of its own responsibility to examine its role and build institutional knowledge by identifying and documenting both best practices and areas for improvement.”<sup>22</sup> The DHS OIG report acknowledges that

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<sup>13</sup> Government Accountability Office, *U.S. Secret Service: Further Progress Made Implementing the Protective Mission Panel Recommendations*, GAO-22-105100 (Jan. 2022) <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-105100.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* at 33.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at 34.

<sup>16</sup> Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, *Management Alert- Secret Service Staffing and Scheduling Contributed to Officer Fatigue*, (Oct. 21, 2015) [https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/Mga/2016/OIG\\_mga-102215.pdf](https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/Mga/2016/OIG_mga-102215.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> GAO *supra* note 13 at 49.

<sup>18</sup> Government Accountability Office, *U.S. Secret Service: Further Actions Needed to Fully Address Protective Mission Panel Recommendations*, GAO-19-415 at 46-47 (May 2019), <https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/699531.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> GAO *supra* note 13 at 49.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.* at 49.

<sup>21</sup> Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General, *The Secret Service did not Identify Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the 2011 White House Shooting Incident*, (Dec. 17, 2015) <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/Mgmt/2016/OIG-16-16-Dec15.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 10.

in 2014 the USSS implemented Mission Assurance Inquiries which allows the USSS Director or Deputy Director to “review a particular program or incident event to assess whether policies were followed and whether protective policies or investigative policies can be improved.”<sup>23</sup> Accordingly, have you begun a Mission Assurance Inquiry to review the actions taken during the July 13, 2024, attempted assassination attempt? If so, when did that begin? If not, why not?

On January 22, 2016, the DHS OIG reported that USSS did not adequately upgrade its radio systems to ensure they worked effectively to support its protection mission.<sup>24</sup> The DHS OIG stated “[i]n the case of radio communications, a single missed transmission or delay could result in a national incident.”<sup>25</sup> The DHS OIG found that USSS failed to ensure its radios were periodically updated over time and that failure “could inhibit communications in an emergency” and the USSS’s “top priority, protecting the President and other high-ranking national officials, allows no room for error and this means its technology cannot fail.”<sup>26</sup> According to the DHS OIG report, USSS agreed and said it would develop a strategy and timeline for continuous upgrades to its radio infrastructure and system.<sup>27</sup> Please provide the status of those continuous upgrades.

These past recommendations and reviews, which seek to improve the Secret Service’s protection capabilities, span back to events that occurred as early as 2011. The PMP recognized that “[f]ollowing through on reforms and recommendations has been an issue for the Secret Service in the past” and PMP made holding Secret Service accountable for following through on implementing changes within the agency its own recommendation.<sup>28</sup> As USSS stated in its most recent Secret Service Annual report, there “is little margin for error in the Secret Service mission.”<sup>29</sup> The USSS must provide a complete and thorough accounting to the American people to assure them that the Secret Service is correcting its past problems and is fully and effectively carrying out its core mission: protection.

Accordingly, so that Congress may conduct independent oversight concerning DHS and Secret Service carrying out its protection mission, please provide answers to the following no later than July 23, 2024:

1. Provide all records<sup>30</sup> between and among USSS, local law enforcement, state law enforcement, sheriffs, and federal law enforcement relating to the July 13, 2024, rally with former President Trump.

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<sup>23</sup> *Id.* at 9.

<sup>24</sup> Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General, *U.S. Secret Service Needs to Upgrade Its Radio Systems*, (Jan. 22, 2016) at 2 <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/Mgmt/2016/OIG-16-20-Jan16.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> *Id.* at 5.

<sup>26</sup> *Id.* at 5.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.* at 6. The DHS OIG report states the recommendation will remain open until USSS provides documentation that these actions were taken.

<sup>28</sup> GAO *supra* note 13 at 46.

<sup>29</sup> U.S. Secret Service, *FY 2023 Annual Report*, USSS (2023) at 3, <https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2024-01/fy23-annual-report-final-pages.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> “Records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (e-mails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

2. Since January 2021, have all requests for additional Secret Service resources to protect President Trump or his family been fulfilled? If not, why not? Provide all records.
3. Provide all records relating to all threats USSS was aware of prior to the rally.
4. Provide a copy of the Secret Service advance plan assessing risks and establishing the security perimeter for the rally and a list of all meetings that took place as part of the advance planning, including dates, times, and attendees. In your response, also provide the established security procedures to screen individuals prior to entering the security perimeter.
5. Provide the names of all USSS supervisors who were responsible for reviewing and approving the security plan.
6. Provide a list of all law enforcement agencies that were present, including local police, state police, sheriffs, and all federal agencies, and a clear delineation of the physical area that each agency was responsible for securing.
7. Provide the names of all Secret Service personnel present that day, their titles, the unit they are were attached to (for example, the counter-assault team) and a description of their responsibilities.
8. For federal agencies present that day other than USSS, list each federal agency, the number of personnel who were assigned, and a description of their responsibilities.
9. Provide a complete list of all countermeasures, including drones, that were deployed at the rally and the agency responsible.
10. Was the building where the sniper was situated, including its roof, considered a potential threat? Which agency was responsible for securing that area? Was the building secured? If so, which agency secured it and when? Provide all records.
11. Provide all records regarding what was found on the gunman's body and in his vehicle.
12. Provide a full and complete timeline of events that transpired, beginning with the actions taken by the Secret Service advance team and ending with former President Trump's evacuation.
13. Were USSS communication equipment, such as radios, fully operational and actively receiving communications from law enforcement, including state and local law enforcement? Were these radio or similar communication transmissions recorded? If yes, provide the recordings. If not, why not?
14. Provide a detailed description on whether USSS followed all guidance, policies, and related procedures when securing the premises. Where guidance, policies, or procedures were not followed, explain what was not followed and why.
15. Provide USSS policies, guidance, and similar documents relating to the use of state and local law enforcement to supplement Secret Service protection of former presidents at public events, including documents relating to securing the site.
16. Provide a status update on each of the recommendations, both classified and unclassified, issued by the PMP in its 2014 report.
17. For each Secret Service agent on duty that day, provide the number of hours, including percentage of work time, used for training. How often did these agents take part in readiness test training as prescribed in the PMP recommendations?
18. Since January 2021, what actions has USSS taken to improve hiring and retention of Secret Service personnel?
19. Since January 2021, provide a detailed description of how USSS prioritizes its core mission of protection in relation to investigative responsibilities and diversity initiatives.

20. Was USSS alerted by state or local law enforcement, or members of the public that the suspected gunman was on top of the roof with a rifle prior to firing? Has USSS interviewed any individuals who attended the rally? Provide a timeline of events with respect to notification of the gunman and interviews conducted.
21. Was the suspected gunman known to the USSS prior to the shooting?
22. Do you commit to conducting a full and complete Mission Assurance Inquiry or other review of the actions taken before, during, and after the attempted assassination? If so, please provide a timeline for the review, as well as its scope. If not, why not?
23. Has USSS leadership informed all USSS personnel to preserve all records, such as text messages and emails, related to the assassination attempt? If yes, please provide a copy of the preservation request.
24. Provide a copy of the advance risk assessment and security plan and other documents related to President Trump's protection during his October 31, 2020, rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.<sup>31</sup> Please include a description of any coordination with federal and local law enforcement for the rally.

I anticipate that your written reply and some responsive documents will be unclassified. Please send all unclassified material directly to the Committee. In keeping with the requirements of Executive Order 13526, if any of the responsive documents do contain classified information, please segregate all unclassified material within the classified documents, provide all unclassified information directly to the Committee, and provide a classified addendum to the Office of Senate Security. Although the Committee complies with all laws and regulations governing the handling of classified information, it is not bound, absent its prior agreement, by any handling restrictions.

Thank you for your prompt review and response. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Randolph and Silvia Symer on my Committee staff at (202) 224-0642.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget

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<sup>31</sup> C-SPAN, *Campaign 2020 President Trump Holds Rally in Butler, Pennsylvania* (Oct. 31, 2020), <https://www.c-span.org/video/?477598-1/president-trump-holds-rally-butler-pennsylvania>. (last accessed: 7/16/24).