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**FW: Requested Follow up for 2020 IGPA [REDACTED] FOIA/PA Final Response DHS OIG**

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**From** Frierson, Naki (Van Hollen) <Naki\_Frierson@vanhollen.senate.gov>

**Date** Wed 1/3/2024 10:26 AM

**To** [REDACTED]

7 attachment (792 KB)

20200214 DHS OIG FOIA REQUEST USSS SA RIPPERGER and ALSTON.pdf; 20200521 Acknowledgment Letter, [REDACTED] 5.21 2020.pdf; 20200728 DHS OIG Freedom of Information Act Appeal.pdf; 20200729 DHS OIG 2020-IGAP-00011 Appeal Acknowledgment.pdf; 20200903 Senator Van Hollen OIG Investigation.pdf; 20240102 Senator Chris Van Hollen Followup OIG Investigation.pdf; DRAFT SAMPLE Inquiry for [REDACTED] with DHS OIG.docx;

Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email

I will review this with the Senator who'll follow up with the agency once again on your behalf

I will be sure to relay any updates received

Best,

***Naki D. Frierson***

(she/her)

Deputy Constituent Services Director  
Office of U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen  
111 Rockville Pike, Ste. 960  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Office: (301) 545-1500  
Fax: (301) 545-1512



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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024 11:08 PM

**To:** Frierson, Naki (Van Hollen) <Naki\_Frierson@vanhollen.senate.gov>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Requested Follow-up for 2020-IGPA-[REDACTED] FOIA/PA Final Response DHS-OIG

Dear Ms. Frierson,

A significant amount of time has passed since our last communication. I would like to request Senator Van Hollen make another inquiry on this matter. To ease your administrative burden,

I took the liberty of drafting an inquiry (attached in Word Format "Draft Sample Inquiry") which your office may modify in any manner you deem fit.

Also, please see the direct correspondence to Senator Van Hollen below and attached to this email. I have also attached the relevant documents for reference in this inquiry.

As always, thank you for your assistance

Happy New Year,

[REDACTED]

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Senator Chris Van Hollen  
SH 110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Subject: Status of DHS-OIG Investigation into Secret Service Polygraph Audio Destruction and DHS-OIG non responsiveness to FOIA Inquiry and subsequent Appeal

Dear Senator Van Hollen,

First, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks for your efforts on tracking the status of the OIG Investigation pertaining to the disappearance of my polygraph audio with United States Secret Service Agent Ellen Ripperger.

In September 2020 your staff met with the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General (DHS-OIG) pertaining to the ongoing OIG Investigation of United States Secret Service Special Agent Ellen Ripperger and the "disappearance" of my polygraph audio file. Recall this investigation began in early 2019 by Special Agent Michael Benedict and on August 19, 2019 DHS OIG advised your office that DHS OIG was close to completing its investigative work. DHS-OIG suddenly changed its timeline for the completion of this investigation to "indefinite" in September 2020 when your staff met with them as they were striving to "conduct a thorough investigation." It is simply implausible OIG has "continued" this investigation for four years, especially when we consider a former FBI agent was on 60 minutes for finding the killers of Ann Frank's family in six months. The actions of DHS-OIG have all the hallmarks of a coverup and corruption. The most likely explanation is DHS-OIG will keep this investigation open in perpetuity to withhold disclosure to Congress in the DHS-OIG Semiannual Reports to Congress and the American people, and that is unacceptable

My FOIA request (Request No. 2020-IGPA-[REDACTED] to DHS-OIG was denied on July 14, 2020 and I filed a timely appeal (Appeal No. 2020-IGAP-[REDACTED]) on July 28, 2020. The appeal stated DHS-OIG's use of Exemption 7A to justify withholding this information from the public failed under six pillars which were articulated at length

DHS-OIG acknowledged receipt of my appeal by email on July 29, 2019, but has been non responsive to my request.

A number of American's have concerns regarding the integrity of law enforcement in our nation, especially with regard to treatment of minorities, and we cannot expect local and state law enforcement agencies to follow the letter of the law if Federal Law Enforcement agencies are openly flouting the rule of law.

Section 5(a)(21)(B) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act) requires OIG to report "*incidents where the establishment has resisted or objected to oversight activities of the Office or restricted or significantly delayed access to information, including the justification of the establishment for such action.*" Significantly, the United States Secret Service has been listed in the DHS-OIG Semi-Annual Reports as consistently denying access to OIG oversight since October 2019, and up until the last report, has been the only agency to do so.

I realize your office is quite busy and have drafted a sample inquiry letter which you may modify to ease your administrative burden. It is attached to this email with the filename "DRAFT SAMPLE Inquiry for [REDACTED] with DHS OIG.docx".

Your attention in this matter and continued assistance is greatly appreciated. I was recently contacted by someone who identified themselves as a USSS agent who stated in an email "*Watch your back because Ripperger is running her mouth about you and you have a security clearance*", which implies USSS may try to have my Security Clearance revoked in retaliation for seeking your assistance. The USSS was found guilty by OIG of engaging in [Security Clearance retaliation \(OIG Report No. I15-USSS-SID-01777\)](#), so I take this threat quite seriously.

Thank you so very much,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Frierson, Naki (Van Hollen) <[Naki\\_Frierson@vanhollen.senate.gov](mailto:Naki_Frierson@vanhollen.senate.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 3:54 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] <[tomgagliardo@gmail.com](mailto:tomgagliardo@gmail.com)> <[tomgagliardo@gmail.com](mailto:tomgagliardo@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** RE: 2020-IGPA- [REDACTED] FOIA/PA Final Response DHS-OIG

[REDACTED]

Thank you for sharing this update.

Like you, the Senator is deeply concerned about the length of time that has passed. I will share this update with him and will be in touch with any updates that we receive

**Naki D. Frierson**

Constituent Services | Outreach Representative  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 2:07 PM  
**To:** Frierson, Naki (Van Hollen) [Naki.Frierson@vanhollen.senate.gov](mailto:Naki.Frierson@vanhollen.senate.gov) ; [tomgagliardo@gmail.com](mailto:tomgagliardo@gmail.com); [REDACTED]  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** FW 2020 IGPA [REDACTED] FOIA/PA Final Response DHS OIG

Dear Ms. Frierson,

I received this response from DHS-OIG stating they would not answer the FOIA request into their investigation of US Secret Service Special Agent Ellen Ripperger, and the possible destruction of my polygraph audio, because the DHS OIG investigation was “ongoing”.

Recall Senator Van Hollen received correspondence on August 19, 2019 from DHS OIG stating DHS OIG was “close to completing its investigative work.” Depending on the definition of “close”, it would seem unlikely given DHS-OIG’s response to Senator Van Hollen this investigation is in fact still open, unless gross misconduct has occurred at the United States Secret Service. I think it is much more likely this is simply pretext to refuse from answering the inquiry, which will be embarrassing the government.

I am going to appeal this decision, but I would like to request Senator Van Hollen ask DHS OIG why this investigation is still ongoing when he was told a year ago DHS OIG was close to completing its investigative work.

Thank you for your help in this matter

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**From:** [FOIA OIG](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:58 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** 2020 IGPA [REDACTED] FOIA/PA Final Response DHS OIG

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG). Attached please find DHS-OIG's final response of the above-referenced FOIA/PA request.

Sincerely,  
FOIA/DHS-OIG