

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. [REDACTED]) to DHS-OIG was denied on July 14, 2020 and I filed a timely appeal (Appeal No. [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]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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