



**One Hundred Fourteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515**

September 30, 2015

The Honorable Joseph Clancy
Director
United States Secret Service
245 Murray Lane
Washington, DC 20223

Dear Director Clancy:

Today, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (IG) published a memorandum summarizing its investigation of allegations that the United States Secret Service's ("Secret Service") Master Central Index (MCI), a restricted database that contains personally-identifiable information, was improperly accessed.¹ The IG found that on approximately 60 occasions, the database was accessed, and the records of a Member of Congress were obtained by Secret Service Agents, many of whom lacked a legitimate and permissible reason for accessing these records.² As such, the IG concluded that an overwhelming majority of these employees accessed this information in violation of the Privacy Act of 1974.³

What is extremely disturbing is that the IG identified 18 supervisors at the GS-15 or Senior Executive Service level who appeared to have known or should have known about this egregious behavior.⁴ With only one exception, the IG found no evidence that any of these senior managers attempted to inform you or to stop or remediate the activity.⁵ According to the IG, your Chief of Staff, the de facto gate-keeper of information that flows to you, did not comprehend the severity of the situation and failed to report it to you.⁶ Further, I was troubled to learn from the IG that when your Deputy Director was alerted about this improper activity, he was dismissive.⁷ What is even more appalling is that the memorandum states that you did not find out about this improper activity that occurred in field offices throughout this nation and abroad, until it was reported in the media eight days after the first member of your senior management became aware of the situation.⁸

¹ DHS Office of Inspector General Memorandum to Secretary Johnson and Director Clancy. September 25, 2015.

² Id. at 2.

³ Id. at 5.

⁴ Id. at 10.

⁵ Id.

⁶ DHS Office of Inspector General Memorandum to Secretary Johnson and Director Clancy at 12.

⁷ Id. at 12.

⁸ Id. at 13.

This matter is about much more than the embarrassment to the individual targeted by this behavior. It speaks to the fact that little progress has been made to address the significant cultural problems that plague the Secret Service. Learning that supervisors, including those at the highest levels of this law enforcement agency, were so callous about behavior that is potentially criminal, opens the agency to civil liability, and exposes the agency to further public and congressional scrutiny, which undermines my confidence that the reforms you are pursuing have any hope of curing what ails the Secret Service.

Your senior leadership team sets the tone for the entire agency. Both your senior leadership's mishandling of potentially criminal activity and the improper activity by agents across the globe, demand your timely, appropriate, and consistent action. Current agents, officers, recruits, Congress, and the public all have an interest in how you resolve this matter.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, please contact Hope Goins, Chief Counsel for Oversight at 202-226-2616 or hope.goins@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security