

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

June 10, 2021

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “The Capitol Insurrection: Unexplained Delays and Unanswered Questions (Part II)”

On Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and on Zoom, the Committee will hold a hearing to examine the events of January 6, 2021, in which insurrectionists stormed the U.S. Capitol to disrupt a joint session of Congress convened to count the Electoral College votes of the 2020 presidential election.

I. BACKGROUND

On January 6, 2021, Congress was scheduled to meet in joint session to count the Electoral College votes of the 2020 presidential election and, in accordance with the certified vote, to announce President Biden as the winner. During the joint session, a violent mob descended on the Capitol, launching an assault on the building. Rioters crashed through security barriers, assaulted law enforcement personnel guarding the building, and eventually breached the Capitol, forcing Vice President Pence, Members of Congress, their staffs and families, and other Capitol Hill personnel to flee until order could be restored hours later.¹

One hundred and forty police officers were injured and five people died in connection with the attack, and two officers subsequently died by suicide.² Tens of thousands of National Guard troops had to be mobilized to protect the Capitol and to ensure the peaceful transfer of power in light of ongoing threats.³

¹ *One Legacy of Impeachment: The Most Complete Account So Far of Jan. 6*, New York Times (Feb. 13, 2021) (online at www.nytimes.com/2021/02/13/us/politics/capitol-riots-impeachment-trial.html).

² *Officer Attacked in Capitol Riot Died of Strokes, Medical Examiner Rules*, New York Times (Apr. 19, 2021) (online at www.nytimes.com/2021/04/19/us/politics/brian-sicknick-death.html).

³ *About 20,000 National Guard Members To Deploy For Inauguration, Officials Say*, National Public Radio (Jan 13, 2021) (online at www.npr.org/sections/insurrection-at-the-capitol/2021/01/13/956458463/20-000-national-guardsmen-will-be-deployed-for-inauguration-d-c-official-says).

Although U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) is the principal law enforcement agency charged with protecting the U.S. Capitol, Members of Congress, and others in the Capitol complex, USCP relies heavily on federal agencies in the National Capital Region to share threat intelligence and augment security resources during large-scale events.⁴ These agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is responsible for sharing intelligence related to foreign and domestic terrorism with federal, state and local law enforcement partners, and the Department of Defense and the National Guard, which frequently provide support for local and federal law enforcement operations in Washington, D.C.

II. HEARING PURPOSE

The purpose of this hearing is to address unanswered questions about the January 6 insurrection, including the Trump Administration's preparation for and response to the attack.

III. WITNESSES

The Honorable Christopher Wray

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

General Charles A. Flynn

Commanding General
U.S. Army Pacific

Lieutenant General Walter E. Piatt

Director of the Army Staff
United States Army

Ms. Yogananda Pittman (Invited)

Acting Chief
U.S. Capitol Police

Staff contacts: Amish Shah, Will Ryan, and Matthew Patane at (202) 225-5051

⁴ See Congressional Research Service, *Law Enforcement's Response to the January 6th Events at the Capitol* (Jan. 22, 2021) (online at www.everycrsreport.com/files/2021-01-22_IF11738_66c975d38bc497b5e3c1ec8f5f10782ca47bbc32.pdf).