

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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**MEMORANDUM**

**September 11, 2020**

**To: Members of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

**Fr: Committee Staff**

**Re: Hearing on “Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part IV): White Supremacy in Blue—The Infiltration of Local Police Departments”**

On **Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.**, the Subcommittee will host a remote hearing to examine the disturbing penetration of white supremacist groups and ideologies into the ranks of law enforcement. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has repeatedly warned about the danger of “white supremacist infiltration of law enforcement from perspective of both strategic infiltration by organized groups and self-initiated infiltration by law enforcement personnel sympathetic to white supremacist causes.”<sup>1</sup> In 2019, investigative journalists published the Plain View Project, which compiled over 5,000 posts from police officers across the country that exposed a violent, racist subculture within the law enforcement community.<sup>2</sup> Both these problems—strategic infiltration of law enforcement agencies by white supremacists and the prevalence of white supremacist attitudes within law enforcement—endanger the public and hamstring efforts to combat right-wing extremism.

**I. WITNESSES**

**Peter Simi**

Associate Professor of Sociology  
Chapman University

**Heather Taylor**

President  
Ethical Society of Police, St. Louis

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *White Supremacist Infiltration of Law Enforcement* (Oct. 17, 2006) (online at <http://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/402521/doc-26-white-supremacist-infiltration.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> The Plain View Project, *About the Project* (online at [www.plainviewproject.org/about](http://www.plainviewproject.org/about)) (accessed on July 22, 2020); *This Group Compiled Police Officers’ Offensive Facebook Posts. Now Departments Are Taking Action*, CNN (June 20, 2019) (online at [www.cnn.com/2019/06/20/us/plain-view-project-police-investigating/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2019/06/20/us/plain-view-project-police-investigating/index.html)).

**Vida B. Johnson**

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**Mark Napier**

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Pima County, Arizona

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