

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

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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**MEMORANDUM**

**September 23, 2021**

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

**Fr: Subcommittee Staff**

**Re: Hearing on “Confronting Violent White Supremacy, Part VI: Examining the Biden Administration’s Counterterrorism Strategy”**

On **Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and remotely on the Zoom video platform**, the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties will hold a hybrid hearing on the Biden Administration’s counterterrorism strategy.

**I. HEARING PURPOSE**

On June 15, 2021, President Biden released the first-ever National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism (“Strategy”), which was the result of the Administration’s comprehensive review of federal efforts to address domestic terrorism.<sup>1</sup> The President ordered federal law enforcement and intelligence officials to study the threat of domestic violent extremism just days after taking office, in the aftermath of the Capitol insurrection.<sup>2</sup>

The Strategy outlined four main pillars that are meant to guide federal agencies as they reassess their counterterrorism efforts. Those pillars are:

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<sup>1</sup> National Security Council, *National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism* (June 15, 2021) (online at [www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/National-Strategy-for-Countering-Domestic-Terrorism.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/National-Strategy-for-Countering-Domestic-Terrorism.pdf)); The White House, *FACT SHEET: National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism* (June 15, 2021) (online at [www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/fact-sheet-national-strategy-for-countering-domestic-terrorism/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/15/fact-sheet-national-strategy-for-countering-domestic-terrorism/)).

<sup>2</sup> *Biden Orders Review of Domestic Violent Extremism Threat*, Associated Press (Jan. 22, 2021) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-donald-trump-jen-psaki-national-security-terrorism-8ac769920a5a945ed1ccaf44d0906d99>).

1. Understand and share domestic terrorism-related information;
2. Prevent domestic terrorism recruitment and mobilization to violence;
3. Disrupt and deter domestic terrorism activity; and
4. Confront long-term contributors to domestic terrorism.<sup>3</sup>

This hearing will examine the ways in which the Biden Administration is seeking to create a comprehensive domestic terrorism strategy that is responsive to the current threat landscape, including the rise of white supremacist and militia violent extremists.<sup>4</sup> It will also examine how the Administration plans to balance the need for a reinvigorated focus on domestic terrorism threats with the duty to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans, and the role that Congress can play in helping to ensure that balance.

## II. WITNESSES

### **Mr. John D. Cohen**

Coordinator for Counterterrorism  
Department of Homeland Security

### **Mr. Brad Wiegmann**

Deputy Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division  
Department of Justice

### **Mr. Timothy R. Langan**

Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Staff contacts: Devon Ombres and Jacob Glick at (202) 225-5051.

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<sup>3</sup> National Security Council, *National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism* (June 15, 2021) (online at [www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/National-Strategy-for-Countering-Domestic-Terrorism.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/National-Strategy-for-Countering-Domestic-Terrorism.pdf)).

<sup>4</sup> Office of the Director of National Intelligence, *Domestic Violent Extremism Poses Heightened Threat in 2021* (Mar. 1, 2021) (online at [www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/UnclassSummaryofDVEAssessment-17MAR21.pdf](http://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/UnclassSummaryofDVEAssessment-17MAR21.pdf)).