

Chairman Van Drew, Ranking Member Crockett and Members of the Subcommittee, I would like to thank you for inviting me to come and respectfully speak with you today.

It was my honor and privilege to serve as an FBI Special Agent for over a dozen years. I spent my first four years investigating white collar complex financial crimes and then transferred over to violent crime where I spent the majority of my FBI career. Although it was physically and emotionally taxing, it was worth it as I considered it a sacred responsibility and mission to protect and serve the American people.

I was motivated to apply to the FBI in 2009 – eight years after I witnessed in-person the catastrophic September 11, 2001 terrorist attack at the World Trade Center in New York City. I reported to the FBI Academy in Quantico eight months after applying. I believed that I was fulfilling a greater purpose serving at the FBI until the agency's trajectory was upended. I witnessed the FBI become politically and socially weaponized. It's as if there became two FBI's.

FBI 1 consists of those who joined the Bureau with pure motives to serve, putting the needs of victims first. They are ethical, honoring their oath to uphold the Constitution and protect the American people in a fair and unbiased manner. They maintain their First Amendment rights but when they report to work, they leave their political and social preferences at the door, following the truth, the law, the facts and evidence. They keep their heads low, stay off the radar, work hard, doing the heavy lifting while pursuing noble cases without fanfare or self-promotion. FBI 1 employees make the agency proud.

FBI 2, on the other hand, is the antithesis of FBI 1. They are self-promoters who abuse their law enforcement power to push their political and social agendas. Many were in leadership positions either at Headquarters in D.C. or executive management nationwide, while others were support staff or agents in the field. FBI 2 is not confined to one location or one role, they are interspersed throughout the agency from top to bottom. Their mindset exudes haughtiness or even laziness. FBI 2 culture constantly focuses on the "needs of the Bureau" instead of the needs of the American people and the needs of the victims of crimes. FBI 2's destructive approach has tarnished the FBI's once-stellar reputation.

I served under three presidents' administrations. Unfortunately, under the Biden regime it became beyond difficult for many agents to do our jobs as the majority of Americans lost trust and confidence in the FBI. In October 2022 under the tenure of AG Merrick Garland and FBI Director Christopher Wray, I made the tough decision to walk away from the FBI as morale had dropped drastically and its priorities and mission became unrecognizable to me. I could no longer quietly stand on the sidelines and watch the agency I loved crumble. Sadly, I was not the only agent who resigned prior to attaining

my pension. Around the same time of my departure, many other agents resigned for similar reasons.

In the interest of time, I will outline only a few of many factors that led me out of the agency.

Lady Justice was no longer blind. There was a pattern of FBI 2 aggressively pursuing cases against those on one side of the political spectrum while turning a blind eye to those on the opposite end of the spectrum. There was extreme bias and unequal enforcement of the law. For example, the FBI went after then 2024 presidential candidate Donald J. Trump in a way that I had never witnessed in my time at the FBI and I worked with some of the most violent and dangerous offenders out there. The FBI and DOJ treated Trump as if he was the top individual on the FBI's Most Wanted List. Love him or hate him, it is entirely irrelevant. The fact is it was inappropriate and an abuse of power. It appeared that the FBI and DOJ pulled out all the stops in an effort to prevent Trump from winning the 2024 election.

I was in FBI Miami on August 8, 2022 when the unprecedented raid at Mar-a-Lago took place. Although I was not present, we all felt the reverberating damaging effects. The FBI continued to tout that "no one is above the law" but that was not what the FBI's actions demonstrated. In fact, over and over they showed that those on the other side of the political spectrum typically faced no legal consequences for breaking laws. They certainly appeared to be above the law. It was wrong yet no one was stopping it.

In former Attorney General Garland's own words, he stated at a hearing on September 20, 2023 before the Committee on the Judiciary, "The Justice Department's investigation into the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol is one of the largest and most expensive investigations in our history. So far, that investigation has resulted in the arrest of more than 1,100 defendants for their alleged roles in the attack.... Our work is not over." I found it stunning as a witness to the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks where nearly 3000 innocent lives were taken by the hand of evil that J6 was considered even remotely in the same realm. Sadly, numerous other pressing violations the FBI should have been investigating such as violent crimes against children were brushed to the side and received a fraction of the resources that J6 investigations received.

Astoundingly the vast majority of the charges resulting from J6 were for misdemeanors. Shocking because historically the FBI had not been in the business of charging widespread misdemeanors. The FBI has valuable investigative resources with a minute number of agents to address all national security threats from our adversaries, foreign terrorist organization groups, violent criminals etc. The bureau's resources need to be put to the best possible use to protect the American people, not for charging voluminous

misdemeanors. Year after year, FBI agents nationwide received emails from FBI Headquarters asking for us to leave our own cases and field offices and report to D.C. for 90-day TDY (temporary duty assignments) in order to work what felt like the never-ending J6 investigations.

Most disturbing to me on a personal level was that I saw and heard of FBI SWAT resources liberally being dispatched for the arrest of first-time, non-violent, J6 offenders. The widespread use of SWAT appeared to be for political intimidation. One SWAT operator shared how their entire SWAT team was sent 4.5 hours away to stay overnight in a hotel to arrest grandparents in their late 70's with no criminal record at all and no strong reason to believe they were prone to act out violently.

Yet, in contrast, there was no SWAT presence when FBI Miami Special Agents Laura Schwartzenberger and Daniel Alfin were shot and killed in the line of duty the horrific morning of February 2, 2021 in Sunrise, Florida. Two other agents were also shot but survived. They were executing a search warrant for what are known to be the most dangerous and violent offenders - a child pornography predator.

While SWAT resources were eagerly being utilized nationwide for J6 arrests that did not meet any of the criteria for the use of SWAT, there was no SWAT team present for Laura and Dan that tragic February 2nd morning. If there had been, they would still be alive.

And to add to the pain of their deaths, the FBI did not even pick up the tab for their memorial services. A private donor was asked by the FBI if they would be willing to pay for the memorial services since the FBI did not have the funds to do so. Keep in mind that agents had not been killed adversarially in approximately 13 years when they were murdered. Yet during the same timeframe, the FBI spent exorbitant amounts of money on J6 investigations year after year as well as other unnecessary and frivolous non-mission-based initiatives such as DEI, the climate change push for electric vehicles bureau-wide, etc. But no funds to pay for our fallen heroes' memorial services. Despicable.

Laura was not only a colleague but a close friend. I can attest that she was an honorable agent of the highest level of integrity doing the heaviest lifting in the FBI protecting the most vulnerable members of society – children. And the FBI failed her.

Additionally, the FBI became laser-focused on its Office of Diversity and Inclusion program to the point that we felt like we were working for a social justice warrior club rather than a law enforcement agency. I was flabbergasted to learn that there were 19 different diversity committees, clubs and groups at the FBI. If one would like to celebrate their gender, race, ethnicity, religion, etc. that is wonderful but that should be done on your own time and not on Bureau time or at taxpayers' expense.

Focusing on anything other than the FBI's mission is a dangerous distraction. Americans want to be protected by the best and brightest. I embrace and respect humans from all different walks of life. I welcome a diverse workforce as far as varying work experiences that would qualify one to be a special agent such as backgrounds in cyber, finance, accounting, legal, law enforcement, various languages, military, engineering, IT, aeronautics, science, etc. No one at the FBI should be hired or promoted based on anything other than meritocracy. Sadly, the FBI dropped their hiring eligibility requirements for applicants. Additionally, those who wished to promote were required to detail their diversity efforts which has nothing to do with one's ability to keep Americans safe. One should be promoted based on successful investigative experience. The FBI should focus on what unites us, not what divides us – it is one mission to protect all Americans and uphold the Constitution.

It was highly troubling to me that when Laura and Dan were murdered, there was never an FBI-wide after-action review by Director Christopher Wray. Not even an email outlining what transpired and lessons learned to mitigate risk going forward. Instead, radio silence as if it never happened.

But yet our email boxes were flooded with diversity emails regarding activities, celebrations, committees, pride parades, etc. as well as a steady flow of correspondence regarding updates and requests to work J6 matters. We wanted answers about what happened to our fallen agents and was met with silence from management on that most important matter. We deserved to know, FBI Miami deserved to know, their families they left behind deserved to know. The entire FBI should have been briefed in a timely manner on mistakes made and actions the bureau was taking to prevent this from ever happening again. But 1.5 years after they were murdered, nothing. It was a higher priority for the agency to focus on politically charged investigations and non-mission matters such as diversity and climate change.

Additionally, the DOJ changed its deadly force policy in July 2022 for the first time in 18 years on the heels of two FBI agents being murdered in the line of duty. Many agents deemed this policy change as a social justice move in light of the 2020 riots. It should be noted that I never once witnessed the use of excessive force as an FBI agent who worked violent crime. When agents should have been given more support and protection by the policy, agents interpreted it that we were given less. Tone deaf.

The list of issues and concerns myself and others had with the FBI was growing long. No one felt that their voice mattered or that any changes were possible as Director Wray and AG Garland believed that all was well while many at the FBI were deeply troubled by what was transpiring. After much prayer and reflection, it was time for me to walk away.

It is remarkable that several fugitives from the FBI's Most Wanted list have already been taken into custody since President Trump took office January 20. I am hopeful and confident that under this new administration with AG Pam Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel at the helm that with time, effort and serious reform, the FBI will regain Americans' and FBI employees' trust again, dismantling the political and social weaponization and return to its greatness. That is what our current, retired and fallen FBI heroes' legacies deserve. And most of all, it is what Americans deserve.