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**TASK FORCE ON THE
ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION
OF
DONALD J. TRUMP**

4440 O'NEILL HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

HEARING MEMORANDUM

TO: Members on the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump

FROM: Staff on the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump

DATE: September 25, 2024

RE: Hearing entitled “The Ongoing Investigation of the Butler, Pennsylvania Security Failure: The Secret Service’s Reliance on State and Local Law Enforcement”

On **Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 9:30 AM ET**, the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump will hold a hearing entitled “**The Ongoing Investigation of the Butler, Pennsylvania Security Failure: The Secret Service’s Reliance on State and Local Law Enforcement.**” The meeting will convene in room 1100 of the Longworth House Office Building. The purpose of this hearing is to hear from entities involved in the execution of the rally for former President Trump on July 13, 2024, in Butler, PA.

I. Panel I Witnesses

- **Mr. Edward Lenz**
Sergeant, Adams Township Police Department
Commander, Butler County Emergency Services Unit
- **Mr. Drew Blasko**
Patrolman, Butler Township Police Department
Assistant Sniper Team Leader, Butler County Emergency Services Unit
- **Mr. John D. Herold**
Lieutenant, Pennsylvania State Police
- **Mr. Patrick Sullivan**
Former United States Secret Service Agent
- **Dr. Ariel Goldschmidt**
Medical Examiner
Alleghany County

II. Panel II Witnesses

- **The Honorable Eli Crane**
U.S. House of Representatives (AZ-02)
- **The Honorable Cory Mills**
U.S. House of Representatives (FL-07)

III. Background

On July 13, 2024, former President Donald J. Trump survived an assassination attempt at a rally at the Butler Farm Show in Butler, Pennsylvania. Shortly after former President Trump took the stage, Thomas Crooks fired eight rounds from his perch on the roof of a building in the nearby American Glass Research (AGR) complex, striking the former President on the ear, taking the life of Corey Comperatore, and seriously wounding two others, David Dutch, and James Copenhaver.

The U.S. Secret Service (USSS) has a dual mission. The agency is responsible for (1) protection and investigations to ensure the safety and security of protectees, key locations, and events of national significance, and (2) protecting the integrity of U.S. currency, and for the investigation of crimes against the U.S. financial system committed by criminals around the world and in cyberspace. Although the USSS operates under a “zero-fail” mission mentality in guarding protectees, it has experienced a number of failures, including the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the shooting of President Ronald Reagan, and multiple other near misses.

The USSS is ultimately responsible for the safety of its protectees and will often partner with other federal agencies and local law enforcement (LLE) to facilitate protection for events. This was the case for the protection of former President Donald J. Trump at his campaign rally on July 13.

The Task Force, created through unanimous passage of House Resolution 1367 on July 24, 2024, has three key goals: (1) to understand what went wrong on the day of the attempted assassination; (2) to ensure accountability; and (3) to prevent such a failure from ever happening again. The Task Force is working diligently towards these goals and has uncovered several key facts throughout the month-long investigation.

At this stage in the Task Force’s investigation, it is clear that there was a lack of leadership, planning, and coordination by the USSS for the event. This hearing will unpack the factors that contributed to the fundamental security failure, highlight the heroic acts of LLE, and correct the record on some key facts.