

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

MEMORANDUM

May 7, 2021

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “The Capitol Insurrection: Unexplained Delays and Unanswered Questions”

On **Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and over 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. This hearing will focus in particular on the Trump Administration’s preparations in advance of January 6 and response to the attacks.

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 and bludgeoned law enforcement personnel guarding the building, and 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 four people died in connection with the attack, and two officers subsequently committed suicide.² Tens of thousands of

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 *U.S. Capitol Officer Brian Sicknick Died of Strokes the Day After Riot, Medical Examiner Rules*, USA TODAY (Apr. 19, 2021) (online at www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2021/04/19/capitol-officer-brian-sicknick-died-strokes-autopsy/7291796002/).

National Guardsmen had to be mobilized to protect the Capitol and ensure the peaceful transfer of power in light of ongoing threats.³

Although the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) is the principal law enforcement agency charged with protecting the Capitol, Members of Congress, and others in the Capitol complex, USCP relies on federal agencies in the National Capital Region to provide intelligence about terrorist threats and additional resources during large-scale events. These agencies include the Department of Justice, which is the federal government’s lead law enforcement agency and is charged with ensuring public safety against foreign and domestic threats, the Department of Defense and the National Guard, which frequently provide support for local and federal law enforcement operations in Washington, D.C., and local police departments, including the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.

II. HEARING PURPOSE

The purpose of this hearing is to examine the role of Executive Branch and District agencies in the events of January 6, 2021 and to address unanswered questions about the Trump Administration’s preparations for January 6 and response to the attacks.

III. WITNESSES

The Honorable Christopher C. Miller

Former Acting Secretary
Department of Defense

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Rosen

Former Acting Attorney General
Department of Justice

Mr. Robert J. Contee III

Chief
Metropolitan Police Department

Additional Witnesses TBD

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

³ *New Warnings of Violence as Security Tightens for Inauguration*, New York Times (Jan. 15, 2021) (online at www.nytimes.com/2021/01/15/us/politics/inauguration-security.html).