



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

July 23, 2020

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

I am writing to update you on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) response to your request that the OIG investigate the involvement of DOJ law enforcement personnel in responding to ongoing protests in cities throughout the country. You also asked that the OIG address the role of the Attorney General and DOJ law enforcement personnel in the events at Lafayette Square on Monday, June 1, 2020. In my previous letter to you, I indicated that the OIG was assessing the issues raised in your June 2, 2020 letter, and would update you as soon as we were able to do so. Since that time, we have also received requests to review DOJ's response to protest activity and civil unrest in Portland, Oregon.

After assessing these issues, and in response your request and those from other Members of Congress and the public, the DOJ OIG is initiating a review to examine the DOJ's and its law enforcement components' roles and responsibilities in responding to protest activity and civil unrest in Washington, D.C., and in Portland, Oregon over the prior two months. The review will include examining the training and instruction that was provided to the DOJ law enforcement personnel; compliance with applicable identification requirements, rules of engagement, and legal authorities; and adherence to DOJ policies regarding the use of less-lethal munitions, chemical agents, and other uses of force. With regard to events in Lafayette Square on June 1, 2020, the DOJ OIG will coordinate our review with the Department of Interior OIG, which recently announced its review of those events. If circumstances warrant, the OIG will consider including other issues that may arise during the course of the review.

Additionally, in response to related Congressional requests, complaints received by the OIG, and a referral from the U.S. Attorney in Oregon, the DOJ OIG has opened an investigation into use of force allegations involving DOJ law enforcement personnel in Portland, Oregon in July 2020. The DOJ OIG will coordinate our investigation with the Department of Homeland Security OIG.

Thank you for your continued support of the OIG. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me or Adam Miles, Counselor to the Inspector General, at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary