



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

November 1, 2013

The Honorable Claire McCaskill, Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman McCaskill:

This responds to your letter of October 30, 2013, addressed to Deputy Inspector General Charles Edwards. As you know, Mr. Edwards has recused himself from any involvement in our office's response to your requests for documents relating to your Subcommittee's investigation into certain allegations against him. I ask that you address any future correspondence on this matter to me.

Since this office received the document request in your letter of June 27, 2013, we have produced to the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting oversight nearly 2,000 pages of responsive documents. We have made available to you all our current employees whom you have requested to interview. Of those, your staff has interviewed 9 employees, and we have scheduled or are in the process of scheduling 9 more for interviews. As these interviews are voluntary, we can only make available to you those individuals who consent to be interviewed. We cannot require any employee to be interviewed. It would be inappropriate for us to attempt to persuade otherwise those who do not wish to be interviewed.

Regarding the specific requests as numbered in your June 27 letter, we have concluded our searches relating to, and have provided you all documents that we have identified as responsive to, requests 3, 8, 9, 10, 15 and 16. Our responses to requests 3, 8, 10 and 15 also include email correspondence, contrary to the statement in your October 30 letter.

Your only requests to which we have made partial responses are numbers 12 and 13. We are working diligently to finish our review of additional documents potentially responsive to these requests and will get them to you as soon as possible.

As to your remaining five requests, we expect to provide the documents responsive to number 1 within the next one or two business days. We continue to work diligently on



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the other four requests and will respond to them as soon as possible. We are also working to make up for time lost due to the recent lapse in appropriations.

Your October 30 letter refers to your understanding that our office "has failed to conduct electronic searches for many of the documents and communication identified by the Subcommittee," and "has failed to provide certain relevant, accessible documents specifically identified by Subcommittee staff."

As to the latter point, we have provided and will continue to provide all responsive documents that we locate, whether identified by your staff or by us. The former point we understand as a reference to your staff's request (not articulated in your June 27 letter) that we produce Outlook e-mail extracts for 36 employees (29 current and 7 former). As we advised your staff previously, we are conducting searches of Outlook e-mail extracts in a few agreed upon cases. To conduct additional Outlook searches for current employees, it would take our IT staff approximately two to three weeks to extract mail, and other staff additional time to search and review the extracted mailboxes. To conduct additional Outlook searches for former employees, it would take approximately two weeks per employee to rebuild their individual mailboxes, for a total of 14 additional weeks. We do not have the resources or manpower to devote to such a complex and time-consuming search while continuing to perform our statutorily mandated duties. Our Assistant Inspector General for Management, Mr. Russell Barbee, is available to meet with you and provide further explanation. Please let us know when you are available to meet to discuss narrowing this request.

We fully share your expressed objective of concluding this investigation as quickly as possible and will do whatever we can to help you in doing so.

An identical copy of this letter has been sent to Ranking Member Johnson.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlton I. Mann", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Carlton I. Mann
Chief Operating Officer

cc: Senator Ron Johnson