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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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MARGARET E. DAUM, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

November 13, 2017

Timothy O. Horne
Acting Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Mr. Horne:

I write to request additional information about the interactions between the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity (Commission).

On May 11, 2017, the President issued a presidential executive order establishing the Commission. The executive order states that “to the extent permitted by law, and subject to available appropriations, the General Services Administration shall provide the Commission with such administrative services, funds, facilities, staff, equipment, and other support services as may be necessary to carry out its mission on a reimbursable basis.”¹ Members of the Committee are currently considering the nomination of Emily Murphy to be appointed the Administrator of GSA and requested information regarding the support the agency is providing to the Commission.

Ms. Murphy acknowledged that GSA does provide administrative support to the Commission on a reimbursable basis.² She clarified the role of GSA in the Commission, reporting:

GSA has supported the Commission with travel arrangements, complying with Federal Advisory Committee Act requirements, assisting with the purchase of voter data from States, and purchasing of live web streaming services for Commission meetings. ... GSA anticipates similar support services to the Commission in the future.³

¹ Exec. Order No. 13799, 82 Fed. Reg. 31608 (May 7, 2017).

² Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Pre-Hearing Questionnaire of Emily Murphy to be Administrator, General Services Administration, 115th Cong. (Oct. 5, 2017).

³ Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Questions for the Record from Senator Claire McCaskill to Emily Murphy, *Nominations of Jeff T.H. Pon to be Director, Office of Personnel Management; Michael J. Rigas, to be Deputy Director, Office of Personnel Management; and Emily W. Murphy to be Administrator, General Services Administration*, 115th Cong. (Oct. 18, 2017).

Ms. Murphy informed the Committee that GSA has received \$85,000 in reimbursements from the Office of the Vice President (OVP) for support provided to the Commission. This reimbursement occurs pursuant to an interagency agreement GSA entered into with OVP for reimbursement of GSA support to the Commission. She stated that GSA has not used agency funds in support of the Commission, and does not anticipate any GSA funds to be expended.⁴

She stated that the Commission has not used, nor has it expressed a future need to use, GSA facilities or equipment. She stated that GSA does not anticipate providing the Commission additional resources beyond those already provided in the future.⁵

The Committee was also informed that GSA has dedicated portions of five individuals' time to support the Commission. Ms. Murphy was also questioned about guidance or training GSA has provided its employees that are supporting the Commission in regard to recordkeeping practices that comply with the Federal Records Act and Presidential Act. In response, she stated that GSA provided those individuals staffing the Commission with "guidance on time and record keeping." She also reported that GSA provides all its employees, including those supporting the Commission, with training on the use of private emails.⁶

In order to understand the extent of GSA's involvement with the Commission, please provide me with the following information and documentation no later than December 4, 2017:

1. All documents, including email and text communications, referring to or relating to reimbursements by the OVP.
2. All documents, including but not limited to slides, memos, training materials, and email communications, provided to GSA employees staffing the Commission referring to or related to Federal Records Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and Presidential Records Act guidance.
3. All documents provided by GSA to the Commission about Federal Advisory Committee Act compliance, and any related communications, including emails and texts, between GSA and Commission staff referring to or related to such compliance.
4. All documents, including internal and external communications referring or relating to the purchase of voter data from the states and/or information privacy.
3. The position description of GSA employees staffing the Commission, and a narrative description of the work that they have completed and plan to do for the Commission.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

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If you have any questions please contact Charles Shaw or Lucy Balcezak of my staff at (202) 224-2627. Please send any official correspondence related to this request to Lucy Balcezak at Lucy_Balcezak@hsgac.senate.gov. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Claire McCaskill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Claire" and last name "McCaskill" clearly distinguishable.

Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman