



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

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

July 23, 2020

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
United States House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
United States House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden, Representative Bonamici, and Representative Blumenauer:

Thank you for your July 22, 2020 letter to me and the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Inspector General (OIG) expressing your concerns about the recent actions of law enforcement personnel from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and DOJ.

The DHS OIG has opened an investigation into allegations that on July 15, 2020, DHS law enforcement personnel improperly detained and transported protesters in Portland, Oregon. The DHS OIG will coordinate our investigation with the DOJ OIG and other agencies as appropriate.

In addition, we are forming a multi-disciplinary team to examine DHS' deployment of law enforcement personnel to Portland, Oregon. While we are in the early stages of scoping and planning this project, we expect to evaluate DHS law enforcement components' roles and responsibilities

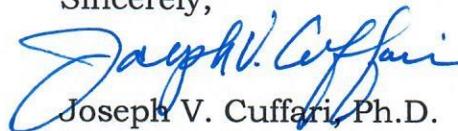


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pursuant to Executive Order 13933 and other applicable statutory authority or agency guidance.

Please call me with questions, or a member of your staff may contact Erica Paulson, Assistant Inspector General for External Affairs, at (202) 981-6000.

Sincerely,


Joseph V. Cuffari, Ph.D.
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Mike Rogers, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General
Department of Justice