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United States Senate

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

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July 14, 2024

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
Department of Justice

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Attorney General Garland, Secretary Mayorkas, and Director Wray:

On July 13, 2024 our nation experienced a tragedy—the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump during an outdoor campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.¹ According to reports, the would-be assassin, Thomas Matthew Crooks, was armed with a rifle and was able to position himself on a roof “less than 150 meters (164 yards)” from the stage where former President Trump was speaking.² From there, the suspected gunman apparently fired at the former president, wounding him. Two spectators at the rally were critically injured and, sadly, one person was killed.³ According to a Secret Service statement, after the gunman fired “multiple shots . . . from an elevated position outside of the rally venue[,] U.S. Secret Service personnel neutralized the shooter, who is now deceased.”⁴

While there is still much more information that has yet to be uncovered and shared with the public, the American people deserve a full explanation and complete transparency about this failure of security. Accordingly, I request that your agencies preserve all records⁵ referring or

¹ Michael Biesecker and Lanna Durkin Richer, What we know about the 20-year-old suspect in the apparent assassination attempt of Donald Trump, AP, July 13, 2024, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/20-year-suspect-apparent-assassination-attempt-donald-trump-111926657>; Authorities Search for Motive After Trump Assassination Attempt, Wall Street Journal, July 14, 2024, <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/trump-rally-incident>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Statement, United States Secret Service, Secret Service Statements Regarding Violence at the July 13, 2024, Trump Campaign Rally, (July 13, 2024), <https://www.secretservice.gov/newsroom/releases/2024/07/secret-service-statements-regarding-violence-july-13-2024-trump-campaign> (from statement made July 13, 2024 at 9:00 p.m.).

⁵ “Records” include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

relating to the protective detail of former President Trump, including the protective detail at the Butler campaign rally on July 13, 2024, any threats made against the former president, and how federal law enforcement addressed or will address those threats. In addition, please provide the following information:

1. A copy of the security plan in place for the July 13, 2024 rally.
2. Provide all records between and among the Secret Service, FBI, state, and local law enforcement referring or relating to the July 13, 2024 rally.
3. A detailed description of the security measures in place for the July 13, 2024 rally, including, but not limited to:
 - a. The size of the security perimeter established, and how that perimeter size was selected;
 - b. The total number of Secret Service personnel involved in the security preparations for the July 13, 2024 rally, including the total number on-site during the rally;
 - c. The total number of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) personnel involved in the security preparations for the July 13, 2024 rally, including the total number on-site during the rally;
 - d. The total number of state and local law enforcement involved in the security preparations for the July 13, 2024 rally, including the total number on-site during the rally;
 - e. A detailed list of the special operations division units, including the total number of personnel from each unit, deployed for the rally, such as the Counter Assault Team or the Counter Sniper Team;
 - f. A complete list of all federal, state, or local entities that had access to, or participated in the creation of the security plan for the July 13, 2024 rally;
 - g. A complete list of all federal agencies, state, and local law enforcement that provided agents, or other personnel, to provide security, or other logistical resources, for the July 13, 2024 rally;
 - h. A detailed list of any countermeasure equipment deployed at the rally, including but not limited to unmanned aerial drones; and
 - i. A description of the screening procedures used for individuals entering the security perimeter established for the rally.
4. Did the Secret Service receive requests for additional security protection for former President Trump? If so, when were those requests made, by whom, and were those requests granted or denied? Please provide all records referring or relating to requests for additional security protection for former President Trump from November 15, 2022 (when he announced his candidacy for the 2024 election) to the present.⁶
5. Was the Secret Service or FBI aware of any threats or other information concerning a potential security threat to former President Trump and the July 13, 2024 rally?

⁶ Gabby Orr et al., Former President Donald Trump announces a White House bid for 2024, CNN, Nov. 16, 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/15/politics/trump-2024-presidential-bid/index.html>.

6. A detailed timeline of former President Trump's movements during the July 13, 2024 rally, including but not limited to when former President Trump arrived at the event, when he walked on stage, when shots were fired, when Secret Service agents initially rushed the stage, when Secret Service agents escorted former President Trump off the stage, and when former President Trump was evacuated from the venue following the assassination attempt.
7. According to reports, at least one rally attendee attempted to alert police to the presence of an individual on a building roof with a rifle "five to seven minutes" into former President Trump's speech.⁷ Was Secret Service or the FBI made aware of this warning? If so, when did the Secret Service or FBI first become aware of this warning?
 - a. Has the Secret Service or FBI interviewed rally attendees who reportedly attempted to alert police to the presence of the shooter?
 - b. Has the Secret Service or FBI identified and interviewed the police who reportedly received the alert about the presence of the shooter? If so, please provide the names and associated law enforcement agency for each of these individuals.
8. When and how did the Secret Service become aware of the suspected gunman?
 - a. Did the suspected gunman evade Secret Service detection until the moment he opened fire? If so, why was the area in which the suspected gunman was located not closely monitored or secured?
 - b. Was the building, including its roof, in which the suspected gunman was located swept by Secret Service or other law enforcement prior to the rally?
 - c. When did the suspected gunman arrive to the rally site in Butler, PA? When and how did he go to the roof of the building where he apparently took position?
9. Provide all official electronic communications, including but not limited to text messages, between and among Secret Service, FBI, and other law enforcement agents from July 11, 2024 to July 14, 2024 referring or relating to the Butler, PA event.
10. All details associated with the would-be assassin, Thomas Matthew Crooks, including but not limited to:
 - a. Whether Crooks was on any watch list or if the FBI, Secret Service, or local law enforcement was otherwise aware of him prior to July 13, 2024;
 - b. Any FBI file or other document associated with Crooks;
 - c. The ATF Form 4473 associated with the suspected gunman's weapon(s).
 - d. A list of social media accounts associated with Crooks;
 - e. Whether Crooks had ever communicated to anyone about assassinating former President Trump; and if so, when and to whom;
 - f. How, when, and where Crooks obtained any firearms used in the attempted assassination of former President Trump; and
 - g. Whether Crooks had any criminal history or history of mental health issues.

⁷ Kipp Jones, 'He Had a Rifle!' Trump Rally Attendee Frantically Warned police Gunman Was Crawling on Roof, Mediaite, July 13, 2024, <https://www.mediaite.com/news/he-had-a-rifle-trump-rally-attendee-says-he-warned-police-gunman-was-crawling-on-roof/>.

11. The number and type of weapons and bullets recovered, including the number of bullets fired by the suspected gunman during the rally. Have all the bullets fired by the suspected gunman been recovered?
12. Provide all firearm tracing requests connected to the July 13, 2024 assassination attempt.
13. In addition to weapons and bullets, what other items were discovered by law enforcement after the shooter was neutralized, including but not limited to electronic devices?
14. Reports indicate that the “suspected shooter had explosive devices in his car” which was parked near the rally.⁸
 - a. When did law enforcement locate the suspected shooter’s car? Where was it parked? How long had it been parked in that location?
 - b. Was the car parked in an area that was swept by Secret Service or other law enforcement prior to the rally?
 - c. Describe the type and amount of “explosive devices” that were apparently found in the suspected shooter’s car.
 - d. In addition to the “explosive devices,” what other items were discovered in the car, including but not limited to electronic devices?
15. All records referring or relating to any briefing provided to President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, or Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle regarding the attempted assassination of former President Trump at the July 13, 2024 rally.
16. Does the FBI and Secret Service believe that Crooks acted alone?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please confirm the preservation of records and provide the requested information as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

⁸ Saide Gurman, Suspected Shooter Had Explosive Devices in His Car, Sources Say, Wall Street Journal, July 14, 2024, <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/trump-rally-incident/card/suspected-shooter-had-explosive-devices-in-his-car-sources-say-nqpD12AqQQNtSvYtEpS9>.

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cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

Ms. Kimberly Cheatle
Director
United State Secret Service

The Honorable Joseph Cuffari
Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security

The Honorable Michael Horowitz
Inspector General
Department of Justice