

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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May 10, 2017

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Horowitz:

Yesterday, May 9, 2017, the President fired the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, James Comey.¹ In a letter to the Director advising him of his termination, the President cited recommendations from Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. The Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General based their recommendation on the Director's decision to publicize the results of the FBI's investigation of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton last year, among other things.

I request that you expand the scope of your office's ongoing review of allegations regarding certain actions by the Department of Justice and the FBI in advance of the 2016 election to include the facts and circumstances surrounding the removal of Director Comey. You stated previously that your work includes an examination of whether Comey's public communications and notifications to Congress about the Clinton investigation comported with Justice Department and FBI policies and procedures.² You separately stated "if circumstances warrant, the OIG will consider including other issues that may arise during the course of the review."³ The recommendation to remove Comey indeed warrants such consideration.

¹ Letter from the President to the Hon. James Comey, Director, Fed. Bureau of Investigation (May 9, 2017).

² *E.g.*, Letter from the Hon. Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector Gen., Dep't of Justice, to Jason Chaffetz, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, et al. (Jan. 12, 2017); *see also* Letter from the Hon. Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, Jason Chaffetz, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, et. al, to the Hon. Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector Gen., Dep't of Justice, and Hon. Steve Linick, Inspector Gen., Dep't of State (Oct. 11, 2016) (requesting an investigation of aspects of the FBI's investigation into Secretary Clinton); Letter from Jason Chaffetz, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to the Hon. Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector Gen., Dep't of Justice (Oct. 31, 2016) (requesting the Committee be formally added as a requestor on the Oct. 11, 2016, request).

³ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice Office of Inspector Gen., DOJ OIG Announces Initiation of Review, Jan. 12, 2017, *available at* <https://oig.justice.gov/press/2017/2017-01-12.pdf>.

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The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X.

I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Chaffetz", written in a cursive style.

Jason Chaffetz
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member