

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 4, 2020

The Honorable Chad Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street, S.W.  
Mail Stop 0150  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable James M. Murray  
Director  
United States Secret Service  
245 Murray Drive, S.W.  
Building T5  
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf and Director Murray:

We write with urgent concern regarding the detention of India Johnson and Yasmeeen Winston on the National Mall by U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division officers on July 30, 2020. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has written to you twice regarding this incident, without receiving a formal response.<sup>1</sup>

According to public reports, a Uniformed Division cruiser deliberately hit the parked car that Ms. Johnson, Ms. Winston, and their infants were sitting in on Constitution Avenue as the women were getting ready to take their children to the National Mall fountains.<sup>2</sup>

According to Ms. Johnson and Ms. Winston, after hitting the left bumper of their parked car, Uniformed Division officers surrounded the car, yelling, and pointing handguns at them in front of their young children. While Ms. Johnson, who owned the car, exited the vehicle, and explained to the officers that it was her car, other officers pointed a rifle at Ms. Winston's head as she sat in the passenger seat with her hands on the roof of the car.<sup>3</sup>

The officers handcuffed both women and separated them from their crying infants who were six months old and thirteen months old for approximately 45 minutes, refusing to permit them to breastfeed their children. The officers initially did not wear masks, despite the global

---

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to Secretary Chad Wolf and Director James M. Murray (Aug. 4, 2020); Letter from Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to Secretary Chad Wolf and Director James M. Murray (Aug. 12, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> *Two Black Moms Took Their Kids to The Mall. Secret Service Officers Confronted Them with Guns, They Said*, Washington Post (Aug. 3, 2020) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/local/legal-issues/two-black-moms-took-their-kids-to-the-mall-secret-service-confronted-them-with-guns-they-said/2020/08/03/be4dfa8c-d4f1-11ea-9c3b-dfc394c03988\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/legal-issues/two-black-moms-took-their-kids-to-the-mall-secret-service-confronted-them-with-guns-they-said/2020/08/03/be4dfa8c-d4f1-11ea-9c3b-dfc394c03988_story.html)).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

pandemic. Neither woman was read her Miranda rights, and they were told by a bystander that the officers conducted a search of the car without their knowledge or permission.<sup>4</sup>

An officer initially told the women that the vehicle had been reported stolen and that the suspects were two Black men. Ms. Johnson owned the vehicle, had not reported it stolen, and had proof of her ownership in the vehicle.<sup>5</sup>

If accurate, these reports document an incredibly disturbing incident. We request that you respond to the following questions in writing by September 18, 2020.

1. Is it standard Uniformed Division practice to crash a cruiser into a parked vehicle with children inside, even if officers suspect the vehicle is stolen? If yes, please provide that practice or policy guidance. If not, please explain what actions are being taken with respect to the officers involved.
2. Did the officers have their lights and sirens on or do anything else to warn the vehicle's occupants prior to hitting their vehicle?
3. Is it standard Uniformed Division practice to stop a car as a suspected stolen vehicle when the description of the car's license plate and the suspects' genders do not match that of the vehicle? If yes, please provide that practice or policy guidance. If not, please explain what actions are being taken with respect to the officers involved.
4. Is it your position that the officers in this instance had probable cause to stop the vehicle? If so, please explain the basis, and if not, please explain what actions are being taken with respect to the officers involved.
5. Is it standard Uniform Division practice to not read detained individuals their Miranda rights? If yes, please provide that practice or policy guidance. If not, please explain what actions are being taken with respect to the officers involved.
6. Is it standard Uniform Division practice to not wear masks during the global coronavirus pandemic? If yes, please provide that practice or policy guidance. If not, please explain what actions are being taken with respect to the officers involved.
7. Is it standard Uniform Division practice to search vehicles without permission? If yes, please provide that practice or policy guidance. If not, please explain what actions are being taken with respect to the officers involved.

---

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

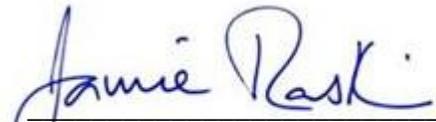
8. Is it standard Uniform Division practice to point a rifle at the head of a passenger in a car, in front of children, when the passenger is seated in the vehicle with her hands on the roof? If yes, please provide that practice or policy guidance. If not, please explain what actions are being taken with respect to the officers involved.
9. Is there dashboard and body camera footage of the event? If yes, please provide the Committee with the unedited footage.
10. If you dispute any of the facts in the incident as described in media reporting, please provide a written description of the facts that you dispute and any documents or communications in your possession related to the incident, including but not limited to notes, memos, incident reports, interview records, emails, or text messages.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions, please contact committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jamie Raskin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and  
Civil Liberties



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable James R. Comer, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Chip Roy, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

## Responding to Oversight Committee Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. Produce all documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party.
2. Requested documents, and all documents reasonably related to the requested documents, should not be destroyed, altered, removed, transferred, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.
3. In the event that any entity, organization, or individual denoted in this request is or has been known by any name other than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
4. The Committee's preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, thumb drive, or secure file transfer) in lieu of paper productions.
5. Documents produced in electronic format should be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
6. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
  - a. The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
  - b. Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
  - c. If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.
  - d. All electronic documents produced to the Committee should include the following fields of metadata specific to each document, and no modifications should be made to the original metadata:  
  
BEGDOC, ENDDOC, TEXT, BEGATTACH, ENDATTACH, PAGECOUNT, CUSTODIAN, RECORDTYPE, DATE, TIME, SENTDATE, SENTTIME, BEGINDATE, BEGINTIME, ENDDATE, ENDTIME, AUTHOR, FROM, CC, TO, BCC, SUBJECT, TITLE, FILENAME, FILEEXT, FILESIZE, DATECREATED, TIMECREATED, DATELASTMOD, TIMELASTMOD,

INTMSGID, INTMSGHEADER, NATIVELINK, INTFILPATH, EXCEPTION,  
BEGATTACH.

7. Documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, zip file, box, or folder is produced, each should contain an index describing its contents.
8. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers, or identifying markers with which they were associated when the request was served.
9. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph(s) or request(s) in the Committee's letter to which the documents respond.
10. The fact that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
11. The pendency of or potential for litigation shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
12. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(d), the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and any statutory exemptions to FOIA shall not be a basis for withholding any information.
13. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(9), the Privacy Act shall not be a basis for withholding information.
14. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full by the specified return date, compliance shall be made to the extent possible by that date. An explanation of why full compliance is not possible shall be provided along with any partial production.
15. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) every privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author, addressee, and any other recipient(s); (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other; and (f) the basis for the privilege(s) asserted.
16. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (by date, author, subject, and recipients), and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
17. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, produce all documents that would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.

18. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data, or information not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.
19. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
20. Two sets of each production shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2105 of the Rayburn House Office Building.
21. Upon completion of the production, submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control that reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

### **Definitions**

1. The term “document” means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, data, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, communications, electronic mail (email), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other inter-office or intra-office communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape, or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, mail, releases, electronic

message including email (desktop or mobile device), text message, instant message, MMS or SMS message, message application, or otherwise.

3. The terms “and” and “or” shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information that might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neutral genders.
4. The term “including” shall be construed broadly to mean “including, but not limited to.”
5. The term “Company” means the named legal entity as well as any units, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities over which the named legal entity exercises control or in which the named entity has any ownership whatsoever.
6. The term “identify,” when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual’s complete name and title; (b) the individual’s business or personal address and phone number; and (c) any and all known aliases.
7. The term “related to” or “referring or relating to,” with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with, or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.
8. The term “employee” means any past or present agent, borrowed employee, casual employee, consultant, contractor, de facto employee, detailee, fellow, independent contractor, intern, joint adventurer, loaned employee, officer, part-time employee, permanent employee, provisional employee, special government employee, subcontractor, or any other type of service provider.
9. The term “individual” means all natural persons and all persons or entities acting on their behalf.