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 http://oversight.house.gov

September 12, 2019

The Honorable Geoffrey Cherrington Inspector General Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority 600 5th Street, N.W., 3A Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Inspector General Cherrington:

We are writing to request that your office review the circumstances surrounding the investigation conducted on behalf of the Ethics Committee of the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) into Chairman Jack Evans's compliance with the WMATA Code of Ethics and Compact.

In July, WMATA produced more than 900 pages of documents detailing the findings of the Ethics Committee's investigation and related internal deliberations among WMATA staff and Board Members. Those documents are enclosed for your review.

These documents paint a disturbing picture of Mr. Evans's ethical transgressions that resulted in his resignation from the Board. These actions reportedly also may be the subject of an ongoing federal law enforcement investigation.

The documents detail efforts by Mr. Evans and another Board Member, Corbett Price, to impede the Ethics Committee's investigative process.

These actions include verbal attacks and intimidation against staff and efforts to stifle the release of the findings of the Ethics Committee's investigation.

As Chairmen of the Committee and Subcommittee with jurisdiction over interstate compacts, we request that your office review these documents and any other materials necessary for a thorough and complete evaluation of the ethics investigation of Mr. Evans's actions.

Your immediate attention to this matter would be particularly timely in light of ethics reforms under consideration by the WMATA Board, which call for an enhanced role for your office in ethics proceedings.

The Honorable Geoffrey Cherrington Page 2

We appreciate your previous commitment to testify before the Subcommittee on October 22, 2019, and we thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Elich E. C

Elijah E. Cummings Chairman Committee on Oversight and Reform

Enclosure

Gerald E. Connolly Chairman Subcommittee on Government Operations

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member Committee of Oversight and Reform

> The Honorable Mark Meadows, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Government Operations