

JIM BANKS
THIRD DISTRICT, INDIANA



COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1403

July 7, 2022

The Honorable James M. Murray
Director
United States Secret Service
245 Murray Ln SW BLDG T-5
Washington, DC 20223

Dear Mr. Murray,

Public reporting indicates that the January 6 Select Committee has interviewed multiple U.S. Secret Service agents, including the Assistant Director of the Office of Training Anthony Ornato and Special Agent Robert Engel, who oversaw President Trump's security detail on January 6, 2021.¹

Recent testimony from a January 6 Select Committee public hearing alleges that Assistant Director Ornato told the witness that President Trump reached for the steering wheel of the vehicle and then "lunged" at Special Agent Engel while the two drove in the presidential limousine from the Capitol to the White House on January 6, 2021. The allegation that President Trump reached for the steering wheel and "lunged" to intimidate Special Agent Engel into turning the presidential limousine around and driving back to the Capitol is disputed.

According to a U.S. Secret Service spokesman, the January 6 Select Committee did not ask Secret Service personnel to reappear before the Committee or submit written responses corroborating the disputed testimony before Tuesday's hearing. According to a previous statement from the U.S. Secret Service, the agency: "fully support[s] and are cooperating with the committee's work. Employees, documentation, whatever is requested by the committee, we have cooperated with."²

¹ Betsy Woodruff Swan, *Jan. 6 committee interviews head of Trump's Secret Service detail on day of Capitol attack*, Politico (June 7, 2022), <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/06/07/jan-6-committee-interviews-head-of-trumps-secret-service-detail-on-day-of-capitol-attack-00037748>.

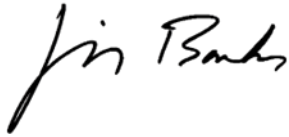
² *Id.*

As you know, Speaker Pelosi made the unprecedented decision to block two of Minority Leader McCarthy's appointments to the January 6 Select Committee, so it lacks minority representation. As a result, Republicans are conducting our own investigation into the security failure at the Capitol, and Republicans on the House Administration Committee have announced a forthcoming investigation into the January 6 Select Committee's conduct.

As part of our investigation, we are requesting interviews with Special Agent Engel, Assistant Director Ornato, the other Secret Service Agents who rode with President Trump from the Capitol to the White House on January 6, and any Secret Service Agents who have been interviewed by the January 6 Committee, no later than July 14, 2022.

In addition, please provide a copy of all the physical and electronic documentation the U.S. Secret Service has provided to the Select Committee no later than July 14, 2022

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Banks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

JIM BANKS
Member of Congress