

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Mr. Ronald Rowe
Acting Director
United States Secret Service

Dear Acting Director Rowe:

I've sent you several requests for records and information as part of my ongoing investigation into the July 13, 2024, attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump.¹ On August 19 and September 4, 2024, the Secret Service responded that it would not provide responses to my requests due to other ongoing investigations and reviews.² That's unacceptable and fails to take into consideration Congress's constitutional authority to conduct independent oversight. It also flies in the face of your congressional testimony about responding to Congress.³ My ongoing investigation into the July 13 assassination attempt as well as a recently uncovered plot by Asif Merchant, a Pakistani native with ties to Iran, to assassinate former President Trump and other high-ranking U.S. government officials has exposed significant security weaknesses and outright failures in how key U.S. agencies, including the Secret Service, ensure the safety and security of U.S. leaders.⁴ Moreover, the second attempted assassination against former President Trump on September 15, 2024, raises further questions about the Secret Service's ability to fulfill its protective mission.⁵ This calls for continuing oversight to make sure failures are not repeated.

¹ Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee to the Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security and USSS Director regarding the Trump assassination attempt (Jul. 16, 2024), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_dhs_uss_s_-_trump_assassination_attempt.pdf; Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee to USSS regarding USSS Post Standings (Jul. 20, 2024), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_uss_s_-_post_standings.pdf; Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee to Secret Service Acting Director Rowe regarding USSS Operational Security Plan (Jul. 23, 2024), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_dhs_uss_s_-_operational_security_plan.pdf; Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee to Secret Service Acting Director Rowe regarding USSS Acting Director Rowe Testimony (Aug. 9, 2024) https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_uss_s_-_ad_rowe_testimony.pdf; Press Release, *Grassley Oversight Unveils 'Most Detailed Picture Yet' of Trump Assassination Attempt*, (Jul. 29, 2024) <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-oversight-unveils-most-detailed-picture-yet-of-trump-assassination-attempt>.

² On file with Committee staff.

³ Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *Examination of the Security Failures Leading to the Assassination Attempt on Former President Trump*, (Jul. 30, 2024) <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/examination-of-the-security-failures-leading-to-the-assassination-attempt-on-former-president-trump>.

⁴ United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of New York Press Release. Pakistani National with Ties to Iran Charged in Connection with Foiled Plot to Assassinate a Politician or U.S. Government Officials (Aug. 6, 2024). <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/pakistani-national-ties-iran-charged-connection-foiled-plot-assassinate-politician-or>; see also United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of New York Press Release of the Indictment (Sept. 11, 2024). <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/pakistani-national-ties-iran-indicted-terrorism-charge-connection-foiled-plot>.

⁵ Michael Ruiz, *Timeline of 2nd failed assassination attempt on Donald Trump; suspect Ryan Routh developed rage, radicalism*, Fox News (Sep. 17, 2024) <https://www.foxnews.com/us/timeline-donald-trumps-failed-2nd-assassination-attempt-suspect-ryan-routh-developed-rage-radicalism>.

On July 30, 2024, you testified before the joint Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearing examining the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump.⁶ During the hearing, when the Secret Service was well aware of my July 16 and July 23 letters, I asked you directly “what’s your communication plan going forward to ensure that the American people and Congress are fully informed?”⁷ You testified that “sunshine is the best disinfectant, and we intend to provide information to Congress as it carries out its oversight function.”⁸ Your August 19 and September 4 letters unequivocally fail to carry out your testimony. Due to that failure, I’ve had to go around the Secret Service to get answers.

In response to questions during the July 30 hearing about whether there were explicit instructions to local law enforcement to cover the roof of the AGR building, you testified that it was your understanding “what was communicated is that the locals had a plan and that they had been there before.”⁹ However, Butler County law enforcement officials interviewed by my staff have said that on July 11, 2024, during a walkthrough in preparation for the July 13 rally, they raised concerns to the Secret Service several times about securing the AGR complex buildings. Those law enforcement personnel said concerns about securing the AGR complex buildings were specifically flagged for two Secret Service agents and a Secret Service counter sniper. Are these representations to my staff accurate? Please explain.

Butler County law enforcement officials said they told the Secret Service counter sniper that they didn’t have the manpower to cover the AGR complex buildings and asked that the whole area be “locked down” and to not let people in that area because, based on their knowledge of that area, they believed people would gather there to see former President Trump. Butler County law enforcement officials stated that at separate times during the walkthrough, when they reiterated their concerns to the agents and counter sniper about securing the AGR complex buildings, the agents responded: “we will take care of it.” Are these representations to my staff accurate and what actions were taken to secure the area? Please explain.

Further, legally protected whistleblower disclosures provided to my office show the position of Secret Service counter snipers and specifically the location of Butler County counter snipers as “Inside AGR Building.” Is this document a true and accurate representation? Do other documents exist to provide additional context and clarity? Please explain and provide those records.

COUNTER SNIPER:

USSS Hercules 1: elevated on roof of barn 14 @ 8 o'clock off dais

USSS Hercules 2: elevated on roof of barn 16 @ 4 o'clock off dais

Sierra 1/2: 2-2 man Butler County ESU Sniper Teams. Inside AGR Building @ 3 o'clock off dais

Sierra 3/4: 2-2 man Butler County ESU Sniper Teams. Inside Horse Stadium Announcer Box @ 2 o'clock off dais

⁶ Joint SJC and HSGAC Hearing *supra* note 3.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

In addition, whistleblowers have provided my office with legally protected disclosures showing 22 post standers were assigned to the July 13 event and 16 of these individuals were from other federal agencies. On July 20 and July 23, I requested the number of post-standers from all federal agencies present on July 13.¹⁰ I never received a response from you. Is the below document an accurate representation? Do other documents exist to provide additional context and clarity? Please explain and provide those records.

POST STANDERS

In District Post Standers	0
Out of District Post Standers (non-SSD)	6
Out of District Post Standers (SSD)	0
Total Number of USSS Post Standers	6
Other Federal Agency Post Standers	16
Total Number of Post Standers	22

Note
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Total Number of Assignments
22

These records appear to be from a larger Secret Service operational plan for the July 13 event. I strongly urge that you follow through on the **commitment you made to me** to “provide information to Congress as it carries out its oversight function,” as I carry out my constitutional oversight duty.¹¹ Accordingly, in addition to providing responsive records that I requested in my prior letters, provide answers and a responsive production of records to this letter no later than September 24, 2024.

Thank you for your prompt review and response. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Randolph and Silvia Symer on my Committee staff at (202) 224-0642.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget

¹⁰ Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee to USSS regarding USSS Post Standings (Jul. 20, 2024), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_uss_s_-_post_standings.pdf; Letter from Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee to Secret Service Acting Director Rowe regarding USSS Operational Security Plan (Jul. 23, 2024), https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_dhs_uss_s_-_operational_security_plan.pdf.

¹¹ Joint SJC and HSGAC Hearing *supra* note 3.