

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2509

July 17, 2024

The Hon. Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20528-03035

Dear Inspector General Cuffari:

On July 13, 2024, Thomas Crooks shot former president and current presidential candidate Donald J. Trump. The former president was injured, one civilian was killed, and two other attendees of the Pennsylvania rally were wounded. This incident represents a staggering security failure by the U.S. Secret Service and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to appropriately protect the former president and prevent violence at a peaceful political event. A host of critical questions remain unanswered, and it is vital that the American people know the truth as soon as possible.

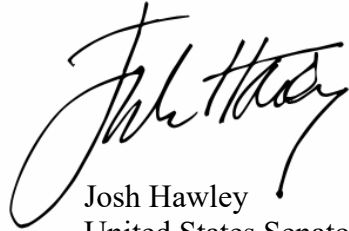
As the DHS Inspector General, you are responsible for and obligated to investigate the agency's activities and subcomponents, including the U.S. Secret Service. I strongly support your recent decision to open an investigation into "Secret Service's Process for Securing Former President Trump's July 13, 2024 Event." An event of this magnitude deserves your utmost diligence and timely response.

I urge you to make this investigation your office's top priority. You should immediately pull all relevant records from agency servers and ensure they are adequately preserved. This will be necessary to inform congressional investigations, which are already beginning. I also request that you provide to my office as soon as possible, but no later than seven days from now, the following information. These records will help ensure that investigations by Congress are as robust and fulsome as possible. Please provide:

1. Any and all information relating to requests to the Department from former President Trump, his organization, or related entities for additional resources to ensure his safety prior to the Pennsylvania rally or during the course of his campaign;
2. Any and all information relating to the identity, motive, or actions of the shooter;
3. Any and all information relating to the decision to establish a security perimeter that failed to include the shooter's position;
4. Any and all information relating to the staffing at the rally, including but not limited to the use of Secret Service agents, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) staff, and local law enforcement officers; and

5. The rules of engagement provided to U.S. Secret Service agents, including counter-sniper teams, and local law enforcement;
6. Any responsive records related to communications between leadership of the U.S. Secret Service and the Department of Homeland Security discussing the security situation at the July 13 rally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Hawley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Josh Hawley
United States Senator