

**Nomination of Donald Wayne Washington,
to be Director of the United States Marshals Service
Questions for the Record
Submitted December 5, 2018**

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR DURBIN

For questions with subparts, please answer each subpart separately.

Questions for Donald Washington

1. You have been nominated to head the U.S. Marshals Service, which has responsibility for federal judicial and courthouse security. If you are confirmed to this position, I ask that you commit to make it a top priority of the Marshals Service to enhance the security of the Dirksen Federal Courthouse in Chicago.

The Dirksen Courthouse is one of the nation's largest, and it is located on a busy city block. There are four vacant buildings on the block that are just a few dozen feet away from the courthouse. The General Services Administration owns these buildings and is trying to convey them to private developers, even though the developers would bring residential apartments and vehicle traffic just a few yards away from judges' chambers and jury rooms. It is well-documented that this proposed development would create significant security risks.

We need the U.S. Marshals Service to be firm advocates for enhancing the security of the Dirksen Courthouse—and we need the Marshals to help ensure that security risks and vulnerabilities are not made worse. **Will you make that commitment?**

RESPONSE: I believe that judicial security is an important priority for the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS). I am not familiar with the facts of the situation you describe, but I can assure you that as with any situation, I will examine the relevant law and the facts when making a decision.

2. The Marshals Service has responsibility for federal judicial and courthouse security; apprehending federal fugitives both domestically and internationally; witness security; housing pre-sentenced federal prisoners; transporting federal prisoners; serving federal court criminal process; and managing and disposing of seized and forfeited properties. **If you are confirmed, what would your priorities be as director of the Marshals Service?**

RESPONSE: If confirmed, my highest priority will be to ensure that the statutory obligations of the USMS such as judicial security, fugitive apprehension, and prisoner transport are adequately resourced. I have a strong interest in officer safety, given what appears to me is an increasingly dangerous environment in which deputies are operating. Finally, I believe that a busy, mission-oriented organization like the USMS needs to invest in its people with superior recruiting, the best training at every career stage,

meaningful opportunities for professional development, and promoting the best employees to positions of leadership.

3. What do you see as the main areas in which the Marshals Service needs improvement?

RESPONSE: As I do not currently work for the USMS, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on specific areas that may need improvement. However, if confirmed, I look forward working with USMS leadership in determining what areas may need improvement, and based on specific facts and circumstances, determine what, if any, action is appropriate.

Additionally, as I mentioned in my response to Question 2, I believe that a busy, mission-oriented organization like the USMS needs to invest in its people. If confirmed, I intend to be a leader and steward of the United States Marshals Service, and create an environment in which every employee can reach their highest potential.