



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

January 12, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Thomas Carper  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte  
Chairman  
The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
Chairman  
The Honorable Elijah Cummings  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives

I write in response to your respective letters to me dated October 11, October 31, November 2, November 4, November 7, and December 13, 2016, requesting that the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) review allegations regarding various actions by the Department of Justice (Department) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in advance of the 2016 election. We also have received numerous similar requests from members of the public and various organizations.

After consideration of these requests, and cognizant of the scope of our jurisdiction under Section 8E of the Inspector General Act, the OIG is initiating a review that will examine the following issues:

- Allegations that Department or FBI policies or procedures were not followed in connection with, or in actions leading up to or related to, the FBI Director's public announcement on July 5, 2016, and the Director's letters to Congress on October 28 and November 6, 2016, and that certain underlying investigative decisions were based on improper considerations;
- Allegations that the FBI Deputy Director should have been recused from participating in certain investigative matters;

- Allegations that the Department's Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs improperly disclosed non-public information to the Clinton campaign and/or should have been recused from participating in certain matters;
- Allegations that Department and FBI employees improperly disclosed non-public information; and
- Allegations that decisions regarding the timing of the FBI's release of certain Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) documents on October 30 and November 1, 2016, and the use of a Twitter account to publicize same, were influenced by improper considerations.

Our review will not substitute the OIG's judgment for the judgments made by the FBI or the Department regarding the substantive merits of investigative or prosecutive decisions. Finally, if circumstances warrant, the OIG will consider including other issues that may arise during the course of the review.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Deputy Inspector General Robert P. Storch at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Horowitz  
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary