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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
JENNIFER DUCK, *Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

December 17, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray:

On November 17, 2017, two U.S. Park Service police officers shot and killed an unarmed man in his car, Bijan C. Ghaisar.¹ According to news reports, Mr. Ghaisar fled the scene of an accident on the George Washington Parkway, which falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Park Service.² He then led Park Service police on a lengthy vehicle pursuit, where Ghaisar repeatedly stopped his car in an apparent bid to end the chase, only to speed away when officers exited their patrol cars to approach Ghaisar's vehicle.³ The vehicle pursuit ultimately ended when two Park Service police officers fired nine rounds at Mr. Ghaisar's vehicle when he again attempted to flee by maneuvering his vehicle around a police car that was blocking its path.⁴

The FBI took over the investigation three days after the shooting and have released virtually no information since.⁵ Family members and the press have instead relied on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to obtain simple details such as whether Mr. Ghaisar had a weapon when he was killed, which, according to one FOIA production, he did not.⁶ Fairfax County police, who assisted Park Service police in the pursuit, released video footage of the shooting in

¹ Tom Jackman, *Video shows Park Police fired nine shots into Bijan Chaisar's Jeep at close range, killing him*, The Washington Post (Jan. 24, 2018), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/true-crime/wp/2018/01/24/video-shows-park-police-fired-nine-shots-into-bijan-ghaisars-jeep-at-close-range-killing-him/?utm_term=.9d23eabf409a.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Tom Jackman, *'Shame on you': Family of Bijan Ghaisar marks a year of silence from feds after U.S. Park Police killing*, The Washington Post (Nov. 17, 2018), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/crime-law/2018/11/18/shame-you-family-bijan-ghaisar-marks-year-silence-feds-after-park-police-killing/?utm_term=.3bb7fef7e6b7.

⁶ Tom Jackman, *Fairfax police: Bijan Ghaisar had no weapon when he was killed by Park Police*, The Washington Post (Oct. 29, 2018), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/crime-law/2018/10/29/fairfax-police-bijan-ghaisar-had-no-weapon-when-killed-by-park-police/?utm_term=.29181e43c9ab.

January 2018.⁷ It's been more than a year since the FBI opened the investigation and family members and the public deserve to know more.

As I have previously stated in other inquiries, investigations involving the use of deadly force should be handled in a manner that reinforces public confidence in law enforcement. I appreciate that a thorough and comprehensive investigation into such a matter requires due diligence and should not be rushed. The Ghaisar family, however, should not have to wait over a year to learn the facts of this case. Both his family and the public are entitled to a complete, credible, and independent accounting of the events surrounding the death of Mr. Ghaisar.

Accordingly, please provide responses to the following questions by December 28, 2018:

1. Has the FBI completed an investigative report of the shooting? If so, please provide a copy to the Committee.
2. It has been approximately 13 months since the FBI began the investigation into this shooting. If the FBI has still not completed the investigation, please provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the investigation, to include the expected date the investigation will be complete. In addition, will the FBI commit to providing a copy of the report to the Committee when it's completed? If not, why not?

If you have any questions, please contact Dario Camacho of my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

⁷ Jackman, *supra* note 1.