

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 15, 2022

Mr. James M. Murray  
Director  
U.S. Secret Service

Dear Director Murray:

In continuation of my examination of events before, during, and after the January 6, 2021 U.S. Capitol breach, I write regarding the Secret Service's protection of then-Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on that day.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), on January 5, 2021 between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., an individual placed two pipe bombs in Washington, D.C. – one near the Republican National Committee (RNC) headquarters and another near the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters.<sup>1</sup> The next day, on January 6, 2021, then-Vice President-elect Harris reportedly arrived at the DNC headquarters at 11:30 a.m.<sup>2</sup> Prior to Harris' arrival, the Secret Service reportedly "swept the interior of the [DNC headquarters], the driveway, parking deck and entrances and exits."<sup>3</sup> Reports indicate that at 1:07 p.m., U.S. Capitol Police began investigating the pipe bomb at that location, and at 1:14 p.m., an unnamed Secret Service protectee – presumably Harris – was removed from the DNC.<sup>4</sup> The bomb threat was cleared at 4:36 p.m.<sup>5</sup> To date, law enforcement has not been able to identify or locate the suspect who allegedly planted the pipe bombs at the RNC and DNC headquarters.

Given that Secret Service reportedly swept the areas in and around the DNC headquarters prior to Harris' arrival on January 6, 2021, it seems odd that agents did not immediately discover the pipe bomb that was reportedly located next to a park bench at that location.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *FBI Washington Field Office Releases Video and Additional Information Regarding the Pipe Bomb Investigation*, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Sept. 8, 2021, <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/washingtondc/news/press-releases/fbi-washington-field-office-releases-video-and-additional-information-regarding-the-pipe-bomb-investigation-090821>.

<sup>2</sup> Whitney Wild, Zachary Cohen, and Evan Perez, *Exclusive: Kamala Harris drove within several yards of pipe bomb at DNC headquarters during Capitol riot*, CNN, Jan. 31, 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/31/politics/kamala-harris-january-6-2021-democratic-national-committee/index.html>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Whitney Wild, Zachary Cohen, and Evan Perez, *Exclusive: Kamala Harris drove within several yards of pipe bomb at DNC headquarters during Capitol riot*, CNN, Jan. 31, 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/31/politics/kamala-harris-january-6-2021-democratic-national-committee/index.html>; Betsy Woodruff Swan, Christopher Cadelago, and Kyle Cheney, *Harris was inside DNC on Jan. 6 when pipe bomb was discovered outside*, Politico, Jan. 6, 2022, <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/01/06/harris-was-inside-dnc-on-jan-6-when-pipe-bomb-was-discovered-outside-526695>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *FBI Washington Field Office Releases Video and Additional Information Regarding the Pipe Bomb Investigation*, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Sept. 8, 2021, <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field->

*Security footage of pipe bomb suspect sitting on bench outside DNC headquarters on Jan. 5, 2021<sup>7</sup>*



In order to better understand this potential lapse in security, I request that you provide the following information:

1. When did the Secret Service conduct their sweep of the DNC headquarters prior to then-Vice President-elect Harris' arrival on January 6, 2021? What specific areas did Secret Service sweep in and around the DNC headquarters?
2. Please explain why Secret Service did not discover the pipe bomb reportedly located "next to a park bench" near the DNC headquarters during their sweep?<sup>8</sup>
3. Has Secret Service conducted an internal review of this potential lapse in security? If so, please provide all documents and communications associated with that review.
4. Has this potential lapse in security been referred to the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General? If not, please explain why.

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offices/washingtondc/news/press-releases/fbi-washington-field-office-releases-video-and-additional-information-regarding-the-pipe-bomb-investigation-090821.

<sup>7</sup> Screenshot of security footage, *January 5 Pipe Bomb Investigation: Footage of Suspect*, Federal Bureau of Investigation, YouTube, Aug. 9, 2021, at 00:50, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNmjMIyoxHo&t=3s>.

<sup>8</sup> *FBI Washington Field Office Releases Video and Additional Information Regarding the Pipe Bomb Investigation*, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Sept. 8, 2021, <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/washingtondc/news/press-releases/fbi-washington-field-office-releases-video-and-additional-information-regarding-the-pipe-bomb-investigation-090821>.

Mr. James M. Murray  
February 15, 2022  
Page 3

Please provide this information by March 1, 2022. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ron" and last name "Johnson" clearly legible.

Ron Johnson  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Christopher A. Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Honorable Joseph V. Cuffari  
Inspector General