

**Statement of Joseph P. Clancy  
Director  
United States Secret Service**

**Before the Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
U.S. Senate**

**March 19, 2015**

Introduction

Good afternoon Chairman Hoeven, Ranking Member Shaheen and distinguished Members of the Committee. I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget for the Secret Service. As the newly appointed Director, I am honored to lead the men and women of this important agency through this challenging time.

March 4<sup>th</sup> Incident

With respect to the recent **allegations of employee misconduct on March 4, 2015**, I personally became aware of the allegations on March 9<sup>th</sup> when I received a phone call informing me of an anonymous email that was circulating. On that same date, I determined that the allegations should be referred to the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General.

I made this decision because allegations of misconduct involving employees at the GS-15 level and higher **must** be referred to the OIG in accordance with Departmental policy. I trust the OIG's investigation will be thorough. I have committed the Secret Service's full cooperation to the OIG and eagerly await the findings of their investigation.

The fact that I did not learn of this allegation until five days after it is said to have occurred is unacceptable. I am very unhappy about it. I called my senior staff together last week and made clear my expectations for prompt notification of allegations of misconduct that could impact our mission or that violates the agency's standards of conduct.

If it is determined that any one of our employees concealed information about this alleged incident, they will be held accountable. Our mission is too important for this to happen. It undermines my leadership, and I won't stand for it.

Over the past several months I have made extensive personnel changes in senior leadership in an effort to bring about positive change. These were not easy decisions, and many of the people who left served the agency and our country honorably during their careers. But as the leader of this organization, I will do what is necessary to put us back on the right track. And it starts with our people taking responsibility for their actions on-duty and off-duty.

Let me also be clear that I do not have the ability to simply terminate employees based solely on allegations of misconduct. This is not because I am being lenient, but because the agency's ability to take action is controlled by Title 5 of the United States Code, which provides Federal government employees with certain statutory, due process rights.

The next step in this process is to wait for the issuance of the OIG report at which point we will determine the appropriate disciplinary actions consistent with our established Table of Penalties. Once again, if the OIG investigation reveals misconduct, those involved will be punished.

I have also personally reviewed video surveillance from the evening of March 4<sup>th</sup> and I welcome the opportunity to review this footage with each of you.

Based on the footage, previous reports of a crash are inaccurate – there was no crash. The video shows a vehicle entering the White House Complex at a speed of approximately 1-2 mph and pushing aside a plastic barrel. There was no damage to the vehicle.

While I am extremely concerned by the allegations of misconduct and the potential for alcohol involvement, I must reserve judgment on these matters until the OIG investigation is completed.

## FY 2016 Budget Context and Summary

Turning to our budget, I want to thank all Members for their work on the 2015 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. For a second year in a row, this subcommittee worked diligently to provide the Secret Service with additional resources to support our staffing, training, and operational needs.

In addition, the 2015 bill includes \$25 million to begin the necessary enhancements associated with the Protective Mission Panel's recommendations that were included in a report to Secretary Johnson on December 15, 2014.

The Panel's recommendations have brought focus to staffing, training, and leadership deficiencies in the agency, and technology and perimeter security requirements at the White House Complex.

However, since the Secret Service's mission extends beyond the issues addressed in the Panel's report, I am committed to zero-basing the agency's budget to determine the full extent of our operational requirements.

The 2016 Budget builds on the protective mission enhancements that are underway this fiscal year. My written statement provides a thorough overview of the Budget request, and I hope that some portion of today's hearing allows for a discussion on the many important aspects of the request.

Notably, the Budget request provides critical funding for protective mission enhancements related to the Protective Mission Panel recommendations; resources to ensure the Secret Service is prepared for what is projected to be a demanding Presidential campaign; and funds to complete the staffing requirements for President Obama's protective detail once his term in office comes to a close.

## Conclusion

Superior performance by the men and women on the front lines begins with superior leadership. To that end, I have worked to open the lines of communication between the rank and file and their supervisors. I made significant changes in top leadership positions across the Secret Service to inspire a renewed focus on staffing, training, protective operations, investigations, and professional responsibility.

I am in the process of restructuring the Secret Service's executive leadership to better leverage the experience of civilian professionals, while allowing law enforcement personnel to focus on their core areas of expertise.

With the support of the Department and the Congress over the next several years, I am confident that we can put the Secret Service on a path to success for many decades to come. Chairman Hoeven, Ranking Member Shaheen, this concludes my testimony. I welcome any questions you have at this time.