

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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August 15, 2023

Hugh T. Clements, Jr.  
Director  
Community Oriented Policing Services  
145 N St N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Director Clements:

On June 30, 2023, as part of the Committee's oversight of the programs and operations of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) within the Department of Justice, the Committee requested relevant documents and information about the Department's grant-making process.<sup>1</sup> To date, despite the Committee's repeated efforts at accommodation, you have not responded to the Committee's request or provided any documents. As such, the Committee reiterates its request for your voluntary cooperation in furtherance of our oversight and legislative efforts.

The Committee has worked diligently with Department staff to ensure the Department's compliance and explain the Committee's requests. For example, on a July 18, 2023, call with Committee staff—two business days *after* the date by which the Committee had requested documents and information—the Department's Office of Legislative Affairs represented that it was working with the Committee "in good faith" to provide the Committee with relevant documents and information.<sup>2</sup> However, after the Department failed to provide the Committee with the requested information in a timely manner, Committee staff had another call with Department staff on July 25, 2023.<sup>3</sup> During this call, the Committee, as an accommodation, prioritized its requests for the Department.<sup>4</sup> The Department responded that the Committee could expect a production and proposed dates for transcribed interviews by July 28, 2023.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Hugh T. Clements, Jr, Dir., Cmty. Oriented Policing Serv. (Jun. 30, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Call between Committee Staff, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, and Abby Kohlman, Chief of Staff, Office of Leg. Affairs, Dep't of Justice (July 18, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Call between Committee Staff, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, and Abby Kohlman, Chief of Staff, Office of Leg. Affairs, Dep't of Justice (July 25, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

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

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On July 28, 2023—the day on which the Department promised a production of documents—Committee staff followed up via email with the Department to inquire if the Committee should expect a production.<sup>6</sup> Department staff responded again by indicating that they “are working diligently and in good faith . . . to gather documents and information responsive to [the Committee’s] requests.”<sup>7</sup> The Department declined to provide a specific date by which it would honor the Committee’s requests, stating it “is still working on a date certain for [their] initial response but expect that [they] will be responsive to [our] requests over the recess.”<sup>8</sup>

Now 46 days after our initial request, the Committee still has yet to receive a response from you or any of the requested documents. Therefore, the Committee again reiterates its request that COPS voluntarily comply with the requests outlined in our June 30, 2023, letter. Please provide this information and have proposed dates for transcribed interviews no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 29, 2023. If the Department fails to voluntarily comply with the Committee’s requests, the Committee may consider the use of compulsory process.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Jim Jordan  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

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<sup>6</sup> Email from Committee Staff, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Amy Kohlman, Chief of Staff, Office of Leg. Affairs, Dep’t of Justice (July 28, 2023).

<sup>7</sup> Email from Amy Kohlman, Chief of Staff, Office of Leg. Affairs, Dep’t of Justice, to Committee Staff, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (July 28, 2023).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*