

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 24, 2020

Attorney General William Barr
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Director Christopher Wray
FBI Headquarters
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Attorney General Barr and Director Christopher Wray:

In 2006, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) produced an internal intelligence assessment entitled, “White Supremacist Infiltration of Law Enforcement”. However, the public has not been able to benefit from this report because of its substantive redactions. Further, there has not been a recent public report on the current extent of white supremacist involvement in law enforcement nor what the Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI have done since 2006 in response. The tragic murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor at the hands of police officers have cast a spotlight on these concerns, adding renewed urgency to reforming policing in the United States. We therefore request that the DOJ and FBI release the full contents of the 2006 assessment to the public, provide an updated assessment on white supremacist infiltration in law enforcement, and report on actions that the DOJ and FBI have taken to address concerns regarding white supremacist presence in law enforcement.

Far too many Black Americans have been killed by law enforcement. Civil rights leaders and activists have long been calling attention to this racial injustice and the need for police accountability, and the senseless deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor have created an overdue moment of reckoning. The American people are demanding an end to the systemic racism that has plagued our nation since its inception – and that includes ensuring our police departments are free of white supremacists.

The 2006 FBI internal intelligence assessment raised alarms about white supremacy and the police. It stated that, “White supremacist leaders and groups have historically showed interest in infiltrating law enforcement communities or recruiting law enforcement personnel.” Such infiltration, the memo states, could “lead to investigative breaches and can jeopardize the safety of law enforcement sources or personnel”.¹

Years later, those concerns have remained. In 2015, Daryl Johnson, the lead researcher of a Department of Homeland Security report on right-wing extremism warned: “Federal law enforcement agencies in general – the FBI, the Marshals, the ATF – are aware that extremists

¹ “White Supremacist Infiltration of Law Enforcement,” Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2006

have infiltrated state and local law enforcement agencies and that there are people in law enforcement agencies that may be sympathetic to these groups.”^{2,3}

These alarm bells have spanned several years and we are concerned that DOJ and the FBI have not taken sufficient actions to prevent white supremacists from entering the ranks of law enforcement. Samuel Jones, a professor of law at the John Marshall Law School who studies this issue, states that “...after the 2006 FBI report, we simply cannot find anything by local law enforcement or the federal government that addresses this issue.”²

Given the urgency of this moment, we cannot accept a lack of action on the part of the federal government to tackle white supremacy in our police departments. We therefore ask that you release the full contents of the 2006 FBI intelligence assessment, provide an updated report on the status of such infiltration, and share how the DOJ and FBI have addressed this issue since the initial release of the assessment.

Sincerely,



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Judy Chu
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Al Green
Member of Congress

² “Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment”, Department of Homeland Security, 2009

³ “The FBI has Quietly Investigated White Supremacist Infiltration of Law Enforcement”, [The Intercept](#), 2017

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