

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2023

Ms. Nina M. Albert
Acting Deputy Mayor
Planning and Economic Development
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 317
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Acting Deputy Mayor Albert:

The Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability are conducting oversight of the General Services Administration's (GSA) recent decision to select Greenbelt, Maryland, as the location for the new Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Headquarters building. Recent allegations suggest that the site selection process has been politicized and may not reflect the best use of American taxpayer dollars. We write to request that you appear for a transcribed interview with the Committees and ask for your full cooperation with our inquiry.

Since 2013, the FBI and GSA have been coordinating on how to use taxpayer funding for a new headquarters facility within the National Capital Region.¹ On November 9, 2023, GSA released a report prepared by you, as the then-GSA Commissioner of Public Buildings Service (PBS), outlining your decision to select Greenbelt, Maryland, as the location of a new taxpayer-funded FBI headquarters facility.² GSA's decision to select Greenbelt, Maryland for the new facility superseded an earlier three-person panel decision on July 31, 2023—a panel comprised of two GSA officials and one FBI official—that unanimously recommended Springfield, Virginia as the best site to build the facility.³

GSA's decision to deviate from the panel's recommendation raised concerns about the site selection process and the potential for conflicts of interest. On September 22, 2023, FBI Associate Deputy Director Brian Turner expressed concerns to GSA Administrator Robin Carnahan about your impartiality after receiving a draft report a month earlier outlining the decision to choose Greenbelt, Maryland.⁴ In the memorandum, Turner wrote that your decision

¹ U.S. Gen. Serv. Admin., FBI Headquarters Consolidation, <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/gsa-regions/region-11-national-capital/buildings-and-facilities/development-projects/fbi-hq-consolidation> (last visited Nov. 15, 2023).

² U.S. Gen. Serv. Admin., Site Selection Decision Rep., Fed. Bureau of Investigation, Suburban Headquarters, National Capital Region (Nov. 9, 2023).

³ Eric Bazail-Eimil, *FBI director, Virginia officials call for reversal of decision to relocate FBI headquarters in Maryland*, POLITICO (Nov. 9, 2023). See also Sadie Gunman, *FBI Accuses Biden Appointee of Bias in Selection of Headquarters Site*, WALL STREET JOURNAL (Nov. 9, 2023).

⁴ Memorandum for Gen. Serv. Admin. Adm'r Robin Carnahan from Brian Turner, Assoc. Deputy Dir., Fed. Bureau of Investigation, FBI New Suburban Headquarters Site Selection Concerns (Sept. 22, 2023).

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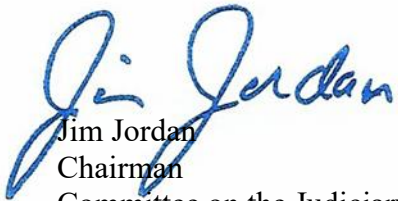
did “not adhere to the site selection plan’s clear direction that subcriteria within each criterion are of equal importance,” which more heavily emphasized public transportation access than other factors.⁵ Your previous work as a senior official at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) also raises serious concerns about impartiality given that the agency owns the parcel of land designated for the new facility.⁶

On October 12, 2023, FBI Director Wray raised additional concerns to Administrator Carnahan about your “previous employment by an interested party,” in addition to your political appointment as PBS Commissioner.⁷ After the GSA’s announcement of the new Greenbelt site, Director Wray sent an email to all FBI employees expressing concerns about the “fairness” and “transparency” in the site selection process.⁸ In the email, Director Wray stated, “the FBI observed that, at times, outside information was inserted into the process in a manner which appeared to disproportionately favor Greenbelt, and the justifications for the departures from the panel were varied and inconsistent.”⁹


While Administrator Carnahan has defended the site selection process as “fair” and “transparent,” and dismissed criticism of the process as “without merit,”¹⁰ her assurances ring hollow. Therefore, to assist our ongoing oversight of the FBI and the site selection process for its new headquarters, we request that you make yourself available for a transcribed interview with the Committees as soon as possible. To schedule the interview, please contact Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. If you are represented by counsel, please ask your attorney to contact Committee staff on your behalf.

The Judiciary Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.¹¹ Additionally, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability has broad authority to investigate, “any matter,” at “any time.”¹² Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Letter from the Hon. Christopher A. Wray, Dir., Fed. Bureau of Investigation, to the Hon. Robin Carnahan, Adm’r, U.S. Gen. Serv. Admin. (Oct. 12, 2023).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Email from Christopher Wray, Dir., Fed. Bureau of Investigation, to FBI Employees (Nov. 9, 2023 at 6:10 AM).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Oversight of the U.S. General Services Administration: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Oversight and Accountability*, 118th Cong. (2023) (testimony of Hon. Robin Carnahan, Adm’r, U.S. Gen. Serv. Admin.).

¹¹ Rules of the House of Representatives, R. X (2023).

¹² *Id.*

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cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability