



**One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515**

May 15, 2017

Kevin K. McAleenan
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Acting Commissioner McAleenan:

We were very disturbed to learn of the troubling allegations of improper conduct and possibly unlawful actions by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers at Newark Liberty International Airport. Recent media reports revealed allegations of sexual assault and crude hazing among officers there. It was most troubling to hear that this conduct had been occurring for some time. There is no place for this type of conduct at CBP or anywhere else in the Department of Homeland Security.

We understand that an Office of Inspector General investigation is underway, and we will follow that investigation closely. Meanwhile, we are deeply concerned that CBP leadership in Newark did not have procedures in place to discover and appropriately respond to this behavior sooner and that CBP Headquarters is apparently not properly overseeing Field Offices and ports of entry to prevent this conduct from occurring.

Furthermore, these allegations raise serious questions about whether similar conduct is occurring elsewhere within CBP or the Department. It is imperative the men and women who help keep our country secure can do their jobs safely and with dignity and that they are held to the highest legal, ethical, and professional standards.

Accordingly, pursuant to Rule X and Rule XI of the House of Representatives, please respond to the following questions in writing by May 26, 2017:

- 1) When did supervisors become aware of the alleged improper conduct by CBP officers at Newark Liberty International Airport? What was the supervisors' response?


- 2) When did CBP Headquarters become aware of the alleged improper conduct by CBP officers at Newark Liberty International Airport? What was CBP Headquarters' response?
- 3) Does CBP have information about similar improper conduct among its employees at other locations? Please explain.
- 4) What specific steps has CBP taken to determine whether similar improper conduct among its employees has occurred at other locations?
- 5) What immediate measures has CBP implemented to prevent improper conduct from continuing at Newark and elsewhere? What other measures do you have planned, if any, to prevent future incidents at Newark and elsewhere?

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Alison Northrop of the Committee on Homeland Security Staff at (202) 226-2616. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Ranking Member
House Committee on Homeland Security



DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member
House Committee on Homeland Security



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member
House Committee on Homeland Security