



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

October 11, 2017

The Honorable Randolph D. Alles
Director
U.S. Secret Service
245 Murray Lane
Washington, DC 20223

Dear Director Alles:

On October 8th, 2017, Vice President Mike Pence appeared at a National Football League game at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, and left the stadium in protest when players kneeled during the playing of the national anthem.¹ Prior to the game, Vice President Pence's staff reportedly told the media pool accompanying him to stay in their vans because "there may be an early departure from the game,"² and President Donald Trump later announced that he had asked the Vice President to "leave stadium if any players kneeled" [*sic*].³

Vice President Pence's actions clearly represent an elaborate, prearranged ploy to garner media attention. The costs associated with the Vice President traveling to Indianapolis and attending a large, public event are immense, and we are deeply concerned that the Trump Administration finds it appropriate to expend taxpayer resources to play political games. As you are aware, many of these expenses are incurred by the U.S. Secret Service (USSS), which is statutorily required to protect the Vice President and is already strained by an unprecedented protective mission. Additional expenses would have been incurred by state and local government agencies that assist the USSS with the transportation and protection of the Vice President.

You have not yet responded to the May 22, 2017, letter regarding concerns that the USSS lacks the funding and personnel to carry out its multifaceted, growing security mission. The Vice President's recent actions, at the behest of President Trump, exacerbate our concerns that the Administration does not appreciate the resource demands on the USSS. We also continue to be

¹ Eli Watkins, "Pence leaves Colts game after protest during anthem," CNN.com (October 9, 2017), <http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/08/politics/vice-president-mike-pence-nfl-protest/index.html> (last visited October 10, 2017).

² *Id.*

³ Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), "I asked @VP Pence to leave stadium if any players kneeled, disrespecting our country. I am proud of him and @SecondLady Karen." Twitter (October 8, 2017), <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/917091286607433728> (last visited October 10, 2017).

concerned that many USSS agents are overworked and underpaid due to statutory caps on overtime pay.

Therefore, in accordance with Rule X cl. 3(g) and Rule XI of the United States House of Representatives, please provide answers to previous inquiries as soon as possible, and to the following inquiries no later than October 25, 2017:

- 1) Please provide costs to the USSS in carrying out the protective mission of the Vice President of the United States for his visit to Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8, 2017, including costs associated with advance planning.
- 2) Please provide the total number of USSS agents and other personnel involved in carrying out the protective mission of the Vice President for his visit to Indianapolis.
- 3) What was the planned duration of the Vice President's attendance at the football game?
- 4) What was the actual duration of the Vice President's attendance at the game?
- 5) What, if any, USSS activities were cancelled or postponed in order to accommodate the Vice President's attendance at the game?
- 6) Please provide the approximate number of agents involved in protecting the Vice President for his visit to Indianapolis who are no longer receiving overtime compensation in 2017 due to statutory pay limits.

We look forward to your responses to these inquiries. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alison Northrop, Chief Director for Oversight, at 202-226-2616.

Sincerely,


BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Ranking Member


BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress