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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

RICHARD J. KESSLER, STAFF DIRECTOR  
KEITH B. ASHDOWN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 27, 2013

Mr. Charles Edwards  
Deputy Inspector General  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Edwards:

American taxpayers expect that federal agencies are run with integrity, economy and effectiveness. As the watchdog of Department of Homeland Security programs and operations, the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General (DHS OIG) is tasked with the vital responsibility of ensuring accountability and excellence. Over the past year, however, we have been alerted by numerous whistleblowers to allegations of misconduct and abuse by you in your position as Acting Inspector General and as Deputy Inspector General. Specifically, the Subcommittee has received the following allegations:

- **You violated anti-nepotism laws and policies to employ your wife.** These allegations state that you employed your wife, Madhuri Edwards, as a Supervisory Auditor within your office. Her continued employment appears to violate laws and regulations governing prohibited personnel practices. These allegations also include retaliatory action against DHS OIG staff who brought or attempted to call attention to your misconduct.
- **You abused agency resources in your pursuit of a Ph.D. in Information Systems from Nova Southeastern University (Nova).** These allegations include the misuse of OIG funds to travel to south Florida to attend Ph.D. classes under the guise of conducting "site visits" to an OIG field office, the misuse of OIG staff to work on school assignments and write your Ph.D. dissertation paper, and the misuse of OIG bonuses to reward staff members who assisted you with your program work.
- **You abused your authority to obtain improper benefits for your wife.** These allegations include the misuse of OIG staff to assist your wife in pursuit of her own Ph.D. at Nova. The allegations also include your intervention to ensure that your wife's request to telework from India for seven months was approved and your assistance in the procurement of a DHS OIG international blackberry phone for her personal use.
- **You abused agency resources to obtain the services of government vehicles.** These allegations include requiring DHS OIG personnel to drive yourself and your wife around Washington D.C. on personal errands.

- **You abused your authority and agency resources with respect to your outside employment.** These allegations include the abuse of agency resources relating to classes you taught as an adjunct professor at Capitol College in Laurel, MD. These allegations also include using agency personnel to complete lesson plans and compile homework assignments and tests that you administered in your role as an adjunct professor at Capitol College.
- **You improperly interfered with the re-instatement of the security clearance of the former DHS Assistant IG for Inspections, Thomas M. Frost.** These allegations include writing to the DHS Security Office demanding the reinstatement of Frost's security clearance, which was to have been suspended while a grand jury was deliberating charges related to alleged misconduct at the DHS OIG office in McAllen, TX.
- **You are susceptible to political pressure.** The Subcommittee also received allegations that information was intentionally changed and withheld in both the non-public report of investigation into the misconduct by U.S. Secret Service personnel in Cartagena, Colombia transmitted to Secretary Napolitano on September 26, 2012 and the January 29, 2013 public report titled "Adequacy of USSS' Internal Investigation of Alleged Misconduct in Cartagena, Colombia." Allegations include that the public report did not contain relevant and damaging information contained in the non-public report.
- **You shared confidential whistleblower information with agency officials, potentially in violation of law.** These allegations include improperly sharing complaints made by employees with agency management, resulting in adverse actions against the personnel with grievances.
- **You used administrative leave to penalize DHS OIG employees who questioned or brought attention to your actions and instructions.** These allegations include accusing DHS OIG employees of misconduct in order to place them on administrative leave or terminate their employment.

As part of the Subcommittee's investigation of these allegations, we request that you provide the following information and documents:

- (1) All documents relating to Madhuri Edwards' employment with the DHS OIG, including her telework, use of an international blackberry, and assignments on which you have collaborated;
- (2) All communications between you and Madhuri Edwards sent from or to your official DHS OIG email accounts;
- (3) All documents relating to official visits you made to DHS OIG field offices in Florida between June 2010 and December 2012;

- (4) Documents sufficient to show the dates of all required in-person classes, lectures, and other school-related activities or meetings relating to your or your wife's enrollment at Nova;
- (5) The value of all educational benefits received from the U.S. government including but not limited to tuition assistance, loan repayment, or loan deferment received for classes or other education pursued during your employment by the DHS OIG;
- (6) All documents relating to your teaching position at Capitol College, and documents sufficient to show your compensation, teaching requirements, and tenure;
- (7) All documents relating to performance awards and bonuses for DHS OIG employees;
- (8) All documents relating to your alleged misuse of government vehicles and personnel time;
- (9) Documents sufficient to show the dates of Madhuri Edwards' and your own annual leave;
- (10) All documents relating to DHS OIG hotline complaints related to your own conduct or the conduct of Madhuri Edwards;
- (11) All documents relating to the reinstatement of the security clearance of Thomas M. Frost, including the DHS OIG policy for revoking, suspending, and reinstating a security clearance;
- (12) All documents relating to the misconduct by U.S. Secret Service personnel in Cartagena, Colombia in April 2012;
- (13) All documents relating to allegations of your misconduct, including disciplinary actions taken;
- (14) All documents relating to OIG employees who have been placed on paid or unpaid administrative leave, voluntarily or involuntarily departed employment, received a promotion or new position of any kind, or transferred physical office location;
- (15) All documents relating to the Integrity Committee of the Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency review of these or other allegations regarding your conduct and the resolution of such inquiries, if any;
- (16) All internal or external audits, reports, or peer reviews of the DHS OIG.

Unless stated otherwise, the relevant time period is January 2011 to the present. We also request that you make the following employees of the DHS OIG available for interviews with Subcommittee staff: Jay Smith, Paul Leonard, James Izzard, and David Nieland. The Subcommittee may request interviews with additional employees at a future date.

Given your status as the senior official within the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, it is important to ensure that these allegations receive a timely and thorough review. We look forward to your full cooperation during this time. We request that you provide the requested information and interviews to the Subcommittee as soon as possible, but in no case later than **July 19, 2013**.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108<sup>th</sup> Congress); and Senate Resolution 64 (113<sup>th</sup> Congress). An attachment to this letter provides additional information about how to respond to the Subcommittee's request. Please contact Jackson Eaton with Senator McCaskill's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-6579 or Rachel Weaver with Senator Johnson's Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-2186. Please send any official correspondence related to this request to Kelsey Stroud at [Kelsey\\_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov](mailto:Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial and  
Contracting Oversight



Ron Johnson  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial and  
Contracting Oversight

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Phyllis K. Fong  
Chair  
The Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency

Robin Ashton  
Counsel, Office of Professional Responsibility  
Department of Justice