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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

KEITH B. ASHDOWN, STAFF DIRECTOR
GABRIELLE A. BATKIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 15, 2016

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Comey:

On June 12, 2016, Omar Mateen carried out a terrorist attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. In light of this terrorist attack, I write to request information about actions taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) before, during, and after the attack. The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has previously conducted oversight on the terrorist attacks that occurred in San Bernardino, California, and Garland, Texas.¹

The Committee is conducting this inquiry to better understand the root causes of homegrown extremism, assess the vulnerabilities of so-called “soft” targets, and oversee the work of federal law-enforcement entities. My staff has received information about Mr. Mateen’s social-media presence and other activities that will help to inform the inquiry. In order to better understand the events before, during, and after the Orlando attack, I respectfully request the following information and material:

- I. According to reports, Mr. Mateen and his wife visited Walt Disney World in April 2016.² Disney officials apparently contacted the FBI with concerns that Mr. Mateen may have been scouting the venue for a possible attack.³
 - a. Prior to the Pulse attack, did Disney contact the FBI with concerns about Mr. Mateen, his wife, or any of his associates? If so, when?
 - b. If Disney did contact the FBI, what information did Disney officials provide?

¹ Letter from Senator Ron Johnson, Chairman, Comm. on Homeland Sec. & Governmental Affairs, to the Hon. Loretta E. Lynch, United States Attorney General, Dep’t of Justice (June 1, 2015); Letter from Senator Ron Johnson, Chairman, Comm. on Homeland Sec. and Governmental Affairs, to the Hon. Loretta E. Lynch, United States Attorney General, Dep’t of Justice (Dec. 11, 2015).

² Evan Perez, Shimon Prokupez, and Holly Yan, *Omar Mateen: Gunman Scouted Out Disney Complex, Pulse, Official Says*, CNN (June 14, 2016).

³ *Id.*

- c. If Disney did contact the FBI with respect to this matter, what actions, if any, did the FBI take and when? Please explain.
2. According to reports, Mr. Mateen had visited Pulse nightclub prior to carrying out the June 12 attack.⁴ Was the FBI aware of his visits to the nightclub prior to carrying out the attack? Please explain.
3. Was Mr. Mateen under any FBI surveillance in the days immediately prior to the Pulse attack?
4. My staff has learned that Mr. Mateen allegedly utilized five separate Facebook accounts. On one account Mr. Mateen allegedly searched Facebook for San Bernardino attackers Sayed Farook and Tashfeen Malik, speeches by Islamic State (ISIS) leader Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, information on the Pulse Orlando shooting, and wrote a post about additional ISIS attacks in the United States in the coming days.
 - a. Prior to the Pulse attack, did the FBI receive any information from Facebook regarding Mr. Mateen's activities on its social media platform? Please explain.
 - b. Prior to the Pulse attack, did the FBI have any information about whether Mr. Mateen used other social media platforms to make searches or communications indicative of ties to terrorism? Please explain.
5. My staff has become aware that Mr. Mateen allegedly was wearing a device when his body was found. Was Mr. Mateen wearing a device? If so, what was the device?
6. At any time prior to the Pulse attack, did the FBI investigate or surveil Mr. Mateen's current wife, Noor Zahi Salman, or his father, Seddique Mir Mateen? Were these individuals placed on a terrorism watch list? If so, when?
7. My staff has become aware that Mr. Mateen allegedly took an international flight in March 2012. Is so, on what dates did Mr. Mateen travel, where did he travel to, and for how long did he travel?
8. Prior to the Pulse attack, was the FBI ever contacted by Mr. Mateen's employer or Mr. Mateen's co-workers concerning Mr. Mateen's actions? If so, when? And if so, what actions were taken by the FBI?
9. I understand that before and during the attack, Mr. Mateen placed multiple 911 phone calls in which he allegedly pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, praised Moner Mohammad Abusalha, and expressed support for the Boston Marathon

⁴ *Id.*

bombers, Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

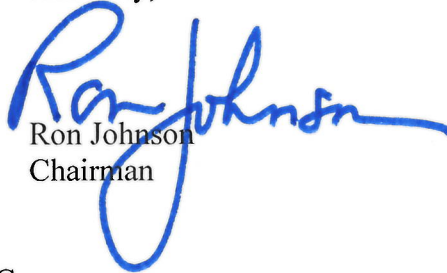
- a. How many 911 calls did Mr. Mateen place on the night of the shooting? How long was each call?
- b. Prior to the Pulse attack, did the FBI identify any connection between Mr. Mateen, the Tsarnaev brothers, or Ibragim Todashev?

Please produce this material as soon as possible, but by no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 29, 2016. To the maximum extent possible, please provide unclassified responses to my questions; should a complete response to any question require that you send me classified information, you may send me that information under separate cover, via the Office of Senate Security.

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized by Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to investigate “the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government.”⁵ Additionally, S. Res. 73 (114th Congress) authorizes the Committee to examine “the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches and functions of Government with particular references to (i) the effectiveness of present national security methods, staffing, and processes”⁶ For purposes of this request, please refer to the definitions and instructions in the enclosure.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Kyle Brosnan or Brian Downey of the Committee staff at (202) 224-4751. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member

Enclosure

⁵ S. Rule XXV(k); *see also* S. Res. 445, 108th Cong. (2004).

⁶ S. Res. 73 § 12, 114th Cong. (2015).