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Congress of the United States
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August 7, 2026

Mr. Michael McCarthy
Interim Special Agent in Charge, St. Paul Field Office
Homeland Security Investigations
Department of Homeland Security
1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111

Dear Special Agent McCarthy:

Thank you for meeting with Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and me on July 24th. We appreciated the opportunity to understand the present priorities of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and raise concerns resulting from Operation Metro Surge.

Yesterday evening, August 6th, 2026, I hosted my monthly town hall in Richfield, Minnesota. Due to the volume of threats I receive, we take active precautions for the safety of attendees, my team, and me. One of those precautions is coordinating with local law enforcement to have a physical presence outside and inside the building to prevent potential attacks.

As attendees were entering the building, I understand that a Richfield Police Officer noticed a young woman sitting in a Ford Explorer, and he became suspicious of the way she was monitoring the building. He proceeded to run the plates attached to the vehicle and discovered they were registered to a different vehicle. He approached the woman in the vehicle to ask about the purpose for her presence there and why the plates on her vehicle did not match the government's records. Like any reasonable officer, he was concerned that she harbored ill intentions and may be in a stolen vehicle. I understand that she initially identified herself as security, and after Richfield Police confirmed with my security team that she was not a part of our operation, she called her supervisor and explained that she was an HSI agent and was outside the community center as part of an undercover drug operation in the area. A prominent sign indicating my town hall was taking place at this location was visible from where the agent was parked, and that did not result in any reconsideration of whether the agent's presence there was appropriate or necessary. After speaking with her supervisor, the agent departed the property.

At a March meeting with HSI, I raised dozens of reports we had received from community members about HSI switching plates on vehicles in violation of state law. I was assured at that meeting that the practice had ended and HSI was coordinating with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to receive new undercover license plates for all vehicles. It appears that this commitment was untrue.

HSI's actions yesterday evening put an entire community at risk. Instead of monitoring the area for those who might wish harm to me and my constituents, Richfield Police were required to devote time to investigating why an HSI agent was outside of a Congressional event in a vehicle with mismatched

plates. It also raises serious and uncomfortable questions about the purpose of HSI's presence outside of my event. At best, your agent was unable to assess that the parking lot of a community center hosting a Congressional event wasn't the best place to conduct a drug operation. At worst, it emphasizes many Americans' growing concern that the Trump administration uses ICE to surveil political opponents and may interfere with our democracy.

I request your prompt attention to the following questions by Friday, August 14:

1. Please explain why an agent was detailed to Richfield Community Center on the evening of Thursday, August 6, 2026.
2. Please explain when and how the HSI agent and her supervisors became aware I was hosting a town hall at this location and what action that knowledge prompted.
3. Please provide an overview of the training the agent had completed prior to her assignment at this location, as well as how long she has served as an HSI agent.
4. Richfield Police Department reported that they had received no advance communication of an undercover operation from HSI that would have allowed them to ensure the safety of the officer and the community, as well as support HSI's broader work to combat drug trafficking. Please explain what steps you take to coordinate undercover criminal operations with local law enforcement, and why in this instance there was no prior coordination with Richfield Police Department.
5. Please share details of any meetings or events I have hosted in my official capacity as a Member of Congress that HSI agents may have been assigned to observe and why. Please share whether HSI agents have observed any other activity being undertaken in an official capacity by any other local, state, or federal officials in Minnesota this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ilhan Omar', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress