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Memo: One Year Later, Little Has Changed

To: House Republicans

From: Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration

Subject: One Year Later, Little Has Changed

Dear Colleagues:

In the coming days you are going to be hearing a lot of noise and narratives about what transpired at the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and what the cause of those things may or may not be. The most important question to answer from that day remains, *why was the Capitol so unprepared?*

Here are some important facts that cannot be ignored about what occurred before, during, and after that day:

- As of January 6, 2022, Democrats and the Select Committee are no closer to finding out what led to the catastrophic security failure on January 6, 2021. Their singular focus has been to attack President Trump and punish anyone associated with him.
- Leader McCarthy appointed five Republicans to serve on the Select Committee. Speaker Pelosi took unprecedented action and refused to seat two of Leader McCarthy's choices. Since then, those five Republicans have been hard at work conducting their own investigation to get answers for the American people.

- The members of the Select Committee have wasted taxpayer dollars by spending months going after their political rivals and holding them in criminal contempt when they refuse to meet every spurious demand of the Committee.
- The Select Committee has subpoenaed more than 50 individuals for depositions and subpoenaed phone records and bank records. The Committee has even gone so far as to pursue campaign staffers who simply put their name on a permit for a rally as a part of their job.
- It is all about politics for the Select Committee. With sky-high inflation, crime rates rising, soaring COVID-19 cases, illegal aliens flooding across the border, the debacle in Afghanistan, the demise of Build Back Better, the only thing Democrats have to run on is going after President Trump.
- In the days following January 6, 2021, Republicans issued preservation and production orders to the U.S. Capitol Police, the House Sergeant at Arms, the Architect of the Capitol, and the House Chief Administrative Officer for all documents related to the Capitol's security preparedness status on January 6th, as well as the events of that day. The entities directly under the control of the Speaker, the Sergeant at Arms and Chief Administrative Officer, have refused to comply, thus blocking the necessary review of all communications between the Speaker's office and law enforcement officials leading up to and on January 6th.
- The Speaker commissioned her own task force of handpicked experts to do a review of the campus and make recommendations. The task force issued their report and recommendations at the beginning of March yet the outgoing Majority has failed to implement most of those recommendations, leaving the Capitol vulnerable.
- The Capitol Police Inspector General has issued 104 recommendations for changes the department should implement post-January 6th. Most have not been implemented.
- Nothing has changed to make the Capitol campus safer from future attacks. Instead, Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats have focused their time and attention on going after former President Trump and those associated with him—even if those associates are their own colleagues.

While the Democrats continue on their partisan witch-hunt against President Trump, the only thing that we know for sure is that January 6th was an avoidable security failure that we can never allow to happen again. We will not give up in our efforts to get to the bottom of those failures, ensure accountability, and make any necessary improvements to the security of the Capitol complex.

Below is some additional in-depth background. Additionally, in the coming weeks, House Republican members will have the opportunity to attend a briefing with the Chief of the Capitol Police and House Sergeant at Arms to hear from them directly, ask any questions and raise any concerns you have.

Rodney

Status of Recommendations to Improve Capitol Security

Over the course of the past year, there have been numerous internal reviews conducted of the security vulnerabilities with the Capitol complex and deficiencies within the security structure, including the U.S. Capitol Police department, to identify necessary improvements. Reviews have been led by the Architect of the Capitol Inspector General, General Russel Honoré's 1-6 Task Force, the United States Capitol Police Inspector General, and a joint Senate report from Rules and Administration Committee and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. In total there were hundreds of findings and recommendations. Many of the same themes emerged across the board: *lack of adequate planning and training, failure of internal intelligence processes, insufficient documentation of procedures, and an inefficient command and control structure.*

While many of the recommendations are law enforcement sensitive and can be briefed at your request, I did want to highlight a few takeaways from Capitol Police Inspector General Michael Bolton's public testimony before the Senate's Rules and Administration Committee:

- *"The [Capitol Police] Department still lacks the overall training infrastructure to meet the needs of the Department, the level of Intelligence gathering and expertise needed, and an overall cultural*

change needed to move the Department into a Protective Agency as opposed to a traditional Police Department”

- Out of the 104 recommendations made by his office, only 30 have been fully implemented.
- The Chief of Police, Thomas Manger, has only independently met with the Inspector General once since being hired in August.
- Out of the 200 security enhancements that the Capitol Police have claimed to have made, only 61 have supporting documentation.

Additional Information:

- Over 130 officers have left the department since 1/6/21.
- The Capitol Police is nearly 400 officers short of their authorized level.
- Capitol Police has still not fully implemented an *Intelligence Priority Framework* which would ensure a more effective analysis of intel.
- Numerous recommendations about standardizing training and updating standard operation procedures remain open.
- Not all physical infrastructure has been replaced and upgraded since the breach of the Capitol building nearly a year ago.
- The House has not held an oversight hearing with the new Chief of Capitol Police Thomas Manger who started in August.

If the outgoing Democratic leadership were serious about doing everything possible to prevent another event like January 6th, they would be focusing their time and energy on ensuring these known, identified deficiencies were being addressed, and they would be holding public hearings to ensure proper oversight of those responsible for implementing the recommendations that would make the Capitol more secure. Instead, their entire focus has been on settling political scores and creating a distraction that takes the institution further from answering the most important question: *why was the Capitol so unprepared on January 6th ?*

Recap: House Administration Republican's Efforts to Ensure Accountability and Improve Security

- January 13, 2021 – Ranking Member Rodney Davis sends preservation requests to the United States Capitol Police, Architect of the Capitol, House Sergeant at Arms and House Chief Administrative Officer instructing them to preserve and produce all documents related to the

preparation, planning and events that transpired in the lead up to and on January 6. The Capitol Police complied while the other entities refused or ignored the request.

- February 5, 2021 – Ranking Member Davis [met with National Guard leaders](#) to discuss security measures on Capitol Hill.
- February 15, 2021 - House Administration Ranking Member Rodney Davis, House Judiciary Ranking Member Jim Jordan, House Oversight and Reform Ranking Member James Comer, and House Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Devin Nunes [sent a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi](#) demanding answers surrounding security decisions her office made leading up to and on January 6th. Additionally, the letter asks that she allow House officials to comply with preservation and production requests regarding January 6th, which they currently have denied. The full letter can be found [here](#).
- February 23, 2021 – Following a hearing by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Ranking Member Davis [issued a statement](#) raising concerns with inconsistencies in the testimony offered by former Capitol Police Chief Steve Sund, former House Sergeant at Arms Paul Irving, and former Senate Sergeant at Arms Michael Stenger and reiterating the need for compliance by the House Sergeant at Arms and House CAO with preservation and production requests issued by Ranking Member Davis.
- March 30, 2021 - House Administration Ranking Member Rodney Davis, House Judiciary Ranking Member Jim Jordan, House Oversight and Reform Ranking Member James Comer, House Armed Services Ranking Member Mike Rogers, and House Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Devin Nunes [requested that information provided to House committees regarding January 6th be shared equally with Republicans and Democrats](#). The request followed reports of House Democrat committee leaders launching a review of January 6th by sending letters to 16 agencies within the Executive Branch and Congress requesting documents and messages. Republicans were denied similar requests made to the House Sergeant at Arms (SAA) and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Letters were sent to the same 16 agencies requested by the Democrats as well as the CAO who denied Committee on House Administration Republicans' original request for information. [CLICK](#)

[HERE](#) to read the letters.

- April 6, 2021 – Ranking Member Rodney Davis [meets with the U.S. Capitol Police IG](#) to be briefed on his efforts to review the events of January 6 and the department’s role that day.
- April 15, 2021 – Over three months after the events of January 6, the Committee on House Administration, which has primary jurisdiction over most of the entities involved with the events of January 6, holds its first hearing on the matter. Ranking Member Davis [delivered opening remarks](#) focused on the need to reform the Capitol Police Board to achieve any real change within the United States Capitol Police. The Capitol Police Board is comprised of the House Sergeant at Arms, appointed by the Speaker, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, and the Architect of the Capitol, appointed by the President in consultation with the House and Senate and confirmed by the Senate. The board has near total control over all aspects of the Capitol Police and their operations. At the hearing, the United States Capitol Police Inspector General [revealed that he did not know who oversaw or holds the Capitol Police Board accountable.](#)
- May 3, 2021 - Committee on House Administration Republicans [sent a letter to Chairperson Lofgren](#) urging the majority to hold an oversight hearing of the Capitol Police Board after a recent [hearing revealed](#) there is virtually no oversight of the board, which oversees the United States Capitol Police (USCP). The Capitol Police board has not appeared jointly before a Congressional Committee since 1945.
- May 10, 2021 – The House Administration Committee held another hearing with the Capitol Police Inspector General on his second flash report focused on different elements of the Capitol Police related to January 6. At the hearing Ranking Member Davis [received a commitment from Chairperson Lofgren](#) to hold a hearing with the Capitol Police Board.
- May 12, 2021 – The House Administration Committee held a hearing with the Inspector General for the Architect of the Capitol related to January 6th. House Admin Republican Members continued to highlight the dysfunction of the Capitol Police Board at the hearing after the AOC IG’s report found that the AOC, while a voting member of the board, is not

involved in security planning decisions.

- May 18, 2021 – In advance of a hearing with the Capitol Police Board, House Admin Republicans [released a video](#) summarizing and highlighting the dysfunction of, and need to reform, the Capitol Police Board.
- May 19, 2021 – Following a request by Committee Republicans led by Ranking Member Davis, the Committee on House Administration [held a hearing](#) with the United States Capitol Police Board. The Senate Sergeant at Arms backed out of the hearing at the last minute maintaining the 76-year gap since the last time the entire board appeared before a Congressional Committee.
- June 15, 2021 – The Committee on House Administration [held its third hearing with the United States Capitol Police IG](#) on his latest report related to the U.S. Capitol Police and January 6th. House Admin Republicans called as a witness the author of a 2017 GAO report highlighting issues with the Board. [The report](#) found that the Board has an unusual amount of power compared to other police boards and made several recommendations to improve the functionality of the board and increase transparency and accountability which were ignored by the Board.
- July 19, 2021 – Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy appoints Ranking Member Rodney Davis as one of the five Republican members to the Select Committee on January 6.
- July 27, 2021 – Following the decision by Speaker Pelosi to reject certain members from the Select Committee on January 6, Leader McCarthy and the five republican members selected for the Committee hold a press conference. [Ranking Member Davis delivers remarks](#) about his efforts to reform United States Capitol Police leadership and the need for Speaker Pelosi to answer questions about why her approval was needed to allow the National Guard on campus as rioters breached the Capitol steps on January 6th and why the House Sergeant at Arms will not turn over documents requested by his office.
- October 4, 2021 - Ranking Member Davis announces the launch of a [whistleblower webpage](#) providing United States Capitol Police (USCP) and House Sergeant at Arms (HSAA) officers and security personnel a

confidential outlet to report issues. Through the webform, officers and security personnel can privately communicate with the committee about their concerns. Davis launched this page as part of his ongoing effort to make the USCP and HSAA more transparent and accountable.

- October 21, 2021 - Ranking Member Davis speaks on the House Floor urging House Democrats to stop trying to score political points with votes on political subpoenas and instead, work with Republicans to help protect this Capitol. House Democrats have failed to act on multiple reports with recommendations on changes needed to improve the security posture at the Capitol and instead have engaged in a sham investigation that is nothing but a partisan witch-hunt.
- December 14, 2021 - Ranking Member Davis again speaks against another politically motivated contempt resolution by the 1/6 Select Committee and instead urges the majority to work with him to make important security reforms that are long overdue.



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