



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter of February 10, 2020. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of the Inspector General (HUD OIG) has long appreciated the value of federal employees stepping forward to disclose waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in the federal government. And we strongly support the right of those employees to make protected disclosures anonymously and free from reprisals.

HUD OIG has a well-established and active Whistleblower Protection Program. Our Whistleblower Protection Coordinator (WPC) educates employees on their rights to make protected disclosures, and their remedies should they be subjected to retaliation. HUD OIG provide further information and the ability to make disclosures on its website. See <https://www.hudoig.gov/whistleblower-rights>. The WPC also works one-on-one with employees to provide information and assist them as needed with filing complaints. We work in tandem with the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) to ensure the employees can seek redress if they suffer retaliation, and that employees' appeal rights are protected. The WPC also coordinates with other WPCs in the OIG community through the Council for Inspectors' General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), Whistleblower Working Group. We are currently in the process of seeking certification of our program from OSC.

Your letter requested that HUD OIG seek certain information from HUD. We have confirmed with HUD that they have trained their employees and supervisors regarding whistleblower protections and remedies, most recently on October 22, 2019 and February 20, 2020, respectively. This training was conducted by OSC. In addition, we have relayed your request for a certification that the HUD General Counsel has not and will not permit retaliation or reprisals against anyone who has, or in the future makes, protected disclosures of presidential misconduct to Congress or Inspectors General. We have requested that the General Counsel provide this certification directly to your office, with a copy to the HUDOIG.

If you or your staffs have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me or Kathleen Hatcher, Director of Congressional Affairs, at 202-402-8323 or khatcher@hudoig.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rae Oliver Davis".

Rae Oliver Davis
Inspector General