



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Sam Graves
Chairman

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member

Jack Ruddy, Staff Director

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Robin Carnahan
Administrator
United States General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Administrator Carnahan:

Federal buildings have been targets of terrorism and other types of attacks and their security remains a challenge.¹ However, in recent years, the rise in crime, drug abuse, and homelessness has created further challenges to the protection of Federal buildings and the safety of those that work and visit them.² For example, on May 29, 2020, Federal Protective Service (FPS) Officer David Patrick Underwood was murdered, and a second officer was injured at the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Oakland, California.³

As you know, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (Committee or T&I) has jurisdiction over the General Services Administration (GSA), Public Buildings Service (PBS) and “[p]ublic buildings and occupied grounds of the United States generally.”⁴ The Committee’s public buildings jurisdiction includes the security of GSA-owned and leased facilities and the FPS charged with protecting over 9,000 Federal facilities and more than 1.4 million Federal employees and visitors.⁵

¹ GAO, GAO-23-106203, HIGH-RISK SERIES: EFFORTS MADE TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS NEED TO BE MAINTAINED AND EXPANDED TO FULLY ADDRESS ALL AREAS, (Apr. 2023) available at <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-23-106203.pdf>.

² See e.g. Heather Knight and Shawn Hubler, *San Francisco’s Woes Are Well Known. Across the Bay, Oakland Has Struggled More*, N.Y. TIMES, (Dec. 14, 2023), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/14/us/oakland-crime-economy-homelessness.html>.

³ Press Release, DEP’T OF JUSTICE, *Steven Carrillo Sentenced to 41 Years in Prison for Murder and Attempted Murder for Role in Drive-By Shooting at Federal Courthouse in Oakland*, (June 3, 2022), available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndca/pr/steven-carrillo-sentenced-41-years-prison-murder-and-attempted-murder-role-drive>.

⁴ United States House of Representatives Rule X(1)(r) (118th Cong.).

⁵ *Examining the Security of Federal Facilities: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Gov. Affairs*, 118th Cong., (Nov. 29, 2023) (statement of David Marroni, Acting Director, Physical Infrastructure, GAO).

In July 2020, Federal law enforcement arrested more than a dozen individuals for violent activities including assaults on law enforcement officers, destruction of property, looting, arson, and vandalism in and around the Hatfield Federal Courthouse in Portland, Oregon. This resulted in the Courthouse sustaining extensive damage.⁶ In some areas, significant increases in crime are affecting the usage of space in public buildings. For example, in August 2023, the United States Department of Health and Human Services in the San Francisco Federal Building reportedly advised employees to work remotely because of safety concerns.⁷

We are concerned with the safety of the Federal workers and visitors to these buildings. Further, significant questions surround the consequences of decreased public safety impacting costs related to Federal buildings and how crime maybe creating more empty and unused space, all at the expense of the American taxpayer. There has been increasing reports of “shadow” or “dark” space in Federal buildings and leases which is unassigned, unused space.⁸ The concerns about “shadow” or “dark” space were highlighted during the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure’s Roundtable on “*The State of Federal Real Estate*,” held on March 22, 2023.⁹

On July 13, 2023, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported it found that on average, 17 of the 24 Chief Financial Officer agency headquarters were at 25 percent or less utilization.¹⁰ In November of 2023, the Committee held a markup focused on Federal real estate reform legislation, including bills to improve space utilization, reduce unused space, and improve security and public safety in and around Federal buildings. Given these efforts, it is critical the Committee understand the impact public safety may be having on space utilization in Federal facilities and the associated costs to the taxpayer.

In order to assist the Committee with its oversight and investigation, please provide responses to the following questions, as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on March 20, 2024:

1. Please provide the number of and details, including building, agency, and location of all reported public safety incidents involving Federal employees and/or visitors in or around Federally-owned and leased buildings in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and to date in 2024.

⁶ Press Release, DEP’T OF JUSTICE, *18 Arrested, Facing Federal Charges After Weeknight Protests at Federal Courthouse in Portland*, (July 24, 2020), available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-or/pr/18-arrested-facing-federal-charges-after-weeknight-protests-federal-courthouse-portland>.

⁷ Khaleda Rahman, *San Francisco Federal Workers Told to Work Remotely Over Drug-Crime Fears*, NEWSWEEK, (Aug. 15, 2023), available at <https://www.newsweek.com/san-francisco-federal-workers-told-work-remotely-drug-crime-1819791>.

⁸ GSA, *Unused & Underused Space*, (last reviewed Mar. 4, 2022), available at <https://www.gsa.gov/real-estate/gsa-properties/unused-underused-space>.

⁹ *The State of Federal Real Estate: Roundtable Before the Subcomm. on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management of the H. Comm. on Transp. and Infrastructure*, 118th Cong., (Mar. 22, 2023).

¹⁰ GAO, GAO-24-107006, FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY: AGENCIES NEED NEW BENCHMARKS AND SHED UNDERUTILIZED SPACE (2023) available at <https://www.gao.gov/assets/d24107006.pdf>.

2. Please provide data on complaints, by year, received by GSA related or referring to public safety concerns and/or incidents from tenant agencies and visitors, including number, buildings impacted, and locations since 2020.
3. Provide all GSA documents and communications pertaining to public safety at Federal buildings and Federally-leased facilities from January 1, 2019 through March 6, 2024.
4. Provide all documents and communication pertaining to public safety at Federal buildings and Federally-leased facilities between GSA and the White House, the Federal Protective Service, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of Personnel Management, and any GSA tenant agency from January 1, 2019 through March 6, 2024.
5. Provide all documents and communications pertaining to any tenant agencies advising their employees to not work in the office as a result of public safety concerns from January 1, 2019 through March 6, 2024.
6. Provide a copy of any notifications GSA received from any tenant agency regarding the tenant agency advising employees not to return to the office due to public safety concerns, including the specific agencies, building information, location and estimated number of employees impacted from January 1, 2019 through March 6, 2024.
7. Provide details of any actions taken by GSA to reduce costs at GSA-owned or leased facilities where a tenant agency advised employees not to return to the office due to public safety concerns.
8. Provide a breakdown of any costs associated with public safety incidents at GSA-owned or leased facilities, including costs associated with property damage, theft, and other criminal activity.
9. Please provide all GSA data referring or related to the number of arrests, prosecutions, and convictions of individuals related to crimes in or around Federal buildings or involving Federal workers or visitors to Federal buildings and leased space from January 1, 2019 through March 6, 2024.
10. Please provide a copy of GSA's protocols, policies, and procedures for responding to and addressing public safety issues at Federal buildings and leased facilities.
11. Please describe actions, if any, taken by GSA to improve security and public safety in and around Federal buildings and leased facilities from January 1, 2019 through March 6, 2024.
12. Please describe, if any, GSA's coordination efforts with FPS and any other law enforcement, including other Federal law enforcement and state and local law

enforcement to address public safety issues in or around Federal buildings and leased facilities from January 1, 2019 through March 6, 2024.

13. Please provide copies of any written agreements or memoranda between GSA and any law enforcement entities related to public safety issues in and around Federal buildings and facilities.

Pursuant to House Rule X, clause 1(r), the Committee has jurisdiction over these issues and shall conduct appropriate oversight of these actions. This request and any documents created as a result of this request will be deemed Congressional documents of the Committee. An attachment contains additional instructions for responding to this request. When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in Room 2165 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2164 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Johanna Hardy, with the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management at [REDACTED]. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

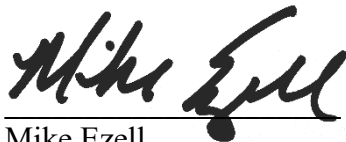
Sincerely,



Scott Perry
Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management



Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Vice Chair
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management



Mike Ezell
Member of Congress
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management

The Honorable Robin Carnahan

March 6, 2024

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cc: The Honorable Dina Titus, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings
and Emergency Management

Enclosure

Attachment A – Requirements for Responding to the House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure Records Requests in the 118th Congress.