



WHITE HOUSE SECURITY OFFICE OFFICIALS

May 2019

During both Republican and Democratic Administrations, congressional committees have investigated practices of the Office of White House Security, which is responsible for conducting security pre-screenings of candidates for White House employment and managing reports of security violations in the Executive Office of the President.

During these inquiries, at least four directors of the Office of White House Security have testified before Senate and House Committees. In addition, FBI agents conducting background investigations have testified about concerns they had about awarding security clearances to specific individuals, and committee staff have reviewed the FBI background files of specific individuals.

TESTIMONY

FBI BACKGROUND FILES

Charles Easley

Director of White House Office of Security - Clinton
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
1996

[SENATE HEARING TESTIMONY¹](#)

FBI BACKGROUND FILES

Charles Easley

Director of White House Office of Security - Clinton
House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight
1996

[DEPOSITION TESTIMONY²](#)

FBI BACKGROUND FILES

Craig Livingstone

Former Director of White House Office of Security - Clinton
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
1996

[HEARING TESTIMONY³](#)

FBI BACKGROUND FILES

Craig Livingstone

Former Director of White House Office of Security - Clinton
House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

¹ Senate Judiciary Committee, *Hearing on Handling of FBI Background Files by the White House* (June 28, 1996). <https://www.c-span.org/video/?73785-1/white-house-fbi-files-part-2>

² House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, *Investigation into the White House and Department of Justice on Security of FBI Background Investigation Files: Interim Report* (September 28, 1996) (Report No. 104-862). https://web.archive.org/web/20220718124024/https://irp.fas.org/congress/1996_rpt/fbirep.htm

³ Senate Judiciary Committee, *Hearing on Handling of FBI Background Files by the White House* (June 28, 1996). <https://www.c-span.org/video/?73259-1/white-house-fbi-files-part-1>

1996

[DEPOSITION TESTIMONY⁴](#)

[HEARING TESTIMONY⁵](#)

FBI BACKGROUND FILES

Jane Dannenhauer

Former Director of White House Office of Security - Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush I

House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

1996

[HEARING TESTIMONY⁶](#)

CIA EMPLOYEE IDENTITY DISCLOSURE

James Knodell

Director of White House Office of Security - Bush II

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

2007

[HEARING TESTIMONY⁷](#)

SENSITIVE MATERIALS AND TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO CONGRESS

During the 2007 House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform investigation of the disclosure of the identity of former CIA employee Valerie Plame, White House Security Office Director James Knodell testified about whether any disciplinary action was taken by his office regarding Senior Advisor to the President Karl Rove and whether either Rove or the Press Secretary to the President had reported an inappropriate disclosure of Plame's identity to his office.

[KNODELL TESTIMONY⁸](#)

During the 1996 House Government Reform and Oversight Committee investigation into why the White House Office of Security had obtained the FBI files of White House employees in prior administrations, the Committee:

⁴ House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, *Investigation into the White House and Department of Justice on Security of FBI Background Investigation Files: Interim Report* (September 28, 1996) (Report No. 104-862). https://web.archive.org/web/20220718124024/https://irp.fas.org/congress/1996_rpt/fbirep.htm

⁵ House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, *Investigation into the White House and Department of Justice on Security of FBI Background Investigation Files: Interim Report* (September 28, 1996) (Report No. 104-862). https://web.archive.org/web/20220718124024/https://irp.fas.org/congress/1996_rpt/fbirep.htm

⁶ Senate Judiciary Committee, *Hearing on Handling of FBI Background Files by the White House* (June 28, 1996). <https://www.c-span.org/video/?73259-1/white-house-fbi-files-part-1>

⁷ House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Hearing on White House Procedures for Safeguarding Classified Information* (March 16, 2007).

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220202170047/https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-110hhrg38579/pdf/CHRG-110hhrg38579.pdf>

⁸ House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Hearing on White House Procedures for Safeguarding Classified Information* (March 16, 2007).

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220202170047/https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-110hhrg38579/pdf/CHRG-110hhrg38579.pdf>

- Reviewed the content of the FBI background investigation files on two individuals: White House Office of Security Director Craig Livingstone and detailee Anthony Marceca;
- Received testimony from FBI and Secret Service agents about both information in individual appointee background checks that raised concerns and conversations that a Secret Service agent had with an Associate White House Counsel about the concerns.

The Committee's final report stated: "The importance of following procedures and determining the suitability of staff members is to protect both the President, personally, and the vast amount of sensitive information at the White House. At no place is it more important that individuals of the highest caliber serve in positions of responsibility than at the White House. The White House handles matters of life and death on a daily basis and the American people must be able to rely upon stable and suitable people being involved in this process."

[HOUSE OVERSIGHT REPORT](#)⁹

⁹ House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, *Investigation into the White House and Department of Justice on Security of FBI Background Investigation Files: Interim Report* (September 28, 1996) (Report No. 104-862). <https://web.archive.org/web/20201112023158/https://www.congress.gov/104/crpt/hrpt862/CRPT-104hrpt862.pdf>