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September 18, 2024

The Honorable Ronald L. Rowe, Jr.
Acting Director
U.S. Secret Service
245 Murray Ln SW, Building T-5
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Acting Director Rowe,

My office has received new whistleblower information regarding the most recent attempt on the life of former President Donald Trump, raising troubling questions about Secret Service protocols on that day.

A whistleblower with direct knowledge of Secret Service protection at former President Trump's golf course in West Palm Beach—an individual who has in fact protected President Trump at that very location—alleges there are “known vulnerabilities” in the fence line surrounding the course: places that offer a clear line of sight to the former president and others playing the course. **As a result, the whistleblower alleges it has been Secret Service protocol to “post up” agents at these vulnerable spots when Trump visits the course.** That apparently did *not* happen on September 15. Instead, the gunman was permitted to remain along or near the fence line for some 12 hours.

It is further unclear from your recent press conference whether agents swept the perimeter of the golf course at any point, or whether drones were used to surveil the fence line. The reality is that the would-be assassin should never have been able to linger around the course for that long undetected.

Please answer immediately the following questions raised by these new whistleblower allegations:

1. Did Secret Service personnel “post up” at known vulnerabilities in the perimeter fencing?
2. Did Secret Service personnel sweep the perimeter prior to the former president's arrival on the site?
3. Did Secret Service use canine units or Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) elements to monitor the perimeter of the golf course? How were they used?
4. If counter surveillance personnel were present at the golf course on September 15, as you stated at a recent press conference, in what manner were they deployed? Why did they not detect the gunman sooner?
5. What was the specific counter surveillance mitigation plan for the known vulnerabilities outside the fence line that day?

Sincerely,



Josh Hawley
United States Senator