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## **No Justification for Secret Service Diversion of Agents**

On the premise that “you look after your people,” top United States Secret Service officials in 2011 diverted personnel to monitor a fellow employee’s neighborhood dispute at the expense of Presidential protection, an investigation by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has found.

OIG investigators, whose findings are contained in an October 17, 2014, memo from Inspector General John Roth to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson, found no legal or procedural justification for the deployment of Secret Service “Prowler” team members – who were usually assigned to patrol the vicinity around the White House and respond to suspicious events and persons – to the employee’s home in Southern Maryland, a 50-minute drive away.

Investigators determined that Secret Service Special Agents assigned to the Protective Intelligence Unit of the Washington Field Office were diverted from their normal duties while performing “welfare checks” at the employee’s home on five days in July 2011. President Barack Obama was in the White House on two of those days when the Prowler team was away monitoring the employee’s home.

“These agents, who were there to protect the President and the White House, were improperly diverted for an impermissible purpose. This constituted a serious lapse in judgment,” said Roth. “The Secret Service’s mission is to protect the President of the United States, and not to involve itself in an employee’s purely private dispute best handled by the local police.”

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