



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

February 11, 2019

The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
The Honorable Kamala Harris
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
The Honorable Adriano Espaillat
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
The Honorable Eliot L. Angel
The Honorable Grace Meng
The Honorable Max Rose
The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
The Honorable Tony Cardenas
The Honorable Brenda Lawrence
The Honorable Cedric Richmond
The Honorable Bobby Scott
The Honorable Kathleen Rice

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
The Honorable José E. Serrano
The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
The Honorable Ayanna Pressley
The Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
The Honorable Mark Pocan
The Honorable John Lewis
The Honorable Raul Grijalva
The Honorable Albio Sires

Dear Members of Congress:

I am writing in response to your letter dated February 6, 2019, requesting that the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) review the conditions at the Federal Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York (MDC Brooklyn) and management practices at the facility.

On February 7, 2019, the OIG initiated an inspection and review of BOP's management of the electrical and heating issues that occurred beginning in January 2019 at the MDC. That same day, the OIG conducted an initial site visit, inspection of the facility, and began conducting interviews.

The OIG will assess how the conditions referenced in your letter occurred, whether BOP has in place adequate contingency plans for such an incident, and how the situation affected prisoners' conditions of confinement and access to counsel. The OIG will also assess steps BOP management officials took to address and resolve those issues. If circumstances warrant, the OIG will consider including other issues that may arise during the course of the inspection and review. We will publicly report our findings and recommendations.

Thank you for your inquiry and for your ongoing support of the OIG. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me or Adam Miles, Counselor to the Inspector General, at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Horowitz".

Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General