

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2018

Harry Humbert
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Public Safety, Resource Protection, and Emergency Services
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mailstop 3428-MIB
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Deputy Assistant Humbert:

As you know, the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Office of Inspector General (OIG) found DOI's "body camera policy and practices are not consistent with industry standards." This report is especially concerning after the shooting of 25-year-old Bijan Ghaisar by U.S. Park Police officers. The shooting was captured on camera by the Fairfax County Police who were also on the scene, but not by the U.S. Park Police as they had neither body cameras nor car dashboard cameras to capture video.

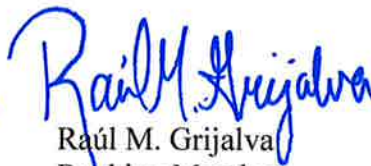
The OIG identified 13 recommendations that would help DOI manage its body cameras to be consistent with industry best practices. The report also found that, "to date, use of body cameras has been voluntary and decisions to purchase equipment are generally made at the field or regional level." The report did not include an examination of dashboard camera policies. Implementing the IG's recommendations, examining dashboard camera policies, and prioritizing the purchase and adoption of body cameras are important steps to bringing the Department into the modern policing age.


As Bijan Ghaisar's case illustrates, police cameras have the potential to improve policing by building trust in communities, providing transparency, and protecting innocent civilians. To assist us in conducting oversight, we request a briefing on policies, implementation of the policies, and deployment of police cameras throughout DOI.

Please contact Kate Schisler in Congressman Beyer's office or Vic Edgerton of the committee staff with any questions. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on
Natural Resources


A. Donald McEachin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Oversight and Investigations