



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2020

Mr. Mark A. Morgan
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Mr. Morgan:

On Friday, I received notification that Mr. Rodney S. Scott has been selected as the new Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol.¹ According to media reports, Mr. Scott engaged with at least one social media site—the Facebook group “I’m 10-15”—in which CBP personnel communicated vulgar and discriminatory comments.² I would like to understand the extent to which Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reviewed and assessed Mr. Scott’s engagement with social media sites in which personnel from CBP engaged in racist and hateful dialogue regarding immigrants and Members of Congress prior to his selection to lead the U.S. Border Patrol.

As such, I write to request that CBP produce to the Committee no later than February 7 all documents referring or relating to the following:

1. Any type of investigatory action taken regarding Mr. Scott’s subscription to, engagement with, or participation in the Facebook “I’m 10-15” group and any other social media activity in which CBP personnel engage in dialogue of any kind, including documents sufficient to show:

¹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *ACI Statement* (Jan. 23, 2020); see also “Rodney Scott Named Border Patrol Chief as Provost Leaves Her Post,” *CNN* (Jan. 24, 2020) (online at www.cnn.com/2020/01/24/politics/border-patrol-chief-rodney-scott/index.html).

² For example, in an article published on January 14, 2020, entitled “Only three Border Patrol agents fired for offensive Facebook posts despite recommendation for more heads,” the *Washington Examiner* stated that Mr. Scott “was also among a handful of Border Patrol leaders who subscribed to the page” (see www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/only-three-border-patrol-agents-fired-for-offensive-fb-posts-despite-recommendation-for-more-heads). Other reporting indicates Mr. Scott may have even posted information to the site (see “Border Patrol Chief Carla Provost Was A Member of Secret Facebook Group,” *The Intercept* (July 12, 2019) (online at theintercept.com/2019/07/12/border-patrol-chief-carla-provost-was-a-member-of-secret-facebook-group/)).

- a. the date on which Mr. Scott initiated his participation in the Facebook “I’m 10-15” group and any other social media activity in which CBP personnel engage in dialogue of any kind;
 - b. the date on which Mr. Scott ended his participation in the Facebook “I’m 10-15” group (if he did so) and any other social media activity in which CBP personnel engage in dialogue of any kind;
 - c. the number of times Mr. Scott logged into each social media group in which CBP personnel engage in dialogue of any kind;
 - d. the items he viewed on each site; and
 - e. any posting of any kind he made to each site.
2. Any notification that Mr. Scott received regarding the improper engagement with, or participation of, any CBP personnel in the Facebook “I’m 10-15” group or any other social media activity in which CBP personnel engage in dialogue; and
 3. Any disciplinary action taken against Mr. Scott as a result of his subscription to, engagement with, or participation in the Facebook “I’m 10-15” group or any other social media activity in which CBP personnel engage in dialogue or his failure to take any action required by CBP policy, procedure, or protocol regarding the engagement or participation of any CBP personnel with any such activity.

The provision of this information to the Committee is necessary to determine the extent to which CBP has taken adequate steps to substantiate your claim that Mr. Scott embodies the Border Patrol’s motto “Honor First” and is well-positioned to successfully lead the Border Patrol.³

Thank you, in advance, for your immediate attention to this request.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman

³ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *ACI Statement* (Jan. 23, 2020).