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GSA Presidential Transition Act Update Letter September 2012

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa:

In accordance with the Pre-Election Presidential Transition Act Section 3 Subtitle (b)-*Reports*, we are pleased to submit our second update detailing the ongoing activities of the Executive Branch to prepare for the possibility of a full transfer of authority to a new President as a result of the 2012 Presidential election.

Among the several actions that will be detailed in this report, first and foremost it is important to note that since his first day in office the President has instructed his Administration to engage in planning exercises to ensure the continuity of government,

In furtherance to this requirement, he has directed the President's Management Council (PMC) to begin planning for a possible transition of power to a new Administration by taking the following actions.

- Each Department and Agency head will identify a knowledgeable career official to serve as a lead for any internal or external planning efforts related to a possible transition to a new Administration. Once appointed, each senior career official will be required to prepare a summary of the agency's basic organization, ongoing initiatives, and performance goals; including a full list of key personnel. They will also be required to identify and summarize the critical policy, internal management, legal, and infrastructure issues that may require immediate attention by any new agency officials. These actions are to be completed prior to October 11, 2012 for review by the PMC.

The Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (Public Law 88-277, 3 U.S.C. 102 note), as amended, and the Pre-Election Presidential Transition Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-283) authorize the General Services Administration to provide a range of direct assistance pre-election to eligible candidate(s) for President of the United States and to a Presidential Transition Team appointed by the President-elect, post-election.

- Pursuant to these acts, GSA has extended an offer of pre-election services to the Chairmen of the Romney Readiness project. As of August 30, 2012, GSA received formal acceptance of the offered services and has begun providing them through the eligible candidate's designated official(s).
- GSA is also finalizing the full-scope of post-election services outlined in the detailed enclosure to the report that we provided to your Committee in June.

Pursuant to the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, (Pub. L. 108-458 December 17, 2004, as amended by Pub. L. 11-289, § 2(c)(2), Oct. 15, 2010), Sections 7601 and 8403(b):

- The Office Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), in collaboration with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and GSA, has launched the system to investigate clearances for individuals designated by the President-elect to potentially hold national security positions. The 2012 process uses the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) automated eQIP security clearance application capability, and the investigations will be conducted by the FBI on an expedited basis.
- On behalf of the Intelligence Community, ODNI has continued its internal planning and coordination to ensure

the timely and secure delivery of intelligence briefings on sensitive national security information to the eligible candidate as their schedules permit.

- OPM is in the final process of preparing an electronic record of all Presidentially-appointed positions. This product will include the following: (A) all positions which are appointed by the President, including the title and description of the duties of each position; (B) the name of each person holding a position described under subparagraph (A); (C) any vacancy in the positions described under subparagraph (A), and the period of time any such position has been vacant; (D) the date on which an appointment made after the applicable Presidential election for any position described under subparagraph (A) is necessary to ensure effective operation of the Government; and (E) any other information that the Office of Personnel Management determines is useful in making appointments.

Establishing a solid transition governance structure and ensuring robust capabilities for an effective Presidential Transition are and will remain high priorities for our Administration.

If you have any questions about the content of this update, please feel free to contact **[REDACTED]**, the Senior Career Executive for Presidential Transition at GSA, he can be reached via **[REDACTED]**, or **[REDACTED]**.



The Partnership's Center for Presidential Transition helps ensure the efficient transfer of power that our country deserves. The Center's Ready to Govern® initiative assists candidates with the transition, works with Congress to reform the transition process, develops management recommendations to address our government's operational challenges, and trains new political appointees.

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