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U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218 Washington, D.C. 20036-4505 202-804-7000

April 23, 2020

Mr. Mark Lenzi

Re: OSC File No.

Dear Mr. Lenzi:

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) has completed its review of the information you referred to the Disclosure Unit. You alleged that employees at the U.S. Department of State (State Department), Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), Washington, D.C., may have engaged in conduct that constitutes an abuse of authority.

OSC is authorized by law to determine whether a disclosure should be referred to the involved agency for investigation or review, and a report; however, OSC does not have the authority to investigate disclosures. OSC may refer allegations of violations of law, rule, or regulation; gross mismanagement; a gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or censorship related to scientific research or analysis. Disclosures referred to the agency for investigation and a report must include information sufficient for OSC to determine whether there is a substantial likelihood of wrongdoing.

You disclosed that you and other State Department employees and your families, previously stationed in Guangzhou, China, and Havana, Cuba, experienced environmental incidents whereby microwaves caused you and others to suffer traumatic brain injuries. You asserted that State Department leadership has attempted to minimize the severity of or suppress information related to the environmental incidents as well as the agency's response to its employees' resulting injuries. You asserted that since approximately 2018, DSS management has prevented you from providing the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which is investigating the incidents, relevant classified reports, emails, and other documentary information, by preventing you from retrieving it from the agency's Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRnet), even though you had, and retain to this day, top secret security clearance and your position as a DSS security engineering officer.

After reviewing the information you submitted, we have requested that the Secretary of State conduct an investigation into these allegations and report back to OSC pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c). We have provided the Secretary 60 days to conduct the investigation and submit the report to OSC. However, you should be aware that these investigations usually take longer, and agencies frequently request and receive extensions of the due date. Should the

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Department of State request an extension in this case, we will advise you of the new due date for the report.

Because you consented to the disclosure of your name, we requested that agency investigators interview you at the beginning of the investigation. Although the referral for investigation generally describes your allegations, we rely on you, as the originator of the disclosure, to provide the agency additional information and an explanation of your allegations, thereby streamlining the investigation.

Unless the report is classified or otherwise not releasable by law, we will send you a copy after our review so that you may comment on the report, if you wish. When the matter is closed, the Special Counsel will transmit the report and your comments to the President and the appropriate congressional oversight committees. Copies of these documents will be maintained by OSC in a public file, which is posted on OSC's website at www.osc.gov.

We emphasize that, while OSC has found a substantial likelihood of wrongdoing based on the information you submitted in support of your allegations, our referral to the Secretary of State for investigation is not a final determination that the allegations are substantiated. This remains an open matter under investigation until the agency's final report is forwarded to the President and Congress.

If you have questions or would like to discuss this matter, please contact me at

