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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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September 15, 2006

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Mr. John E. Potter
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Mr. Postmaster General:

We are writing regarding the investigation conducted by the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service into the activities of Azeezaly Jaffer, former Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications. The investigative report, issued June 19, 2006, includes a number of disturbing statements regarding Mr. Jaffer's conduct, including:¹

- "Jaffer engaged in a pattern of misusing Postal Service funds for personal use"; (page 3)
- "Jaffer wasted Postal Service funds by purchasing extravagant meals and drinks both in the Washington, DC area and while on travel...excessive tips...and bills for drinks and meals"; (page 3)
- "Jaffer engaged in sexually harassing, intimidating, and/or embarrassing behavior with at least three female Postal Service employees and a Postal Service contractor"; (page 3)
- "Jaffer demonstrated a consistent lack of candor with the OIG...His statements are contradicted by documentary evidence and more than a dozen witnesses"; (page 4) and,
- "Jaffer drinks to excess at official Postal Service functions..." (page 4)

We request that you provide the Committee with a full response to the Inspector General's findings, especially to the allegations listed above. In addition, please provide the Committee with the following:

1. Copies of any policies in effect during the period covered by the Inspector General's investigation regarding officer expenses, sexual harassment, and employee on-duty alcohol use. Please explain circumstances under which exceptions or deviations to any of these policies are allowed if such exceptions or deviations are not explicit in the regulations.
2. Copies of policies currently in effect regarding officer expenses, sexual harassment, and employee on-duty alcohol use. Please explain circumstances under which exceptions or

¹ IG: Former postal exec lived high life on USPS dime, Federal Times.com (August 21, 2006).

deviations to any of these policies are allowed if such exceptions or deviations are not explicit in the regulations.

3. Any Postal Service records produced after Mr. Jaffer's promotion to Vice President in October, 1999 referring or relating to Mr. Jaffer's professional conduct, including but not limited to grievances, complaints, employment reviews, investigations or discussions.
4. Any Postal Service records referring or relating to the circumstances of Mr. Jaffer's departure from the Postal Service as well as his employment status and positions held from June 19, 2006 to the present.
5. The extent to which officers (or other postal officials) are able to circumvent required record keeping and approval for representation and business meal expenses through the use of International Merchant Purchase Authorization Cards; and
6. Any Postal Service records produced after Mr. Jaffer's promotion to Vice President in October, 1999 of recommendations or discussion of changes to policies regarding officer self-approved expense reimbursement, sexual harassment of postal employees, misuse of postal funds for personal gain, and excessive drinking at official USPS functions.

The Inspector General's report of clearly unacceptable conduct by a senior postal official is troubling to all of us. We believe that your thorough review and explanation of this problem and any aspects of the corporate environment that may have contributed to it, as well as recommendations to prevent any recurrence, are vitally important to the future of the United States Postal Service.

Please provide a response to this letter by September 28, 2006. We understand that some of the information and documents we request may contain sensitive information unsuitable for public disclosure. We ask that you clearly mark any such material and provide it under separate cover. For the purpose of responding to the above requests, the terms "records," "referring" and "relating" should be interpreted in accordance with the attachment to this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Jack Callender and Denise Wilson of our staffs. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Davis III
Chairman



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member

cc: USPS Board of Governors

ATTACHMENT

1. The term "record" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, interoffice and intra office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A record bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate record. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate record within the meaning of this term.
2. The terms "referring or relating," with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject.