**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Legislative Affairs

*Office of Assistant Attorney General* *Washington, D.C. 20530*

January 15, 2016

The Honorable Mimi Walters
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Walters:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated December 17, 2015, regarding Department of Justice (the Department) investigations relating to facilities operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

We are aware of the allegations that officials at the VA falsified records regarding patient wait times, and we share your concern about the welfare of our country's veterans and the need for vigilance in prosecuting fraud by government employees. We understand your interest in the Department's activities in this area and have provided you with information as appropriate and consistent with the Department's law enforcement responsibilities. As we explain below, however, we are not in always in a position to provide requested information.

As you know, the VA Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) is conducting a substantial review of wait times and related issues at VA facilities across the country. We can assure you that the Department is committed to working with the VA OIG to bring criminal charges where, based upon the evidence and the law, it is appropriate. For example, in a case brought by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia in July 2015, we charged a VA employee with crimes related to the falsification of medical records of VA patients. This matter is still pending. We also can inform you that, as the Department has previously acknowledged, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Phoenix, Arizona office is conducting an investigation into the allegations related to the VA.

We appreciate your interest in our law enforcement efforts relating to this subject, and we can assure you that we are committed to handling these matters appropriately. Nonetheless, we are not in a position to provide non-public information about referrals from our law enforcement partners. In addition, consistent with longstanding Department policy, we also are not in the position to comment on the status of any ongoing law enforcement investigations. This policy serves to protect the integrity of the criminal justice process, including the confidentiality and privacy interests that are vital to our law enforcement efforts.

We hope that this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Kadzik
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

The Honorable Corrine Brown
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs