



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

7/7/20

The Honorable Jennifer Wexton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wexton:

Thank you for your letter dated November 15, 2019, co-signed by Representative Donald S. Beyer, Jr. and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, wherein you requested the duty status of the officers involved in the Bijan Ghaisar incident; information regarding the timing and scope of the Department of the Interior's (Department) internal investigation into the matter; and the expected date of completion of the investigation.

Regarding the duty status of the officers, U.S. Park Police (USPP) Officers Alejandro Amaya and Lucas Vinyard were placed on administrative leave immediately following the incident. On April 29, 2018, they were both reassigned to administrative duties, not related to public contact.

As to the timing and scope of an internal investigation, the USPP does not typically comment on the substance or specific aspects of such reviews before they are complete. We can confirm that the Department has begun evaluating next steps in the context of pending cases and possible criminal action by the Fairfax County Prosecutor's Office. This evaluation is taking into account due process concerns, among other legal obligations placed on the USPP and the Department. Additionally, we can confirm we are working with the Department of Justice and relevant offices within the Department as appropriate to ensure thorough and fair consideration to all interested parties.

When administrative investigations begin, they are generally completed within 90 calendar days, although extenuating circumstances, such as the complexity and scope of the investigation, may require additional time. In any event, all internal administrative investigations are conducted as expeditiously as possible.

A similar response is being sent to Representative Beyer and Delegate Norton.

Sincerely,

David Vela  
Deputy Director, Operations  
Exercising the Authority of Director