

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2012

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

Many of us who are writing to you today lost constituents in the city on September 11, 2001. We share your concern for the safety of those who live and work in New York. As Members of Congress, we have voted for the federal funding that has helped New York City modernize its police force and better prepare the city to deter, and if necessary recover from, another attack. We take very seriously responsibility of the police to protect residents of our region and all Americans. Accordingly, you will understand our anger at learning through press reports that New York Police Department (NYPD) personnel, with apparent support from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)—possibly in violation of federal law—have been operating under cover in some of our Congressional districts, engaging in domestic surveillance and potential racial and ethnic profiling against Muslim Americans. We demand that the NYPD immediately cease any extra-jurisdictional domestic surveillance operations.

The Associated Press and other media outlets have reported that the NYPD maintained a list of "ancestries of interest," consisting primarily of Muslim countries, and instructed undercover officers to monitor Muslim businesses and social groups. They also reported that these operations were conducted under the supervision of a veteran CIA officer who worked at the NYPD while on the CIA payroll. A recent AP report indicates that the NYPD engaged in wholesale religious profiling against Shiite Muslim Americans, apparently in the absence of any threat—general or specific—to New York City.

Over the years, through such forums as "Mayors Against Illegal Guns", you and the NYPD have repeatedly appealed to us and our state and local officials to work with the city to control trafficking in illegal guns. On that critical issue, you and the NYPD have worked with us openly and fruitfully. In contrast, your administration's conduct in this affair has been underhanded and unprofessional.

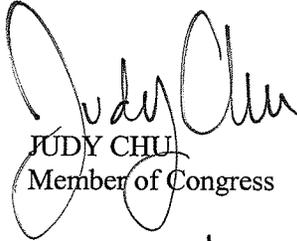
Many of our constituents have expressed outrage at these developments. As the City's chief executive, we are writing to you for answers to the questions they and we have about these domestic spying revelations. Were you aware that the NYPD was conducting these surveillance operations both in New York City and out-of-state? Did the NYPD formally coordinate or otherwise request the assistance of local and state law enforcement organizations outside of New York before engaging in domestic surveillance activities in their jurisdictions? Did any personnel from the United States Intelligence Community participate, either directly or indirectly, in any of these extra-jurisdictional surveillance operations? Were any federal funds used by the NYPD for any extra-jurisdictional surveillance activities? Was the surveillance based on any evidence of wrongdoing, rather than on vague misconceptions of religious affiliation and origin? Did any specific crime prevention or criminal prosecution result from this surveillance?

We look forward to your prompt answers to these critical questions.

Sincerely,



RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



JESSE JACKSON, Jr.
Member of Congress



FORTNEY "PETE" STARK
Member of Congress



DENNIS KUCINICH
Member of Congress



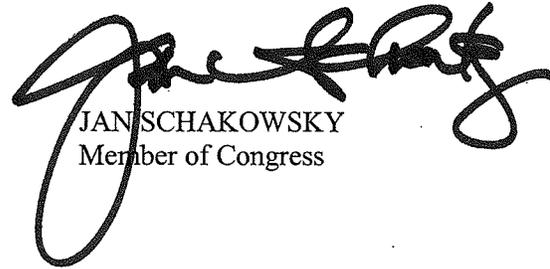
MIKE HONDA
Member of Congress



YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



LAURA RICHARDSON
Member of Congress



JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress