



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Federal Bureau of Investigation

---

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

July 2, 2020

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Rush:

On behalf of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), this responds to your letter, dated June 9, 2020, regarding the FBI's recent efforts across the United States to prevent violence and criminal activity in protection of lawful protests. Identical responses are being sent to the co-signers of your letter.

The FBI's mission is to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States. The FBI respects and supports those who are exercising their First Amendment rights, including the right to peacefully protest. The acts of violence, potential threats to life, color of law and civil rights violations, and destruction of property that have occurred across the United States in recent weeks interfere with the rights and safety of First Amendment protected peaceful demonstrators, as well as all other citizens. The FBI is committed to identifying, apprehending, and supporting prosecutions of violent instigators who exploit legitimate, peaceful protests and engage in violations of federal law. The FBI does not conduct surveillance based solely on First Amendment protected activity. It would not be appropriate to disclose law enforcement sensitive information about specific operations, methods, and assets that can be lawfully utilized to prevent and detect criminal activity, including activity intended to disrupt the exercise of Constitutional rights.

Thank you for your support of the FBI, its mission, and its people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill C. Tyson", is positioned above the typed name.

Jill C. Tyson  
Assistant Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs