



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

November 25, 2020

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Wyden, Warren, Brown, Markey, and Schatz:

Thank you for your October 23, 2020 letter requesting an investigation into U.S. Customs and Border Protection's use of commercial databases to obtain location data about U.S. citizens without a search warrant.

We have reviewed your request and plan to initiate an audit that we believe will address your concerns. The objective of our audit is to determine if the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its components have developed, updated, and adhered to policies related to cell-phone surveillance devices. In addition, you may be interested in our audit to review DHS' use and protection of open source intelligence. Open source intelligence, while different from cell phone surveillance, includes the Department's use of information provided by the public via cellular devices, such as social media status updates, geo-tagged photos, and specific location check-ins.

Please call me with questions, or a member of your staff may contact Erica Paulson, Assistant Inspector General, Office of External Affairs, at (202) 981-6000.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH V CUFFARI Digitally signed by JOSEPH V CUFFARI
Date: 2020.11.25 11:18:56 -05'00'

Joseph V. Cuffari, Ph.D.
Inspector General