



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

September 22, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr,

Thank you again for your decisive action to help restore public safety to the community of Kenosha. The riots that struck our community in August were traumatic and destructive. We must do all we can to prevent this from happening again. With that in mind, I write to you to urge you to conduct a thorough investigation into the leadership and funding of the criminal groups that brought violence to our city.

As you know, many of the rioters arrested in Kenosha came from elsewhere and appeared to be well-supplied. As the local paper, the Kenosha News, described it:

Many came in caravans with blocked out license plates. They posted threats on social media and sometimes carried them out. They terrorized a city.¹

In fact, in one case, federal agents working alongside the Kenosha Police Department were instrumental in intercepting a van of Seattle-based activists heading into the city stocked with “helmets, gas masks, protective vests, illegal fireworks, and suspected controlled substances.”ⁱⁱ We need to know who paid for these supplies, who coordinated these groups, and how they planned their activities.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) must thoroughly investigate the funding of rioters in cities nationwide. In particular, I request that you include the recent riots in Kenosha in your ongoing investigations. I also request a full report on your findings as you learn more about how these criminal groups are funded and coordinated.

Thank you again for your assistance and leadership during this challenging time. I am confident that by targeting the funding and leadership of these criminal groups we can prevent future violence and destruction in Kenosha and around the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan Steil".

Bryan Steil
Member of Congress

ⁱ Kenosha News, "Kenosha didn't deserve this; no city does,"

https://www.kenoshanews.com/opinion/editorial/our-view-kenosha-didnt-deserve-this-no-city-does/article_79a34ae2-8354-5267-9300-00c7a1baa5b7.html

ⁱⁱ City of Kenosha Police Department Press Release, August 27, 2020,

<https://twitter.com/KenoshaPolice/status/1299093889534570496>