



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

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The Special Counsel

April 2, 2019

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: OSC File No. DI-18-2335

Dear Mr. President,

I am forwarding to you a report from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provided to me in response to disclosures received from an employee of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS), Tucson, Arizona. The whistleblower, [REDACTED], who consented to release of his name, is a maintenance worker at the SAVAHCS. [REDACTED] alleged that SAVAHCS's Fleet Management Lead, [REDACTED], engaged in contracting improprieties. [REDACTED] reviewed the report but declined to file comments. I have reviewed the report and, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e), provide the following summary of the agency investigation and my findings.¹

The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) substantiated [REDACTED] allegations. The investigation concluded that [REDACTED] terminated a contract for vehicle detailing in order to award the contract for the same work to a company owned by her brother. [REDACTED] resigned from federal employment during the OIG investigation.²

I have reviewed the original disclosure and the agency report and determined that the agency's findings appear reasonable. As required by 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I have sent copies of this letter and the agency report to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs. I have also filed redacted copies of these documents and a redacted copy of the 1213(c) referral letter in our public file, which is available online at www.osc.gov. This matter is now closed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. J. Kerner".

Henry J. Kerner
Special Counsel

Enclosures

¹ [REDACTED] allegations were referred to then-VA Secretary David J. Shulkin, M.D. on March 13, 2018 pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213 (c) and (d). Secretary Robert L. Wilke reviewed and submitted the report to OSC on December 8, 2018.

²The OIG findings were referred to the United States Attorney's Office for possible criminal prosecution. However, the US Attorney declined to prosecute.