



Congressman Pedro R. Pierluisi
Statement As Prepared For Delivery
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security
Hearing on the Role and Operations of the US Secret Service
June 29, 2010

Good afternoon. I want to begin by thanking Chairman Scott for holding this hearing on the role and operations of the United States Secret Service. I would also like to thank Director Sullivan for appearing before this Subcommittee.

As we all know, the Secret Service is tasked with the critically-important role of ensuring the safety of our nation's president, vice president, former presidents, and presidential candidates—as well as visiting foreign dignitaries. Because of the Secret Service's work, these leaders are able to perform their duties, comfortable in the knowledge that their personal security is in the hands of able professionals.

Beyond its protective function, the Secret Service plays another key role, for which it is less well-known. Specifically, the Secret Service conducts investigations of certain alleged criminal conduct, including financial crimes like money laundering, counterfeiting, forgery, and identity theft.

Often, these financial crimes are closely connected to other criminal activity, such as drug trafficking, since drug trafficking organizations must constantly seek to obscure the origins of profits earned through illegal drug sales. Like other members of this Subcommittee, I represent a district where drug trafficking and its associated violence are serious problems. During my tenure as Attorney General in the 1990s, I worked to have Puerto Rico designated as a High Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HIDTA), which has helped integrate federal, state and local law enforcement initiatives to combat drug trafficking. Director Sullivan: I look forward to hearing you testify about the steps the Secret Service is taking to stop the flow of money that supports these illegal enterprises. I am particularly interested to learn how you are partnering with federal, state, and local law enforcement to address the broad range of financial crimes.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.