



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-4500

January 29, 2004

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waxman:

This addresses your letter dated January 7, 2004, in which you requested that my office conduct an investigation into the following allegations: (1) that Acting Secretary Alphonso Jackson had made anti-union statements, and (2) that these alleged comments may have violated internal agency policies regarding workplace violence. At the time of these events, Mr. Jackson was the Deputy Secretary for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); he has since become the Acting Secretary.

The Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) has jurisdiction over any alleged anti-union statements, and they are now handling that matter in that it is within their statutory authority. The union has also filed a grievance pursuant to its collective bargaining agreement (CBA), and that it is being processed pursuant to the CBA's negotiated procedures.

Our office has conducted a thorough investigation into allegations that Mr. Jackson violated HUD's Workplace Violence Policy. The investigation included an analysis of the circumstances of the encounter, and determined that the Acting Secretary did engage in a brief one-on-one exchange with a union official, and that his (Jackson's) remarks were forceful and direct. It was determined that he did not, however, engage in any conduct that could have been reasonably viewed or perceived as a direct or indirect threat of violence or physical intimidation. It is therefore our conclusion Mr. Jackson's comments do not constitute a violation of HUD's Workplace Violence Policy.

I trust this adequately addresses this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Donohue
Inspector General