November 9, 2018

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
U.S. House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Norton:

I am writing in response to your letter dated October 17, 2018, in which you requested that the Department of Justice (Department) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) investigate conditions at the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Hazelton facility located in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia. Specifically, your letter referenced two recent incidents in which inmates from the District of Columbia died at Hazelton during violent altercations. Your letter also raised serious allegations concerning the mistreatment of inmates housed in Hazelton’s Special Housing Unit. Finally, your letter expressed concern that these incidents may be indicative of “larger, ongoing problems at the facility,” caused in part by under-staffing and inadequate training.

I thank you for taking the time to raise these concerns with my office on behalf of your constituents and the BOP employees at Hazelton. We are carefully reviewing the information in your letter, and have requested more information from the BOP about conditions affecting safety and security at the Hazelton facility. After we complete our initial assessment of this information, we will make a determination as to the appropriate course for further action. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me, or Adam Miles, Counselor to the Inspector General, at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General

cc: Hugh Hurwitz, Acting Director
    Federal Bureau of Prisons