



March 7, 2022

Hon. Lucy Lang
NYS Inspector General
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor
Albany, NY 12223

Dear Inspector General Lang:

I am following up on my April 14, 2021 letter to the Office of Inspector General (IG) requesting a full investigation of the state's role in the events leading up to and following the horrific October 6, 2018 Schoharie limousine crash that tragically took the lives of 20 people, including several of my constituents.

As you know, the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) report on the accident said that the State Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) share the blame with Prestige limousine operators as they had sufficient opportunities to permanently remove the vehicle from operation, and their efforts failed not only once, but twice. It was reported that vehicle registrations were suspended or revoked for 59 limousines that were operated by other companies similar to Prestige limousine, yet for some reason Prestige was "treated with kid gloves." In addition, it was also reported that the state, possibly through the executive branch, interfered with the NTSB's collection of data in compiling the report.

The last update I had on the IG's investigation of the limo crash was a September 8, 2021 article in the Albany *Times Union* acknowledging an investigation with file #1617-007-2021.

It's been nearly a year since I requested an investigation into the crash. As you know, the state's Stretch Limousine Passenger Safety Task Force is in place right now actively working to make sure this doesn't happen again. The full release of the IG's investigation and recommendations is a critical step to help guide the Task Force and ultimately the executive and legislature take additional steps necessary to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again.

As I ask for a full release of the Office of the Inspector General's investigation after almost a year, some of the questions that I'm interested in getting answers to include what's the IG's timetable to finish it and publicly issue a report and findings? Who has the IG interviewed about the crash? What are your office's findings? If there was criminal malfeasance on the part of the state, will the IG be submitting evidence to prosecutors? What recommendations would the IG make moving forward?

Now that the pandemic is receding and with spring and summer around the corner, more New Yorkers will be going to special events like proms, weddings, bachelor/bachelorette parties, concerts and other events where they'll be renting these types of limousines. The families of the Schoharie limo crash victims and the public at large deserve justice and full transparency as to what happened and what needs to be done moving forward.

I urge your office to be fully transparent and respond to this legislative inquiry expeditiously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Tedisco".

Senator Jim Tedisco