

**Opening Statement of Brian E. Nelson before the
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
June 22, 2021**

Chairman Brown, Ranking Member Toomey, and Members of the Committee, it is a privilege to come before you today as President Biden's nominee for Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

Thank you, Senator Padilla, for your generous introduction. I also want to thank President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Secretary Yellen for placing their confidence in me.

I am joined today by my parents, Eddie and Carol, who have been loving role models for me and my brother. I also want to especially thank my wife, Lane, for her support and shared commitment to public service. I am so proud of her service through the pandemic as the chief executive of our home city, which is why she is unable to join me this morning. She is also my partner in raising our wonderful 7-year-old son, Drew.

Respect for service has guided my family across generations. In 1906, my great-grandfather became the first African American letter carrier of a small Mississippi town. His life was threatened for integrating the postal service, but his courage inspired a commitment to civic pursuits that spread among his children and endures today. My grandfather went on to serve in both World War II and the Korean War, and my father also served in the military before becoming an air traffic controller.

My mother's father also spent much of his professional life as a letter carrier, and he motivated his children to pursue rich, community-oriented lives. His daughters found careers in public education and his youngest, my mother, was a special education elementary school teacher.

My parents' careers were stressful and demanding, but they approached their roles with dedication, proud of their contributions to our broader community. If I am confirmed, I will undertake the responsibilities of the Under Secretary with that same dedication.

I am keenly aware of the critical responsibilities associated with the role of Under Secretary. I am humbled by this nomination to lead Treasury's effort to disrupt and sever lines of financial support for threats to our national security domestically and around the globe, and to strengthen the integrity of the U.S. financial system. The work of Treasury's dedicated and skilled intelligence and enforcement personnel is on the front lines of our effort to protect the homeland and American interests against terrorists, criminals, and other malign actors, including cybercriminals perpetrating ransomware attacks. If confirmed, I look forward to working with these dedicated men and women, and in collaboration with others across our government, our private sector and with our foreign partners in this effort.

Over my career, I have had the privilege to support the country's national security mission in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Early in my career, I served as a special counsel and then as deputy chief of staff of the National Security Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. One of my core responsibilities was to oversee the economic national-security work of the Division's

Foreign Investment Review Staff, which participates in the Treasury-led Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. In that work, I came to understand the critical role of economic and financial tools in supporting our national security.

Following my leadership at the Justice Department, I held senior roles in the California Department of Justice, including policy chief. As policy chief, I led and executed efforts to combat transnational criminal organizations, dismantle human trafficking networks, and build state and international partnerships to stop money laundering and cybercrimes. I worked directly with my Mexican counterparts and other leaders in the Mexican government to coordinate these efforts.

Most recently, I have served as a senior executive on the organizing committee for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles. In this role, I currently direct the effort to make the 2028 Games secure, across all levels of government. This has been an extensive planning and coordination effort, because we anticipate this will be the largest peacetime assembly in world history.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with members of this Committee, on a bipartisan basis, to advance our shared interest in supporting and empowering the talented group of national-security professionals who are safeguarding our financial system against illicit use and combatting terrorist facilitators, proliferators, and others who seek to harm the United States.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your questions.