



## The Slope of Service

July 17, 2024

“Heads should roll at Secret Service,” I [declared](#) on Monday.

That was before I stumbled upon Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle [explaining](#) to *ABC News* the strategic situational thinking employed by the agency in determining not to place agents on top of the roof of a building where the assassin fired multiple rounds, hitting former President Trump in the ear, killing a man attending the rally with his family and seriously wounding two others.

Director Cheatle offered that “the Secret Service was aware of the security vulnerabilities presented by the building Crooks took a sniper’s position on to aim at Trump,” *Fox News* [reported](#). “However, a decision was made not to place

any personnel on the roof.”

So much for “awareness.” And *why* was this [decision](#) made?

“That building in particular has a sloped roof at its highest point,” she [pointed out](#). “And so, you know, there’s a safety factor that would be considered there that we wouldn’t want to put somebody up on a sloped roof. And so, you know, the decision was made to secure the building, from inside.”

Competing safety factors, eh? The former president’s and that of novice roof-climbers in the Secret Service.

Instead, three local law enforcement sharpshooters were stationed *inside* the building as the shooter easily climbed up onto that ever-so-dangerously slanted roof and opened fire.

The finger-pointing at [local police](#) by Secret Service officials, who claimed that securing that building was a local law enforcement responsibility, is simply passing the buck.

Cheatle acknowledged that her agency “is responsible for the protection of the former president,” [adding](#) “the buck stops with me.”

Good, I’m looking for immediate change.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.