

## **DHS Deputy Wins Support In EB5 Favoritism Saga**

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The nation's top immigration ombudsman rose to defend former U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director Alejandro Mayorkas during a hearing before a House committee Thursday, just two days after a new report accused him of possibly pulling strings in the EB5 program for certain politically connected Democrats. Speaking before the House Homeland Security Committee, Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman Maria Odom said that while Mayorkas, who currently serves as the deputy secretary of homeland security, was a "very involved leader," she'd always found his approach to be "grounded on facts and the law."

When asked pointblank whether she was troubled by any aspect of the report issued Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, Odom said she couldn't think of anything. "I do not have any problems that I can highlight for you today," said Odom, whose independent office is tasked with helping people resolve problems with USCIS.

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