

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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March 2, 2025

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

Last month, troubling reports emerged about the Trump Administration's demand that federal prosecutors move to dismiss the serious public corruption charges against New York City Mayor Eric Adams as part of a blatant and illegal quid pro quo to secure the Mayor's loyal assistance in executing the Trump Administration's mass arrest and deportation policies.<sup>1</sup> Not only did the Department of Justice (DOJ) attempt to pressure career prosecutors into carrying out this illegal quid pro quo, it appears that Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove was personally engaged in a cover-up by destroying evidence and retaliating against career prosecutors who refused to follow his illegal and unethical orders. We write to demand that you immediately put an end to the cover-up and retaliation and provide documents and information about these disturbing accounts to Congress.

Seven career prosecutors, including staunch conservatives, resigned rather than follow illegal instructions by Mr. Bove. The officials who resigned from the DOJ include Danielle Sassoon, the Trump-appointed Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York (SDNY), Kevin Driscoll, the top-ranking career official in the Criminal Division, and nearly all senior leadership within the Department's Public Integrity Section, including Acting Chief John Keller.<sup>2</sup> In her resignation letter, Ms. Sassoon—a member of the conservative Federalist Society and a former law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia—also revealed a stunning account of a corrupt bargain the DOJ struck with Mayor Adams, as well as an attempted cover-up.<sup>3</sup>

In September 2024, federal prosecutors charged Mayor Adams with five felony counts, including bribery, wire fraud, solicitation of campaign contributions from foreign nationals, and

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<sup>1</sup> See Nia Prater, *The Adams Quid Pro Quo Is Unlike Anything Since Watergate*, N.Y. MAGAZINE (Feb. 15, 2025), <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/the-echoes-of-watergate-in-the-adams-quid-pro-quo.html>.

<sup>2</sup> William K. Rashbaum, et. al, *Order to Drop Adams Case Prompts Resignations in New York and Washington*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/13/nyregion/danielle-sassoon-quit-eric-adams.html>.

<sup>3</sup> CNN Staff, *READ: Resignation letter from acting U.S. attorney in New York and DOJ's response*, CNN (Feb. 13, 2025, 5:41 PM), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/13/politics/read-acting-us-attorney-resignation-letter-doj-response/index.html>.

conspiracy.<sup>4</sup> The indictment, returned by a grand jury and unsealed following a years-long federal corruption investigation, alleged that Mayor Adams solicited and accepted luxury travel benefits and illegal campaign contributions from foreign nationals. It also claims that Mayor Adams' 2021 mayoral campaign used these illegal campaign contributions to defraud New York City's public financing program, which matches small-dollar contributions from individual City residents with up to eight times their amount in public funds. This scheme allowed Mayor Adams' campaign to collect more than \$10,000,000 in public funds.<sup>5</sup>

According to the indictment, Mayor Adams hid his solicitation and acceptance of bribes by creating fake paper trails and funneling the illicit campaign contributions through U.S.-based straw donors.<sup>6</sup> The indictment also accuses Mayor Adams of "providing favorable treatment in exchange for the illicit benefits he received."<sup>7</sup> In September 2021, Mayor Adams strong-armed New York City Fire Department (FDNY) officials into facilitating the timely opening of the Turkish government's new consular building, which would have failed FDNY's fire safety inspection, ahead of a high-profile visit by President Erdogan. As Ms. Sassoon noted, "**the evidence against Mr. Adams... prove[s] beyond a reasonable doubt that he committed federal crimes.**"<sup>8</sup>

But on February 10, 2025, the DOJ abruptly changed course and instead instructed SDNY prosecutors to dismiss the case against Mayor Adams.<sup>9</sup> The dismissal followed Mayor Adams' months-long effort to curry favor with President Trump. Shortly after his indictment, media reports indicate that Mayor Adams began making overtures to the Trump campaign. In November, Mayor Adams requested a meeting with President-Elect Trump's so-called "border czar," Tom Homan, to discuss how they could work together to advance Mr. Trump's immigration priorities in New York.<sup>10</sup> In December, Mayor Adams and Mr. Homan met in the Gracie Mansion for several hours.<sup>11</sup> Mayor Adams also met with President Trump as recently as January 17, 2025, and skipped previously scheduled Martin Luther King Jr. holiday events to attend President Trump's inauguration on January 20, 2025.<sup>12</sup>

This campaign culminated in a January 31, 2025, meeting attended by prosecutors from SDNY, Trump DOJ officials, including Acting Deputy Attorney General Bove, and members of Mayor Adams' legal team.<sup>13</sup> According to Ms. Sassoon, Mayor Adams' attorneys "**repeatedly**

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<sup>4</sup> *United States v. Adams*, No. 1:24-cr-00556-DEH (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 24, 2024) (indictment).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*, at 15.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> See CNN Staff, *supra* at note 3.

<sup>9</sup> Information on file with the Committee.

<sup>10</sup> Joe Anuta, *Adams seeks fresh start on immigration with Trump appointees*, POLITICO (Nov. 12, 2024, 4:23 PM), <https://www.politico.com/news/2024/11/12/adams-immigration-crisis-trump-appointees-00189109>.

<sup>11</sup> Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *What to know about Tom Homan, Trump's new "border czar"*, CBS NEWS (Nov. 11, 2024, 7:43 PM), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tom-homan-trump-border-czar-what-to-know/?ftag=CNM-00-10aab4i>.

<sup>12</sup> Emma G. Fitzsimmons & Michael Rothfeld, *Eric Adams Attends Inauguration of President Who Could Pardon Him*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/20/nyregion/adams-trump-inauguration.html>.

<sup>13</sup> Michael Rothfeld, *Danielle Sassoon's Letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi, Annotated*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/02/13/us/doc-annotation-letter-to-bondi.html>.

**urged what amounted to a quid pro quo, indicating that Adams would be in a position to assist with the Department’s enforcement priorities only if the indictment were dismissed.”**<sup>14</sup> Additionally, Ms. Sassoon noted that “Mr. Bove admonished a member of my team who took notes during the meeting and directed the collection of those notes at the meeting’s conclusion,” suggesting Mr. Bove was personally involved in orchestrating a cover-up of the DOJ’s crooked deal with Mayor Adams.<sup>15</sup> Ms. Sassoon rightfully noted that **“Adams’s advocacy should be called out for what it is: an improper offer of immigration enforcement assistance in exchange for dismissal of his case.”**<sup>16</sup>

Rather than resisting the corrupt offer, the DOJ took Mayor Adams up on it. Ten days after the meeting, the DOJ ordered the SDNY prosecutors to dismiss the charges against Mayor Adams.<sup>17</sup> Incredibly, Acting Deputy Attorney General Bove said that the DOJ reached its conclusion to dismiss the charges “without assessing the strength of the evidence or the legal theories on which the case [was] based.”<sup>18</sup> Instead, Mr. Bove relied on the rationale of the corrupt bargain, declaring that prosecuting Mayor Adams would “unduly restrict” the Mayor’s ability to “devote full attention and resources to the illegal immigration and violent crime” in New York City.<sup>19</sup> Moreover, during a Valentine’s Day interview with Fox and Friends, Trump Immigration Czar Homan said: “If he doesn’t come through ... I’ll be in his office, up his butt, saying, Where the hell is the agreement we came to.”<sup>20</sup>

It is no coincidence that the same day the DOJ directed the prosecutors to drop the charges against Mayor Adams, it was reported that Mayor Adams instructed leaders across New York City government to not criticize Donald Trump.<sup>21</sup> And three days later, Mayor Adams re-opened the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office on Rikers Island, reversing a 2014 New York City law banning ICE from the Rikers jail complex.<sup>22</sup>

As Ms. Sassoon wrote, dismissal of charges against Mayor Adams on these grounds **“violates commonsense beliefs in the equal administration of justice, the Justice Manual, and the Rules of Professional Conduct.”**<sup>23</sup> And she made clear this was why she resigned: **“The reasons advanced by Mr. Bove for dismissing the indictment are not ones I can in good faith defend as in the public interest and as consistent with the principles of**

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<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

<sup>17</sup> Rashbaum, et. al., *supra* at note 2.

<sup>18</sup> Memorandum from Hon. Emil Bove, Acting Dep. Att’y Gen., U.S. Dep’t of Justice, to Danielle Sassoon, U.S. Att’y for S.D.N.Y., U.S. Dep’t of Justice (Feb. 10, 2025) (on file with the Committee).

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> Fox News, *Tom Homan, Mayor Adams reveal ‘game changer’ move on ICE deportations*, YOUTUBE (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wy6gmUL-9I>.

<sup>21</sup> Henr Rosoff, *Mayor Adams instructs top officials not to criticize President Trump*, PIX11 (Feb 10, 2025, 6:09 PM), <https://pix11.com/news/mayor-adams-instructs-top-officials-not-to-criticize-president-trump/>.

<sup>22</sup> Luis Ferrè-Sadurní, *After Meeting With Trump’s Border Czar, Adams Opens Rikers to ICE Agents*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/13/nyregion/adams-ice-rikers-homan.html>.

<sup>23</sup> Letter from Danielle Sassoon, U.S. Att’y for S.D.N.Y., U.S. Dep’t of Justice, to Hon. Pamela J. Bondi, Att’y Gen., U.S. Dep’t of Justice, at 2 (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/24535586a908999e/3801d435-full.pdf>.

**impartiality and fairness that guide my decision-making.**<sup>24</sup> Ms. Sassoon also questioned the way by which the DOJ’s decision was made, stating that **“I remain baffled by the rushed and superficial process by which this decision was reached, in seeming collaboration with Adams’s counsel and without my direct input on the ultimate stated rationales for dismissal.”**<sup>25</sup>

In retaliation, Acting Deputy Attorney General Bove placed the entire prosecution team on administrative leave, vowed to investigate them over their alleged refusal to obey his orders, and threatened to fire those who did not ultimately fall in line.<sup>26</sup> This prompted Hagan Scotten, one of the Assistant U.S. Attorneys assigned to Mayor Adams’ case, to publicly resign.<sup>27</sup> In his resignation letter, Mr. Scotten—a decorated veteran and former law clerk to Chief Justice John Roberts and then-judge Brett Kavanaugh—wrote that “our laws and traditions do not allow using the prosecutorial power to influence other citizens, much less elected officials, in this way.”<sup>28</sup> Mr. Bove also attempted to transfer the case out of SDNY to the DOJ’s Public Integrity Section to be dismissed, which has resulted in the resignation of at least five top career officials within Main Justice.<sup>29</sup> Mr. Bove coerced career prosecutors from the Department’s Public Integrity Section to sign the motion to dismiss Mayor Adams’ case, intimating he might fire the 30 career prosecutors who form the DOJ’s “top squad” of public corruption fighters, if no one volunteered.<sup>30</sup> Although a motion to dismiss the case has been filed, the court has appointed attorney Paul Clement to offer independent arguments on the DOJ’s request to drop the federal charges against the New York mayor.<sup>31</sup>

For our justice system to function, “legal judgments of the Department of Justice must be impartial and insulated from political influence.”<sup>32</sup> As Ms. Sassoon said in her letter, our system depends on prosecutors pursuing justice “without favor to the wealthy or those who occupy important public office.”<sup>33</sup> Here, the DOJ has strayed far from its principles of equal justice under the law by dismissing a serious criminal public corruption matter in exchange for assistance with the White House’s immigration priorities. Unfortunately, this is yet another example of the Trump DOJ allowing criminals to go free—whether they assaulted police

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<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*, at 8.

<sup>26</sup> *Read the letter from Emil Bove accepting Danielle Sassoon’s Resignation*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/02/13/nyregion/memo-from-bove-1.html>.

<sup>27</sup> Adam Klasfeld (@Klasfeld Reports), X (Feb. 14, 2025, 11:26 AM), <https://x.com/KlasfeldReports/status/1890437516810989726>.

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

<sup>30</sup> Barb McQuade (@BarbMcQuade), X (Feb. 14, 2025, 11:01 AM), <https://x.com/BarbMcQuade/status/1890431228085473411>.

<sup>31</sup> Adam Reiss, et al., *NYC Mayor Eric Adams’ corruption trial indefinitely delayed, but judge won’t dismiss charges yet*, NBC NEWS (Feb. 21, 2025, 1:57 PM), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/nyc-mayor-eric-adams-corruption-trial-indefinitely-delayed-judge-wont-rcna193215>.

<sup>32</sup> JM 1-8.100

<sup>33</sup> Letter from Danielle Sassoon, U.S. Att’y for S.D.N.Y., U.S. Dep’t of Justice, to Hon. Pamela J. Bondi, Att’y Gen., U.S. Dep’t of Justice, at 1 (Feb. 12, 2025), <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/24535586a908999e/3801d435-full.pdf>.

officers, sold drugs to the community, or are corrupt politicians—as long as the criminals pledge loyalty to President Trump.

Under House X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction over “criminal law enforcement and criminalization.” Accordingly, we request that you produce the following documents and information:


- 1) All handwritten or electronic notes taken during the January 31, 2025, meeting between Department prosecutors and Mayor Adams’ legal team. If any notes have been destroyed, please provide the names of individuals who destroyed the notes, as well as the dates, manner, and reasons for such destruction.
- 2) All communications between the White House and officials at the Department of Justice, including Attorney General Pam Bondi and Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove, related to the investigation of New York City Mayor Eric Adams for the period of January 20, 2025, to February 13, 2025.
- 3) All communications and records between the Department of Justice, including Attorney General Pam Bondi and Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York related to the investigation of Mayor Adams for the period of January 20, 2025, to February 13, 2025.
- 4) All communications and records between counsel for Mayor Adams, including Mr. Alex Spiro, and officials at the Department of Justice, including Attorney General Pam Bondi and Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove for the period of January 20, 2025, to February 13, 2025.
- 5) All communications and records between officials at the Department of Justice, including Attorney General Pam Bondi and Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York related to the destruction of records generated during the January 31, 2025, meeting between Department prosecutors and Mayor Adams’ legal team.
- 6) All communications and records between Department of Justice officials and members of President Trump’s transition team regarding the investigation and prosecution of Mayor Adams for the period of November 5, 2024, to January 20, 2025.

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi

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Please provide the requested information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 17, 2025. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member



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Jasmine Crockett  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

The Honorable Jefferson Van Drew, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight