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One Hundred Eighteenth  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS  
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December 1, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

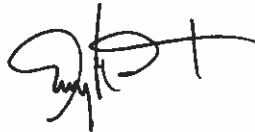
I serve as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration and its Subcommittee on Elections, which has broad oversight of our nation's federal election laws.<sup>1</sup> I am aware of an ongoing investigation into whether foreign money was illegally contributed to Eric Adams' campaign for Mayor of New York City.<sup>2</sup> It appears that the principal allegation being investigated is whether the Adams campaign "colluded with the government of Turkey and illegally accepted donations from Turkish citizens as part of a straw donor scheme."<sup>3</sup>

As you know, it is unlawful for any foreign person to contribute to any federal, state, or local political campaign.<sup>4</sup> These federal law prohibitions exist not only to protect our electoral systems from foreign influence but also to give Americans confidence that only American citizens are participating in American elections.<sup>5</sup> On November 30, 2023, the House Committee on Administration held a legislative markup, where I had the privilege of voting to pass H.R. 3229, the Stop Foreign Funds in Elections Act. This legislation would prohibit contributions or donations by foreign nationals in connection with state or local ballot initiatives, referenda, or recall elections – a bill critical to protect our elections from foreign influence. Similar initiatives are paramount in safeguarding our nation's electoral system.

The allegations levied against the Adams campaign are quite serious and must be investigated thoroughly. As a retired NYPD detective tasked with upholding the law, I urge your office to prosecute this case and other similar activities to the fullest extent of the law, if prosecution of this case becomes warranted as the facts develop in your investigation. Americans need to see that those who act unlawfully to threaten the integrity of our election systems are penalized appropriately.

Please direct correspondence to Caleb Hays, General Counsel and Subcommittee Staff Director, at [caleb.hays@mail.house.gov](mailto:caleb.hays@mail.house.gov) and my Legislative Assistant, Noah Taicher, at [noah.taicher@mail.house.gov](mailto:noah.taicher@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Anthony D'Esposito  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> Rules of the United States House of Representatives, Rule X, Clause 1(k)(12).

<https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules118.house.gov/files/documents/Rules%20and%20Resources/118-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> William Rashbaum et. al., *U.S. Investigating Whether Adams Received Illegal Donations From Turkey*, New York Times (Nov. 2, 2023).

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/02/nyregion/eric-adams-brianna-suggs-fbi-raid.html> In addition, in early July, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg charged six individuals with participating in a straw donor scheme to help get Eric Adams elected New York City mayor. *See 6 charged in alleged straw donor scheme to help get Eric Adams elected New York City mayor*. CBS New York (July 7, 2023), <https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/eric-adams-campaign-finance-fraud-scheme/>.

<sup>3</sup> Joe Anuta, *Investigations swirl around Eric Adams. Here's all of them*, Politico (Nov. 13, 2023), <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/11/13/investigations-eric-adams-new-york-00126928>.

<sup>4</sup> See 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a), which incorporates key provisions of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (*codified at 22 U.S.C. § 611 et seq.*).

<sup>5</sup> See, *supra*, note 4. See also 18 U.S.C. § 611.

cc: Damian Williams, United States Attorney, Southern District of New York  
Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation