

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

February 14, 2025

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

Emil Bove
Acting Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Acting Deputy Attorney General Bove:

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary exercises its constitutional oversight of the Department of Justice to issue this request to preserve all existing and future records and materials related to: (1) actions taken by the U.S. Department of Justice to dismiss the prosecution of New York City Mayor Eric Adams; and (2) actions carried out by U.S. Department of Justice officials to identify and remove prosecutors who refused to dismiss the prosecution of Mayor Adams.

We make this request after shocking revelations that you demanded the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York dismiss the indictment of Mayor Adams for reasons unrelated to the merits of the case.¹ Former Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Danielle Sassoon, along with at least five other career prosecutors in the Department of Justice Criminal Division, have resigned in protest.²

We remind you and all Department employees, including all employees of component agencies and offices, of your legal obligations to preserve federal records and your ongoing

¹ Dep't of Justice Memorandum from Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove to Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Danielle Sassoon regarding "Dismissal Without Prejudice of Prosecution of Mayor Eric Adams" (Feb. 10, 2025) (on file with Committee) (Mr. Bove, under the authority of Pam Bondi, directed now former Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Danielle Sassoon "to dismiss the pending charges in *United States v. Adams*...without assessing the strength of the evidence or the legal theories on which the case is based.").

² Larry Neumeister, Alanna Durkin Richer, and Eric Tucker, *Order to drop New York Mayor Adams' case roils Justice Department as high-ranking officials resign*, AP (Feb. 13, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/new-york-city-us-attorney-0395055315864924a3a5cc9a808f76fd>.

responsibility to safeguard information critical to congressional oversight. In accordance with federal law, all employees and officials within the Department have a legal responsibility to take measures to preserve, retain, and collect all documents, communications, and other relevant records, including electronic information and metadata that are or may be responsive to each investigation or a congressional inquiry.³ This includes electronic messages sent using both official and personal accounts or devices and records created using text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software.⁴ We urge you to ensure that Department employees do not delete or destroy any official government records, including “information created, manipulated, communicated, or stored” electronically.⁵ As you know, any employee who conceals, destroys, or attempts to conceal or destroy a federal record may be subject to fine and imprisonment.⁶

We look forward to your full and immediate compliance with these requests. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

³ See 44 U.S.C. §§ 3101-3107 (Chapter 31, Records Management by Federal Agencies); 44 U.S.C. §§ 3301-3314 (Chapter 33, Disposal of Records); and 36 C.F.R., Chapter XII, Subchapter B (Records Management).

⁴ See 44 U.S.C. § 2911.

⁵ See 44 U.S.C. § 3301(a)(2).

⁶ See 18 U.S.C. § 2071.



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chair, Senate Committee on the Judiciary