



BOB BLUMENFIELD

Councilmember, Third District

May 5, 2017

Ms. Holly L. Wolcott
City Clerk
City of Los Angeles
200 N Main Street, Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Wolcott:

Today, I ask the Council to put our City on the record and tell congress to do its job by investigating whether President Donald J. Trump has violated the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution or committed any other high crime or misdemeanor sufficient to warrant commencement of impeachment proceedings. Everyday more alarming information comes out regarding Trump's business dealings and brazenness about lack of transparency and conflicts of interest.

This resolution is not about Trump's proposed budget to cut \$50 million in CDBG from our City. This is not about his threat to cut off hundreds of millions of dollars to our City because he thinks we're a sanctuary city. This is not about his anti-choice positions, or his anti-immigrant policies, or his efforts to deny millions of Americans healthcare, or his misogynistic words and deeds, or any of his positions that I find odious. This is about conflicts of interest.

Aside from his alleged financial improprieties, there are key facts that should worry all Americans and should warrant intense investigations. His first National Security Advisor was a paid foreign agent of Turkey and Russia. His former campaign chairperson was a hired hand of corrupt governments such as Victor Yanukovych in Ukraine. Multiple other former and current staffers have ties and friendships with murderous dictators- Secretary of State Tillerson having received the equivalent of the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Vladimir Putin. It is my belief that if Secretary Clinton won the presidential election, House and Senate republicans would be storming the gates of the White House and opening countless investigations into her and her administration if just one of those was true. Many DC Republicans seem to be so blinded by finally having control of all branches of the federal government that they have no interest in getting to the bottom of these deeply troubling and potentially criminal accusations. This resolution is about a potential constitutional crisis.

I am asking that Congress look deep into Trump's international financial dealings to make sure that they are in line with the 'emoluments clause' in the US Constitution. Article 1-Section 9- Clause 8 clearly states that "no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state." The term "emoluments" includes a broad

CITY HALL 200 N. Spring St. Room 415, Los Angeles, CA 90012 213.473.7003 fax 213.473.7567

DISTRICT OFFICE 19040 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335 818.774.4330 fax 818.756.9179

Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org blumenfield.lacity.org facebook.com/BobBlumenfieldSFV twitter.com/BobBlumenfield



range of financial benefits, including but not limited to monetary payments, purchase of goods and services even for fair market value, subsidies, tax breaks, extensions of credit, and favorable regulatory treatment. Constitutional scholars are raising the issue that if a foreign official or embassy hosts an event or stays at a hotel where the President's name is branded from the top of the building to the chocolate on the pillow, it may violate this clause in the constitution.

The Trump Organization currently has business ventures in nations such as Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, India, Argentina, and Turkey. Due to his refusal to unveil his tax returns, or really any documents that explain with whom and where he does business, there are many dealings that we may never know about. During the campaign, Trump said that he would put his businesses in a blind trust. Then he said that he would leave the business to his children and not have anything to do with them because he'd be too busy being president. Now, according to news outlets such as Forbes and Politico, his son, Eric Trump, plans to brief the president quarterly on the family business, neglecting all previous statements to separate from the Trump Organization during his time in office. It defies credulity that the President will offer no advice or consult of any kind when he is "briefed" about the health of the Trump Organization by his son.

Of the many examples of conflicts of interests, there are two that strike the core of why Trump must be investigated.

Trump recently spoke with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines and he described the call as a "very friendly conversation." Duterte has admitted to murdering people. He has said that it is ok to kill journalists stating, "Just because you are a journalist, you are not exempted from assassination if you are a son of a bitch. Most of those killed, to be frank, have done something. You won't be killed if you don't do anything wrong." And how has Trump chosen to interact with this leader? Did he voice concerns of human rights abuses? No. Did he talk about the importance of a free press? No. Trump has praised him and invited Duterte to the White House for a formal visit. I can't help but wonder if this might have something to do with a new \$150 million Trump Tower that is about to open in the Manilla in which Trump's company is reported to earn millions each year in licensing fees.

The second example regards Trump's family and mixing business and foreign policy. On April 6, Ivanka Trump won provisional approval from the Chinese government for new trademarks, giving her the rights to sell more of her branded merchandise. That same night she and her husband shared a steak dinner with President Xi (SHE) of China at Mar-a-Lago. In an interview with CBS, Ivanka claimed that her business would be doing even better if she hadn't moved to Washington and placed restrictions on her team to ensure that "any growth is done with extreme caution." According to the Boston Globe, "the week of the summit, 3.4 tons of Ivanka Trump handbags, wallets and blouses arrived in the U.S. from Hong Kong and Shanghai. U.S. imports of her merchandise grew an estimated 40 percent in the first quarter of this year, according to Panjiva Inc., which maintains and analyzes global shipping records." Ethics lawyers from both President Obama and Bush administrations continue to sound the alarm on this issue.

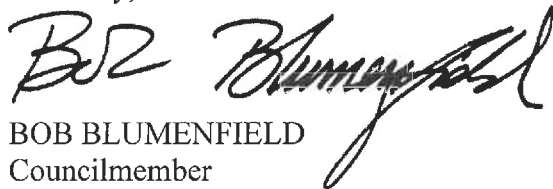
There are representatives in DC that are fighting hard to make sure that these alleged improprieties aren't swept under the rug. I want to share my support and admiration for representatives like Congressman Adam Schiff for all that he is doing in the House and on the Intelligence committee to bring sunlight into these dark corners of our political reality. Even

Page 3 – Wolcott, City Clerk

Republican Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham have voiced concerns about these conflicts of interests.

Now, with a federal budget and new attempts of a Tax system overhaul on the horizon, we still have no clue where his financial dealings lie or what policy decisions might benefit him and his companies. If he is not going to come clean and show the American people that his hands are clean of potentially illegal foreign money and investments, then we must demand that Congress use its power to investigate this president. With this resolution the City of Los Angeles calls on our Congressmembers and our Senators- for the good of the Country to investigate Trump's international finances and make sure that he is actually working on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Blumenfeld". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles