



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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REMARKS OF DOI COMMISSIONER JOCELYN E. STRAUBER AT PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING NEW YORK CITY MAYOR ERIC ADAMS CHARGED WITH BRIBERY AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE OFFENSES

Today, for the first time in New York City's modern history, we announce criminal charges against the sitting Mayor of New York City. As our highest elected official, the Mayor should set the standard for all of City government, and exemplify the integrity, transparency, and dedication to serving the public that all New Yorkers deserve.

Instead, the Indictment unsealed today alleges that Mayor Adams abused his power and position for nearly a decade – as Brooklyn Borough President and as Mayor – to enrich himself and his mayoral campaigns. As charged, he sought and received illegal campaign contributions, luxury travel and other personal benefits from foreign nationals, as well as individuals and businesses. He allegedly took steps to conceal those illegal contributions and personal benefits and involved City employees and campaign staff in that concealment.

As the Indictment explains, this kind of corruption has real costs to the City and to the public.

As alleged, the Mayor's 2021 campaign falsely certified compliance with campaign finance laws in order to conceal those illegal campaign contributions and, as a result of those false certifications, received over \$10 million in public matching funds. The Mayor's alleged acceptance and concealment of illegal contributions and personal benefits gave overseas benefactors, wealthy individuals, and businesses undue influence over the Mayor, influence that federal and local laws seek to prevent. And as charged, in exchange for certain personal benefits, the Mayor pressured the New York City Fire Department to forego a required fire-safety inspection before the opening of the new Turkish consulate building.

As the City's Inspector General, the Department of Investigation, a City agency, conducts its investigations confidentially and wholly independently of City Hall. We handled this investigation as we would any other, following the facts, and seeking to hold wrongdoers accountable, no matter their role or title. Our unique access to City records and expertise in matters of City government make us a critical partner in the fight to root out corruption, working closely with our law enforcement colleagues at the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office.

If you have information about this case, or about illegal conduct by any New York City official or employee, I encourage you to contact DOI by email at tipline@doi.nyc.gov or by phone at (212) 825-2828.

I want to thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the FBI for their partnership on this investigation. And I want to recognize and thank the dedicated, hard-working DOI investigators who are handling this matter: Senior Inspector General Eleonora Rivkin, Inspector General

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Audrey Feldman, Deputy Inspectors General Arturo Sanchez and Trenton Sweeney, and their supervisors, Deputy Commissioners Christopher Ryan and Dominick Zarrella.

An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

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