

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 31, 2025

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

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

The Constitution requires that the Senate advise and consent on Executive Branch nominees. To adequately perform that responsibility, the honesty of the nominees that appear before Senate committees for hearings is of the utmost importance. Recent public reporting raises questions as to whether Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche testified truthfully before the Senate Judiciary Committee at a hearing on his nomination on February 12, 2025.¹

At the time of his hearing, Mr. Blanche was a private citizen and not an employee of the Department of Justice. Two days before his hearing, news broke that the Department of Justice intended to drop criminal corruption charges against New York City Mayor Eric Adams.² Mr. Blanche was twice asked during the hearing if he had any involvement in the orders to drop Mayor Adams' indictment. In response to Senator Welch asking him if he was aware of the instructions to dismiss the charges, Mr. Blanche stated, "I have the same information you have. It appears it was, yes." In an answer to Senator Coons regarding the basis for the dropping of charges, Mr. Blanche stated, "I have no idea." And in response to Senator Booker's written Questions for the Record, Mr. Blanche further stated under oath that he did not know why the charges in Mayor Adams' case were dismissed.

On March 25, however, documentation surfaced suggesting that Deputy Attorney General Blanche may have, in fact, been aware of the orders to dismiss the case against Mayor Adams *almost two weeks* before he testified. In newly unsealed documents, the Department of Justice provided communications between Justice Department officials related to internal discussions on the dismissal, including a letter written to you by then-Interim United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Danielle Sassoon.³ The letter indicates that Emil Bove, the then-Acting Deputy Attorney General who ordered the dismissal, may have spoken with Mr. Blanche regarding Mr. Bove's instructions. Specifically, Ms. Sassoon wrote: "I expressed concern that a decision should not be reached [about dismissing the charges] prior to the confirmation of the President's nominee for Deputy Attorney General, Todd Blanche. Mr. Bove informed me that

¹ *Letter Raises Questions About Justice Official's Testimony on Adams Case*, New York Times (Mar. 25, 2025) (online at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/25/nyregion/todd-blanche-eric-adams-case.html>).

² *Justice Department Orders New York Mayor Eric Adams Charges to be Withdrawn*, Reuters (Feb. 11, 2025) (online at <https://www.reuters.com/legal/justice-department-seeks-dismissal-charges-against-new-york-mayor-ny-times-says-2025-02-10/>).

³ *Supra* note 1.

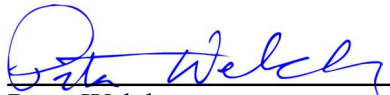
Todd Blanche was on the ‘same page.’” This conversation occurred on January 27, 2025, according to the dates in Ms. Sassoon’s letter.⁴

As you are aware, all nominees who come before the Senate Judiciary Committee provide testimony under oath. It is a federal crime to “knowingly and willfully” provide “any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation” while under oath with respect to “any investigation or review, conducted pursuant to the authority of any committee....”⁵

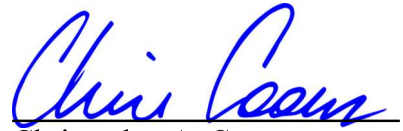
Congress has an obligation to investigate whether Mr. Blanche provided untruthful testimony before the Judiciary Committee, including whether a referral to the Department of Justice for a criminal inquiry is warranted. Accordingly, we request you provide the following documentation by April 15, 2025:

1. Copies of all documentation and records that reference or discuss Todd Blanche in the possession of the Department of Justice related to the decision to dismiss the criminal charges in *United States v. Adams*, 24 CR 556 (S.D.N.Y.).
2. Copies of all communications between and among then-Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove III and Todd Blanche relating to the decision to dismiss the criminal charges in *United States v. Adams*, 24 CR 556 (S.D.N.Y.).

Sincerely,



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

⁴ Read the Justice Department’s Filing in the Adams Case, New York Times (Mar. 25, 2025) (online at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/03/25/nyregion/x175-1-exhibits-filed.html>).

⁵ 18 U.S.C. § 1001.



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator