

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 25, 2025

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Inspector General Horowitz:

We ask that your office investigate whether Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche testified truthfully at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 12, 2025. Public reporting raises questions as to the truthfulness of Deputy Attorney Blanche's testimony both on that day and in answering subsequent written questions.¹

Two days before Mr. Blanche's confirmation 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 the dismissal was "directed by DC," Mr. Blanche stated, "I have the same information you have. It appears it was, yes. I don't know." In an answer to Senator Coons regarding the basis for dropping the 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's case were dismissed.

On March 25, 2025, 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. Department of Justice documents unsealed by a federal court in March include a letter written to Attorney General Pam Bondi by then-Interim United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Danielle Sassoon regarding the dismissal.³ The letter indicates that Emil Bove, the then-Acting Deputy Attorney General who ordered the dismissal, may have spoken with Mr. Blanche regarding the dismissal. 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.

¹ William K. Rashbaum, Jonah E. Bromwich, Maggie Haberman, Dana Rubinstein, Michael Rothfeld, and Benjamin Weiser, *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 Sarah N. Lynch, Luc Cohen, and Jack Queen, *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.

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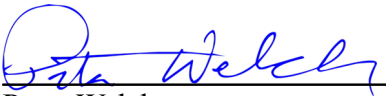
Mr. Bove informed me that Todd Blanche was on the ‘same page.’”⁴ This conversation occurred on January 27, 2025, according to the dates in Ms. Sassoon’s letter.⁵

On March 31, 2025, the Democratic members of the Senate Judiciary Committee sent a letter to Attorney General Bondi requesting documentation to investigate Mr. Blanche’s statements before the Committee. To date, we have received no response from the Attorney General, stymying our ability to fully conduct that investigation.

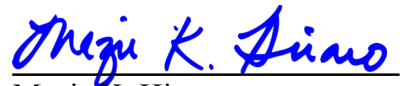
All nominees who come before the Senate Judiciary Committee provide testimony under oath. It is a federal crime to “knowingly and willfully” provide “any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation” while under oath with respect to “any investigation or review, conducted pursuant to the authority of any committee....”⁶ As you are aware, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Department of Justice has jurisdiction over alleged violations of criminal law by Department personnel.⁷ The false testimony of Mr. Blanche before the Senate Judiciary Committee, if true, falls squarely within that jurisdiction.

Accordingly, we request the OIG investigate whether Mr. Blanche was truthful in his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding his knowledge of the decision to dismiss the criminal charges against Mayor Adams.⁸

Sincerely,



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
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 *Id.*

⁶ See 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

⁷ 5 U.S.C. § 413(b)(2).

⁸ *United States v. Adams*, 24 CR 556 (S.D.N.Y.).

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A stylized blue ink signature of Cory A. Booker, featuring a large 'C' and 'B'.

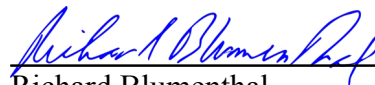
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

A stylized blue ink signature of Sheldon Whitehouse, featuring a large 'S' and 'W'.

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

A stylized blue ink signature of Alex Padilla, featuring a large 'A' and 'P'.

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

A stylized blue ink signature of Richard Blumenthal, featuring a large 'R' and 'B'.

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

A stylized blue ink signature of Richard J. Durbin, featuring a large 'R' and 'D'.

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

A stylized blue ink signature of Amy Klobuchar, featuring a large 'A' and 'K'.

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator