



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING**  
**1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004**

**David Grosso**  
Councilmember At-Large  
Chairperson, Committee on Education

**Committee Member**  
Government Operations  
Health  
Human Services  
Labor and Workforce Development

March 4, 2019

Chairman Phil Mendelson  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Suite 504  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

We write today to officially request that you exercise your authority under Council Rule 651(a) and establish an ad hoc committee for the purposes of considering evidence of violations of the Council's Code of Conduct, policy, or law by Councilmember Jack Evans, and making recommendations for further action.

Media reports have raised questions about the ethical judgment on the part of Councilmember Evans, including possible violations of the Council's Code of Conduct, and the law pertaining to his relationship with Digi Outdoor Media, and his solicitation of employment or contractual relationships from lobbying and law firms located in the District of Columbia by promoting his influence and relationships as a Councilmember.

Violations of the Code of Conduct may include accepting gifts from outside sources; accepting anything of value personally or for another person in return for official acts or influence; accepting gifts from prohibited sources; inappropriate use of government resources; and using the prestige of office for private gain.

The Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Council of the District of Columbia, rule 651(b) states that "An ad hoc committee shall be established (1) if a Councilmember is censured by BEGA (the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability); or (2) By request of any 5 members of the Council." BEGA has suspended its investigation of Councilmember Evans, pending another law enforcement investigation, but the Council does not need to wait for a final report to begin its own inquiry about any violations of our Council Rules. We are also prepared to consult with colleagues to petition the Secretary's office for the creation of an ad hoc committee if you are unable to convene one. However, the time limitations on an ad hoc committee created by 5 members may not be preferred in order to perform a thorough investigation.

While you consider this request, we hope you will also evaluate Councilmember Evans' existing committee assignments and determine if, given the allegations, it is appropriate for Councilmember Evans to continue to serve in full capacity on all of his existing assignments, or if temporary suspension is appropriate pending the decision of the ad hoc committee.

As the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, you have the authority and responsibility to ensure that the integrity of the body is maintained, and that those who engage in ethically suspect behavior are fairly investigated and held accountable. An ad hoc committee to investigate Councilmember Evans' behavior is warranted at this time. Failure to uphold this responsibility reflects poorly on all who serve the people of the District of Columbia in this body. It also diminishes confidence in our government as a whole.

Investigating a colleague is not something we take lightly. However, holding ourselves to the highest ethical standards reinforces that the Council of the District of Columbia is dedicated to the accountability of our elected officials.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



David Grosso, At-Large  
Chairperson, Committee on Education



Brianne K. Nadeau, Ward 1  
Chairperson, Committee on Human Services



Elissa Silverman, At-Large  
Chairperson, Workforce Investment  
And Labor

CC: All Councilmembers  
Nicole Streeter, General Counsel, Council of the District of Columbia