


COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Memorandum

August 23, 2024

TO: Members of the Council
FR: Phil Mendelson, Chairman 
RE: Investigation of Councilmember Trayon White

On Sunday, August 18th, Councilmember Trayon White was arrested on a criminal complaint charging him with bribery. The affidavit in support of the criminal complaint, filed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, alleges that Councilmember White engaged in bribery in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(b)(2). The 37-page affidavit details four incidents of alleged bribery and includes both photos and transcripts of the incidents.

Subsequently, *The Washington Post* reported that “[Mr.] White was arrested Sunday in the Navy Yard neighborhood where, according to the building’s receptionist, he was staying in a luxury high-rise apartment complex...” and there have been various reports that this has been the Ward 8 Councilmember’s residence for quite some time. However, the building is in Ward 6.

The allegations are serious and have affected the public’s respect for the Council. Yet citizens have the right to hold us to basic standards of trust, honesty, and integrity. Because of this, on Monday, August 19th, I announced that I would establish an Ad Hoc Committee “to assess the situation, the evidence of wrongdoing to the extent it is available, and the questions about residency.”

Pursuant to Council Rule 651, I am establishing an Ad Hoc Committee for the purposes of considering the above allegations (bribery and residency) and making recommendations to the Council for further action. The Ad Hoc Committee shall function pursuant to Council Rules 651-653, and shall adhere to those Rules. All Councilmembers except Mr. Trayon White are hereby appointed as members of the Ad Hoc Committee. This is consistent with the last Ad Hoc Committee I appointed, which was to investigate allegations regarding former Councilmember Evans’ conduct. Chairman Pro Tempore Kenyan McDuffie is appointed chair of the Committee.

Pursuant to the Council’s Rules, the Ad Hoc Committee has 90 days to file a report. Because the Council is in recess until September 15th, the Committee shall have until Monday, December 16, 2024 to file its report. Once the Committee meets, it shall have to determine how to proceed as well as afford Councilmember Trayon White an opportunity to be heard. As you know, the Council’s Rules specify three types of sanction: (1) reprimand; (2) censure; and (3) expulsion. The gravity of the allegations warrant consideration of all of these. The Ad Hoc Committee may engage outside counsel and propose additional or alternative sanctions.

cc: Council Officers