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November 6, 2019

VIA HAND DELIVERY AND EMAIL (pmendelson@dccouncil.us; mcheh@DCcouncil.us)

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Councilmember Mary Cheh
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 108
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Councilman Jack Evans

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Cheh:

We are writing to express great concern with the events over the past two days and to ask you to please restore a fair process in the consideration by the Council of Jack Evans' conduct, even if some are saying we can no longer hope for an impartial one.

On Monday, November 4, the Council's outside law firm, O'Melveny & Myers, submitted a 100-page report about the work it did. Without minimizing the issues it addressed, the alleged violations in the report are nowhere as serious as some of Mr. Evans' critics had charged. They range from passing on email requests, to maintaining or repeating votes he had cast many times before, and to ordinary constituent services to individuals and entities who were or became clients of his, consistent with his decades of work. There was no finding that he linked any official action to any financial gain or that, to use the words of some, he sold his office, nor that he had any intention to circumvent the rules. Indeed, your counsel indicated that his errors resulted from a "misunderstanding" of the rules.

Before Mr. Evans or we were given a copy of the Report (which did not occur for a full day), someone to whom you provided the Report improperly leaked it to the media. This was done with malice and with the intent to poison the well of public opinion for the purpose of forcing Mr. Evans to resign or pressuring the Council to expel Mr. Evans without any further consideration. Then, as that person had hoped, in minutes—again before Mr. Evans or we were given the Report or any chance to respond—several of your colleagues called for Mr. Evans to resign.