

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2020

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray,

On August 10, we requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate whether any crimes were committed on a call between Sheldon Adelson and Donald Trump. According to *Politico*, Mr. Adelson “reached out to Trump to talk about the Coronavirus relief bill” and “Trump brought the conversation around to the campaign and confronted Adelson about why he wasn’t doing more to bolster his reelection.”¹ Depending on the details of that conversation, a crime may have occurred. It is illegal for a donor to ask an elected official to take action on legislation and in exchange give money or agree to give money.

We now write to update you with new, incriminating facts. On the morning of September 16, the press reported Mr. Adelson is planning on spending up to \$50 million to help Donald Trump.² At approximately the same time, the President reversed the long-standing White House opposition to the Coronavirus relief bill by tweeting, “Go for the much higher numbers, Republicans, it all comes back to the USA anyway (one way or another!).”

Under 18 U.S.C. § 201, it is bribery if a donor “directly or indirectly, corruptly gives, offers or promises anything of value to any public official” with intent “to influence any official act.” In this case, Mr. Adelson discussed a specific piece of legislation, the Coronavirus relief bill, with the President. In the same conversation, the President asked Mr. Adelson to do more to support his campaign. Depending on what exactly was said, a bribe or solicitation of a bribe may have occurred. After this conversation occurred, the press reported on September 16 that Mr. Adelson is planning on spending up to \$50 million to help Mr. Trump. On the same day, Mr. Trump reversed the White House’s opposition to the higher numbers in the Coronavirus relief bill. This looks like bribery.

We believe the public reporting has provided more than enough of a factual predicate to open an investigation. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress

¹ Alex Isenstadt, “Trump antagonizes GOP megadonor Adelson in heated phone call,” *Politico*, August 8, 2020.

² Brian Schwartz, “Sheldon Adelson is plotting a spending spree to help Trump with under 50 days left until the election,” *CNBC*, September 16, 2020.