

September 15, 2026

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1701

The Honorable Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1701

**Re: Request to Postpone Consideration of Contempt Resolution Concerning Leon Black**

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Garcia:

We write on behalf of our client, Leon Black, regarding the Full Committee business meeting scheduled for September 15, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., at which the Committee intends to consider a resolution recommending that the House of Representatives find Mr. Black in contempt of Congress (the “Contempt Resolution”). The Committee’s notice identifies the proposed resolution as arising from Mr. Black’s alleged refusal to comply with the document and deposition subpoenas issued by the Committee.<sup>1</sup>

Today, Counsel for Mr. Black will submit a complaint to the Office of Congressional Conduct (“OCC”) requesting an investigation into conduct by Chairman Comer that bears directly on the factual foundation and integrity of the contemplated contempt proceeding (the “OCC Complaint”). The OCC Complaint alleges that, before Mr. Black’s scheduled September 3 deposition, Chairman Comer engaged in what should be viewed as a violation of the Rules of the House of Representatives relating to the deposition, especially on the basis of the business meeting scheduled for September 15, 2026. The Committee should therefore not proceed with a markup

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<sup>1</sup> H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov’t Reform, Notice of Full Committee Business Meeting (Sept. 11, 2026), *available at* <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/GO/GO00/20260915/119567/HMKP-119-GO00-20260915-SD001.pdf>.

that would be undermined by the alleged misconduct under review by the OCC that bears directly on proceedings that occurred on September 3, 2026.

The allegations within the OCC Complaint are serious and implicate substantial questions concerning alleged violations of ethical conduct and House Rules. If substantiated, the claims alleged within the OCC Complaint would fundamentally call into question the validity of the Committee's contempt proceedings against Mr. Black. The claims also raise substantial concerns regarding whether Committee Members have been provided all information necessary to evaluate the Contempt Resolution.

The Committee should not proceed with a contempt vote while these material factual issues remain unresolved. At a minimum, Committee Members should have access to material information concerning the basis for contempt. Indeed, depriving them of a fair opportunity to evaluate such information could represent a gross violation of the standards of ethical conduct required by House Rules<sup>2</sup> and could raise substantial due process concerns.

If the Committee proceeds to allow Members to consider the Contempt Resolution against Mr. Black, this would also risk prejudicing the OCC Board's review of alleged violations outlined in the Complaint by advancing the precise contempt action that forms a central subject of the Complaint before the OCC has had an opportunity to examine the relevant evidence. The Committee's memorandum asserts that Mr. Black "willfully failed to comply" and that the Committee has "exhausted all available options for obtaining compliance."<sup>3</sup> The facts described in the OCC complaint undermine both assertions.

We also note that proceeding with considering the Contempt Resolution is inappropriate in the face of the substantial legal questions before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Mr. Black's lawsuit.<sup>4</sup> That lawsuit pertains to the Document and Deposition Subpoenas issued by Chairman Comer to Mr. Black at a voluntary transcribed interview on June 26, 2026. The Committee now seeks to hold Mr. Black in contempt over his alleged failure to comply with those two Subpoenas. However, the Committee's intent to preempt the court's decision by considering the Contempt Resolution constitutes retaliation against Mr. Black for the filing of this lawsuit. Until that court challenge is complete, it would be grossly inappropriate for the Committee to consider contempt, especially over Subpoenas that Mr. Black contends are unlawful.

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<sup>2</sup> See Rules of the House of Representatives, 119th Cong. (2025) (hereinafter "House Rules"), at Rule XXIII, cl. 1 (stating that a Member "shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House").

<sup>3</sup> H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, Memorandum for the Sept. 15, 2026 Business Meeting (Sept. 11, 2026), available at <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/GO/GO00/20260915/119567/HMKP-119-GO00-20260915-SD002.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> *Black v. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and James Comer*, No. 1:26-cv-03084 (D.D.C. 2026).

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you postpone the Committee's consideration of the proposed contempt resolution until:

1. all information material to the Contempt Resolution has been provided to the Members of the Full Committee; and
2. the OCC has had a reasonable opportunity to review the facts of the OCC Complaint and determine whether further inquiry is warranted; and
3. the courts have fully ruled on *Black v. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform* and *James Comer* regarding the deposition subpoenas.

This request does not ask the Committee to prejudge the OCC Complaint or surrender any institutional authority. It asks only that the Committee refrain from taking an extraordinary and irreversible step before its Members possess the material facts and the appropriate congressional body has had an opportunity to review serious allegations concerning the very proceeding at issue.

Fairness to Mr. Black, respect for the Committee's institutional responsibilities, and the integrity of the congressional contempt process require postponement. We remain prepared to discuss this request promptly and to continue engaging with the Committee in an effort to reach an appropriate resolution.

Sincerely,



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Adam J. Fridman

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