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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Washington, DC 20515-6328

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE JESSE JACKSON, JR.

September 15, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pursuant to Committee Rule 18, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has been investigating whether Representative Jesse Jackson Jr., or an agent of Representative Jackson, may have offered to raise funds for then-Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich in return for the appointment of Representative Jackson to the Illinois Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama.

During the course of the Committee's investigation, the Committee received a referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics regarding this same matter. The Committee has also been in communication with the Department of Justice relating to the criminal indictment against Rod Blagojevich and investigation into the facts surrounding Rod Blagojevich's consideration of multiple candidates to fill the vacant Senate seat.

The Department of Justice has asked the Committee to defer consideration of this matter and the Committee, following precedent, unanimously voted to defer consideration of this matter at this time.

The Committee will continue to monitor the situation and will consider pursuing avenues of inquiry that it concludes do not interfere with the activities of the Department of Justice. At least annually, the Committee will make a public statement if it continues to defer taking action on the matter. The Committee reserves the right to assert its jurisdiction if, in its determination, a violation of House rules, code, or other laws under its jurisdiction are discovered that will not interfere with the Department of Justice's activities.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT

Review No. 09-9812

The Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics (hereafter "Board"), by a vote of no less than four members, on July 24, 2009, adopted the following report and findings and ordered them to be transmitted to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of the United States House of Representatives.

SUBJECT: Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr.

NATURE OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATION: Transcripts of recordings of former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich contain statements that an "emissary" from Representative Jackson had offered to raise money for Blagojevich and provide "money up-front," if Blagojevich nominated Representative Jackson to the Illinois Senate seat vacated by President Obama. If this "emissary" acted either at the direction of Representative Jackson or with his knowledge or acquiescence, Representative Jackson may have violated federal law and House rules.

In the course of conducting this review, the OCE learned that staff resources of the Representative's Washington, DC and Chicago, Illinois, offices were used to mount a "public campaign" to secure the Representative's appointment to the U.S. Senate. In doing so, Representative Jackson may have violated federal law and House rules concerning the proper use of the Member's Representational Allowance.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics recommends that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct review further the above allegations.

VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE: 6

VOTES IN THE NEGATIVE: 0

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR STAFF DESIGNATED TO PRESENT THIS REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT: Leo Wise, Staff Director & Chief Counsel.



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

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COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS
Washington, D.C. 20530

September 11, 2009

CONFIDENTIAL

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chair
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chair:

This responds to your letter, dated September 8, 2009, seeking the Department's views on possible actions the Committee may undertake regarding the recent referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) on Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., and the events surrounding the nomination of a replacement to the Illinois Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama. An identical letter is being sent to Ranking Republican Member Jo Bonner who joined in your letter to us.


As you are aware, on April 2, 2009, the Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois filed a criminal indictment against former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. The pending indictment alleges that Mr. Blagojevich attempted to obtain personal financial benefits in exchange for his appointment of a United States Senator to fill the Senate seat vacated by the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States. Mr. Blagojevich's efforts, which are detailed in the indictment and allegedly involved Mr. Blagojevich's consideration of multiple candidates, will be a significant focus of the evidence presented at trial. In addition, the government is continuing its investigation of the facts surrounding these allegations.

While we fully recognize the Committee's authority to investigate the findings set forth in the OCE referral, a Committee investigation concerning matters involving Mr. Blagojevich's efforts to fill the vacant Illinois Senate seat would pose a significant risk of interfering with the pending criminal proceedings and ongoing investigation. As a result, we respectfully request that the Committee defer further action on the OCE referral until the trial of Mr. Blagojevich and related investigations are completed.

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Page Two

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may be of assistance with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RW', written in a cursive style.

Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

RECEIVED

2009 SEP 11 PM 7:41

Washington, D.C. 20530

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS

September 11, 2009

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable Jo Bonner
Ranking Republican Member
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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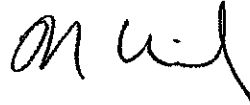
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The Honorable Jo Bonner
Page Two

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Weich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ron" and last name "Weich" clearly distinguishable.

Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General