

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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August 14, 2018

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Wilkie:

I am writing to request information about the nature and scope of the relationship between officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs and Mar-a-Lago members Bruce Moskowitz, Ike Perlmutter, and Marc Sherman.

On August 7, 2018, *ProPublica* reported that Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Perlmutter, and Mr. Sherman exercised unprecedented control over Department policy, personnel decisions, and the implementation of specific programs. Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Perlmutter, and Mr. Sherman hold no positions within the Department and seem to have no government or military experience. Their only connection appears to stem from Mr. Perlmutter's long-term relationship with President Trump. Mr. Perlmutter, the Chairman of Marvel Entertainment and a member at Mar-a-Lago, in turn appears to have recruited other Mar-a-Lago members, Mr. Moskowitz, a local doctor, and Mr. Sherman, a white-collar attorney. According to this report, Department officials sought their express approval on various high-level decisions, used taxpayer money to fly to Mar-a-Lago to meet with them, and treated their communications as directives. As one former official stated: "Everything needs to be run by them."¹

The specter of improper influence by Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Perlmutter, and Mr. Sherman over Department decisions raises questions about the use of taxpayer resources for private gain and calls into question the Trump Administration's commitment to the health and welfare of our nation's veterans. All Americans—especially our veterans—deserve agencies that operate in their best interest with transparency, accountability, and oversight.

In order to evaluate the extent to which Department policies, decisions, or personnel may have been influenced by Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Perlmutter, and Mr. Sherman, I request that you produce, by August 28, 2018, the following documents:

¹ *The Shadow Rulers of the VA*, ProPublica (Aug. 7, 2018) (online at www.propublica.org/article/ike-perlmutter-bruce-moskowitz-marc-sherman-shadow-rulers-of-the-va)

- (1) all documents and communications in the possession, control, or custody of the Department sent to or received from Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Perlmutter, or Mr. Sherman;
- (2) all documents and communications in the possession, control, or custody of the Department referring or relating to Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Perlmutter, or Mr. Sherman;
- (3) all documents and communications relating to Department officials' taxpayer-funded travel to Mar-a-Lago to meet with Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Perlmutter, or Mr. Sherman;
- (4) all documents and communications relating to any personal referrals to the agency by Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Perlmutter, or Mr. Sherman related to current or future agency projects or contracts;
- (5) all documents and communications referring or relating to the Veterans Day event at the stock exchange where then-Secretary Shulkin appeared alongside Marvel and Johnson & Johnson promotional material;
- (6) all documents and communications relating to Aaron Moskowitz's participation or contemplated participation in agency projects;
- (7) all documents and communications referring or relating to the agency working with the Biomedical Research and Education Foundation; and
- (8) all policies, personnel decisions, and procedures created as a result of communications between agency officials and Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Perlmutter, or Mr. Sherman.

I also request that Department officials brief my staff regarding these matters by the same date. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Tori Anderson of my staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform