

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

July 29, 2023

Mr. Stuart Delery
White House Counsel
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Delery,

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability writes to inquire about Elizabeth Hirsh Naftali's purchase of artwork by Hunter Biden, the son of President Joe Biden. Reports have identified her as the purchaser of at least one of these pieces from the Georges Bergés Gallery, which have been priced as high as \$500,000.¹ Additionally, she has been appointed by President Joe Biden to the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad (Commission), a position in the Administration that Hunter Biden had previously arranged to be filled by Eric Schwerin, his longtime business partner. These facts raise the Committee's concerns, and the Committee seeks documents and information regarding documents and communications between the White House, Elizabeth Hirsh Naftali, and Georges Bergés.

The White House has stated that "Hunter Biden would be walled off from knowing the identities of his buyers in an attempt to separate his business dealings from his father's administration."² Abbe Lowell, Hunter Biden's lawyer, told reporters that the gallery "does not disclose the names of any purchasers to Mr. Biden."³ This system, however, seems to have failed because Elizabeth Hirsh Naftali's identity as a purchaser of this art has become public. Her position on the Commission is particularly suspicious because of Hunter Biden's previous actions to elevate his business partner—Eric Schwerin—to the same post while his father was Vice President.⁴ White House visitor logs revealed that Ms. Hirsh Naftali visited the White House at least 13 times since December 2021.⁵

¹ Mattathias Schwartz, *Exclusive: Hunter Biden's gallery sold his art to a Democratic donor 'friend' who Joe Biden named to a prestigious commission*, INSIDER (Jul. 24, 2023).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Press Release, *President Obama Announces More Key Administration Posts*, THE WHITE HOUSE PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA (Jan. 5, 2017).

⁵ Joseph Simonson & Chuck Ross, *Hunter Biden's Art Patron Visited White House Over a Dozen Times*, WASH. FREE BEACON (Jul. 25, 2023).

The Committee is engaged in the legislative process, as it is analyzing potential legislation it has deemed necessary to provide transparency to the American people. The Committee seeks to craft legislative solutions aimed at deficiencies it has identified in the current legal framework regarding ethics laws and disclosure of financial interests related to the immediate family members of Vice Presidents and Presidents—deficiencies that may place American national security and interests at risk. The Committee has released two memoranda that show through subpoenaed bank records how Biden family members and their associates have brought in millions of dollars—including while Joe Biden served as Vice President—from foreign sources by using third parties to conceal the source and nature of the funds. The Committee is concerned Hunter Biden has used his new career as an artist to peddle influence in and access to the White House.

The Committee seeks information related to the White House’s involvement in planning for the sale of Hunter Biden’s artwork. Please produce the following information and documents to the Committee as soon as possible, but no later than August 11, 2023:

1. All documents and communications between or among the White House, Georges Bergés, the Georges Bergés Gallery, and Elizabeth Hirsh Naftali;
2. All documents and communications from any federal employee regarding the purchase of Hunter Biden’s art;
3. All documents and communications from any federal employee regarding Elizabeth Hirsh Naftali’s appointment to the Commission; and
4. All documents and communications regarding Elizabeth Hirsh Naftali’s visits to the White House since December 2021.

To schedule the delivery of responsive documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability