

Matthew Warner


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February 24, 2017

The Honorable Carolyn W. Dull, Mayor of Staunton
Staunton City Hall
116 W Beverley Street
Staunton, VA 24401

RE: Resolution in Support of Congressional Investigation
regarding Impeachment of President Donald J. Trump

Dear Mayor Dull:

As a nearly 12-year resident of our city, I'm writing to request the City Council place the enclosed "Resolution in Support of Congressional Investigation regarding Impeachment of President Donald J. Trump" on its docket for consideration at its next meeting.

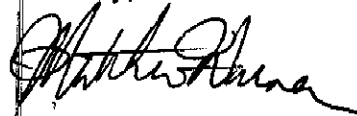
The proposed resolution alleges President Trump is in violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause and the Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution. If adopted, the City Council would officially transmit the resolution to our neighboring communities in the 6th Congressional District and to Congressman Bob Goodlatte.

The City of Richmond, California, recently adopted a similar resolution, and it is my belief other community governments across the nation will follow. I would be proud if my home city joined this movement.

Although I am not a Constitutional scholar, I would be happy to speak before the City Council in support of the resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matthew Warner

Enclosure

**Resolution in Support of Congressional Investigation regarding
Impeachment of President Donald J. Trump**

WHEREAS, the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution provides that “no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under [the United States], shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State,” thereby prohibiting conflicts of interest that could influence the conduct of the foreign affairs of the United States,

WHEREAS, the Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution provides that, besides the fixed salary for his four-year term, the President “shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them,” thereby prohibiting conflicts of interest that could influence the conduct of the domestic affairs of the United States,

WHEREAS, the term “emoluments” includes a broad range of financial benefits, including but not limited to monetary payments, purchase of goods and services even for fair market value, subsidies, tax breaks, extensions of credit, and favorable regulatory treatment,

WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump, the President of the United States, owns various business interests and receives various streams of income from all over the world,

WHEREAS, many of these businesses receive, and streams of income include, emoluments from foreign governments, states of the United States, or the United States itself,

WHEREAS, leading constitutional scholars and government ethics experts warned Donald J. Trump shortly after the November 2016 election that, unless he fully divested his businesses and invested the money in conflict free assets or a blind trust, he would violate the Constitution from the moment he took office,

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2017, nine days before his inauguration, Donald J. Trump announced a plan that would, if carried out, remove him from day-to-day operations of his businesses, but not eliminate any of the ongoing flow of emoluments from foreign governments, state governments, or the United States government,

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump took the oath of office and became President of the United States,

WHEREAS, from the moment he took office, President Trump was in violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause and the Domestic Emoluments Clause of the United States Constitution,

WHEREAS, these violations undermine the integrity of the Presidency, corruptly advance the personal wealth of the President, and violate the public trust,

WHEREAS, our democracy is premised on the bedrock principle that no one is above the law, not even the President of the United States,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA, RESOLVES to call upon the United States House of Representatives to support a resolution authorizing and directing the House Committee on the Judiciary to investigate whether sufficient grounds exist for the impeachment of Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, including but not limited to the violations listed herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted officially to the Member of the United States House of Representatives that represents the city, namely, the Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted officially to certain other cities and communities in this state, namely, the County of Shenandoah, the County of Rockingham, the County of Augusta, the County of Highland, the County of Bath, the County of Rockbridge, the County of Amherst, the County of Botetourt, the City of Waynesboro, the City of Harrisonburg, the City of Lynchburg, the City of Roanoke, and the City of Richmond,

Approved and enacted this day: _____