

PEARL CITY NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 21

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817 PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET <u>http:///www.honolulu.gov/nco</u>

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URGING THE MAYOR TO RESTORE PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN CITY GOVERNMENT.

WHEREAS, in 2017 the City and County of Honolulu became entangled in an ongoing federal criminal investigation; and

WHEREAS, since the onset, several key City officials have been criminally convicted, and others have become the "subject" or "target" of federal investigations, and subsequently placed on paid leave; and

WHEREAS, for more than a year the Corporation Counsel and the Prosecuting Attorney among others, have remained on paid leave costing City taxpayers in excess of two million dollars in

salary; and

WHEREAS, historically, all City employees including exempt staff have observed the leave policies and personnel procedures as outlined in the Civil Service Rules of the Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, permitting any City official who may be under federal investigation to receive a salary indefinitely and without working, is inconsistent with the restrictions placed on all other City workers; and

WHEREAS, most recently, it was reported that the Managing Director may also be the "subject" of a federal investigation; and

WHEREAS, during past criminal investigations involving City officials, exempt employees have typically resigned or opted for leave without pay, thus minimizing the public's burden and embarrassment; and

WHEREAS, Article XIV of the Hawai'i State Constitution reads:

"The people of Hawaii believe that public officers and employees must exhibit the highest standards of ethical conduct and that these standards come from the personal integrity of each individual in government"; and

WHEREAS, Sections 11-101 and 11-104 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, 1973 (2017 Edition) mandates the following:

"Elected and appointed officers and employees shall demonstrate by their example the highest standards of ethical conduct, to the end that the public may justifiably have trust and confidence in the integrity of government. They, as agents of public purpose, shall hold their offices or positions for the benefit of the public, shall recognize that the public interest is their primary concern, and shall faithfully discharge the duties of their offices regardless of personal considerations.

Fair and Equal Treatment. Elected or appointed officers or employees shall not use their official positions to secure or grant special consideration, treatment, advantage, privilege or exemption to themselves or any person beyond that which is available to every other person"; and

WHEREAS, these ongoing scandals have plagued the thousands of dedicated City employees, placed a tremendous burden on City finances and shaken the public's trust and confidence in City government; and

WHEREAS, to uphold the highest ethical standard, eliminate any hint of impropriety, and to restore integrity in public service, any City official that is a "subject" or "target" of an ongoing federal investigation should immediately and voluntarily resign from office; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor is requested to work expeditiously to restore the public's confidence and integrity in our government by:

- 1) Removing from office all Executive appointed personnel who are a "subject" or "target" to any ongoing federal investigation; and
- 2) Publicly calling for the Prosecuting Attorney and related exempt personnel under investigation to resign and if necessary, stopping all salary allotments until fully implemented; and
- 3) Developing a program to combat public corruption within the City and County of Honolulu.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that electronic copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Mayor, all Members of Honolulu the City Council and the Chairpersons of all Neighborhood Boards.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Chamaine town

Charmaine T. Doran Chair, Legislative and Capital Improvements Committee