

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

November 17, 2022

Mr. Georges Bergès,
Georges Bergès Gallery
462 W. Broadway
New York, NY 10012

Dear Mr. Bergès:

Committee Republicans are continuing to investigate President Joe Biden and his family's domestic and international business dealings. We wrote to you on September 7, 2021, and September 22, 2021, requesting information about the sale of Hunter Biden's artwork at your gallery.¹ You failed to respond. As we look to the 118th Congress, the investigation of the Biden family's questionable business dealings will be a priority for the Committee. It is important that we learn who has purchased Hunter Biden's artwork and whether the purchasers intended to benefit from President Biden's elected office. Therefore, we reiterate our previous requests for documents and information about transactions related to Hunter Biden's artwork.

The exorbitant profitability of Hunter Biden's artwork² and the layers of obscurity surrounding the buyers' identities³ raise serious ethical concerns.⁴ The prices of Hunter Biden's art sells for anywhere between \$75,000—more than the median household income for the American family—to \$500,000 which raises questions about why a party would pay such exorbitant prices for work by an amateur artist.⁵ When the son of the sitting President of the United States is the recipient of such high-dollar sums with no accountability or oversight, it raises concerns that the buyers may be purchasing the pieces with the intent of gaining favor with the Biden family.⁶

¹ Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight and Reform, to Mr. Georges Bergès (Sept. 7, 2021); Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight and Reform, to Mr. Georges Bergès (Sept. 22, 2021).

² Graham Bowley & Robin Pogrebin, *A Gallery Sells Hunter Bidens. The White House Says It Won't Know Who's Buying*, N. Y. TIMES (Aug. 13, 2021).

³ Matt Viser, *Deal of the Art: White House Grapples with Ethics of Hunter Biden's Pricey Paintings*, WASH. POST (Jul. 8, 2021); Ben Schreckinger, *'Hiding the Ball': Hunter Biden Complicates White House Anti-Corruption Push*, POLITICO (Oct. 12, 2021).

⁴ Casey Michel, *The Emerging Artistry of Hunter Biden*, THE ATLANTIC (Sept. 22, 2021); S. Permanent Subcomm. on Investigations, Staff Report: *The Art Industry and U.S. Policies that Undermine Sanctions*, 116th Cong. (July 29, 2020).

⁵ U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, P60-276, *INCOME IN THE UNITED STATES: 2021*, 1 (Sept. 2022); *Supra*, n.3.

⁶ Jack Greenberg, *Billionaire Mega-Donor at Center of Hunter Biden Art Sales Raises Ethics Concerns*, DAILY

For decades, the Biden family has profited from Joe Biden's positions of public trust.⁷ The evidence surrounding Hunter Biden's past foreign business transactions does not foster confidence in the propriety of your gallery's purportedly anonymous art sales.⁸ The American people deserve transparency into the high-dollar transactions and the buyers of Hunter Biden's art.

We believe you possess information critical to this investigation. As such, please provide the following documents to Committee Republicans as soon as possible, but no later than December 1, 2022:

1. All documents and communications between you, Georges Bergès Gallery (or agents thereof), and the White House including a copy of the ethics guidelines;
2. All documents and communications between you, Georges Bergès Gallery (or agents thereof), and Hunter Biden;
3. All guidelines, agreements, contracts, or other documents executed by you or Georges Bergès Gallery (or agents thereof) in connection with Hunter Biden;
4. All documents and communications pertaining to setting the prices for Hunter Biden's art;
5. A copy of the ethics guidelines, created in conjunction with the White House and/or Office of Government Ethics, pertaining to Hunter Biden's art;
6. Documents sufficient to show who attended the opening of Hunter Biden's art shows; and
7. Documents sufficient to show who purchased Hunter Biden's artwork.

In addition, we request that you preserve all responsive documents, communications, and other data ("records") in your possession that may be required for our oversight and investigative duties.⁹ Accordingly, we request that you:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data ("electronic records") from January 20, 2021, to present, related to the documents regarding Hunter Biden and his art;

CALLER (Oct. 31, 2021).

⁷ Ben Schreckinger, *Biden Inc.: How 'Middle Class' Joe's Family Cashed In*, POLITICO MAGAZINE (Aug. 2, 2019).

⁸ *Hunter Biden: What Was He Doing in China and Ukraine*, BBC NEWS (Apr. 6, 2021); *Id.*

⁹ For the purposes of this request, "preserve" means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records, as well as negligent or intentional handling that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible.

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2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records that they are to be preserved; and
3. Preserve all compilations of documents that have already been gathered in response to other government or litigation requests, even if copies of individual documents or materials may still exist elsewhere in the organization.

To schedule the delivery of responsive documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform 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 attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform