



**Judicial
Watch**
*Because no one
is above the law!*

VIA EMAIL (OCE@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV)

April 19, 2021

Chairman David Skaggs
Office of Congressional Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
425 Third Street, SW, Suite 1110
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Ethics Complaint against Congresswoman Maxine Waters Concerning Possible Violations of Congressional Ethics

Dear Chairman Skaggs,

Judicial Watch is a non-profit, non-partisan educational foundation, promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in government and fidelity to the rule of law. We regularly monitor congressional ethics issues as part of our anti-corruption mission.

This letter serves as an official complaint with the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE).

Judicial Watch files this complaint with OCE in connection with the highly questionable conduct of Representative Maxine Waters (CA-43).

Based upon information and belief, Rep. Waters recently employed incendiary language in public comments on April 18th in the middle of protests in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

When asked about the trial of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin in relation to the death of George Floyd, Ms. Waters responded, “We’re looking for a guilty verdict. And we’re looking to see if all of the talk that took place and has been taking place after they saw what happened to George Floyd – if nothing does not happen, then we know that we have got to not only stay in the street but we have got to fight for justice. But I am very hopeful. And I hope that we are going to get a verdict that will say guilty, guilty, guilty. And if we don’t, we cannot go away.”

Ms. Waters then was asked about the possibility that Mr. Chauvin is convicted of manslaughter, one of the charges against him, to which she responds, “Oh no, not manslaughter. No, no, no. This is, this is guilty for murder. I don’t know whether it’s in the first degree, but as far as I’m concerned, it’s first-degree murder.”

Further along in this interview, Ms. Waters is asked by the reporter, “Ms. Congresswoman, what happens if we do not get, get what you just told us. What should the people do? What should protesters in the street do?”

Rep. Waters replied, “Well, we got to stay on the street. And we’ve got to get more active, we’ve got to get more confrontational. You’ve got to make sure that they, they know that we mean business.” Rep. Waters also suggested citizens should ignore a lawful curfew.¹

¹ See

https://twitter.com/AlphaNewsMN/status/1383645408765743108?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1383645408765743108%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_c10&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nationalreview.com%2Fnews%2Fmaxine-waters-tells-protesters-to-stay-in-the-street-be-more-confrontational-if-chauvin-acquitted%2F

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Ms. Waters took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, which includes the rights accorded to Officer Chauvin to a fair and impartial trial by a jury of his peers and to due process. Ms. Waters' inflammatory comments that pressure the jury, while encouraging rioters already engaged in rampant destruction of property and attacks on police officers, to "get more confrontational" are irresponsible and dangerous incitement by a Member of Congress.

House Rule 23, Clause 1, of the Code of Official Conduct of the Rules of the House of Representatives states: "A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House shall conduct himself at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House."²

Ms. Waters' conduct surely does not reflect creditably on the House. By encouraging violence in response to a "guilty" jury verdict, she seeks to undermine the Constitution's guarantees and protections and foster the breakdown of civil society. Such dangerous and reckless rhetoric demands investigation.

More disturbingly still, this behavior by Rep. Waters represents a pattern of conduct. In June 2018, Ms. Waters exhorted protesters to form "crowds" to "push back" on President Trump's cabinet members, saying, "If you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd and you push back on them! And you tell them that they are not welcome, anymore, anywhere."

That reprehensible conduct prompted Judicial Watch to file an earlier complaint with OCE, which has been inexcusably ignored.³

Rep. Maxine Waters' comments, in the least, fall under the expansive standard for "incitement" set by the House in its snap impeachment proceedings against President Trump.

Judicial Watch calls upon the Office of Congressional Ethics to launch an investigation into Ms. Waters' comments immediately.

I affirm that to the best of my knowledge and ability all evidence submitted was not obtained in violation of any law, rule, or regulation. I acknowledge that Section 1001 of title 18 of the United States Code (popularly known as the False Statements Act) applies to the information provided.

² See P. 24 of https://ethics.house.gov/sites/ethics.house.gov/files/documents/2008_House_Ethics_Manual.pdf.

³ See <https://www.judicialwatch.org/press-releases/judicial-watch-files-house-ethics-complaint-against-maxine-waters-for-inciting-violence-and-assaults-on-trump-cabinet/>

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Sincerely,



Tom Fitton
President