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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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One Hundred Seventeenth Congress

Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol

November 23, 2021

Proud Boys International, L.L.C.
c/o Mr. Jason Lee Van Dyke



Dear Mr. Van Dyke:

Pursuant to the authorities set forth in House Resolution 503 and the rules of the House of Representatives, the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol (“Select Committee”) hereby transmits a subpoena that compels you to produce the documents set forth in the accompanying schedule by December 7, 2021.

The Select Committee is investigating the facts, circumstances, and causes of the January 6th attack and issues relating to the peaceful transfer of power, in order to identify and evaluate lessons learned and to recommend to the House and its relevant committees corrective laws, politics, procedures, rules, or regulations. The inquiry includes examination of how various individuals and entities coordinated their activities leading up to the events of January 6, 2021, as well as the influencing factors that fomented such an attack on American representative democracy while engaged in a constitutional process.

The investigation and public reports have revealed credible evidence of the involvement of the Proud Boys in the events within the scope of the Select Committee’s inquiry. You have been identified in reporting as the Proud Boys’ attorney;¹ you also reportedly served as Chairman of the Proud Boys in 2018.² You have also been identified in reporting as the former owner of the “Proud Boys” trademark, which you surrendered in February 2021.³ JLVD Holdings, L.L.C.—which corresponds to your initials—is listed as the last director of Proud Boys International, L.L.C., before its dissolution on February 10, 2021.⁴ As you appear to be the last record-holder of Proud Boys International, L.L.C., the Select Committee seeks relevant records in your possession, custody, or control.

¹ *A Proud Boys Lawyer Wanted to Be a Nazi Terrorist*, VICE, Dec. 8, 2020, <https://www.vice.com/en/article/wx8xp4/a-proud-boys-lawyer-wanted-to-be-a-nazi-terrorist>.

² *Gavin McInnes: founder of far-right Proud Boys denied Australian visa – report*, THE GUARDIAN, Nov. 30, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/30/gavin-mcinnis-proud-boys-australia-visa>.

³ *PROUD BOYS trademark owner surrenders registration weeks after Capitol riot*, WORLD TRADEMARK REVIEW, Feb. 15, 2021, <https://www.worldtrademarkreview.com/governmentpolicy/proud-boys-trademark-owner-surrenders-registration-weeks-after-capitol-riot>.

⁴ *Proud Boys International L.L.C.*, OPENCORPORATES, https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_tx/0803172528.

Indictments returned by a federal grand jury in Washington, D.C., indicate that Proud Boys engaged in extensive calls for violence leading up to January 6, 2021. On November 5, 2020, Joe Biggs, a Proud Boys member indicted by the Department of Justice (“DOJ”), posted on social media, “It’s time for f***ing war if they steal this s***,” referring to the 2020 election results.⁵ Mr. Biggs also claimed, on a Proud Boys livestreamed show called *WarBoys*, that government officials are “evil scum, and they all deserve to die a traitor’s death.” Ethan Nordean, a Proud Boys leader also indicted by the DOJ, responded, “Yup, Day of the Rope,”⁶ referring to a day of mass lynching of “race traitors” in the white supremacist novel *The Turner Diaries*. Shortly before January 6, Mr. Nordean said on his podcast, “When police officers or government officials are breaking the law, what are we supposed to do as the people? Discourse? What are we supposed to debate? No, you have to use force.”⁷

According to allegations of District of Columbia officials, on December 12, 2020, Proud Boys incited violence and vandalism in the streets of Washington, D.C., while rallying in support of then-President Trump’s attempts to overturn the election results.⁸ During these events, Proud Boys Chairman Henry “Enrique” Tarrío burned a “Black Lives Matter” banner stolen from the Asbury United Methodist Church.⁹

On December 19, 2020, a Stop the Steal protest event was announced for January 6, 2021.¹⁰ On December 29, Mr. Tarrío posted the following message on Parler: “We will not be wearing our traditional Black and Yellow. We will be incognito and will spread across downtown DC in smaller teams ... who knows...we might dress in all BLACK for the occasion.”¹¹

On January 4, 2021, Mr. Tarrío was arrested for the December 12, 2020, burning of a “Black Lives Matter” banner and barred from entering the District of Columbia on the following days. Though Mr. Tarrío was prevented from participating in the events at the United States Capitol on January 6th, to date, at least 34 individuals affiliated with the Proud Boys have been indicted by the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) in relation to the attack at the United States Capitol. Certain indictments returned against Proud Boys members describe prior planning and coordination, including efforts to fundraise for “[p]rotective gear and communications.”¹² Furthermore, video evidence plainly demonstrates that Proud Boys members are involved in the January 6th attack.¹³

⁵ *Conspiracy Charges Bring Proud Boys' History Of Violence Into Spotlight*, NPR, Apr. 9, 2021, <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/09/985104612/conspiracy-charges-bring-proud-boys-history-of-violence-into-spotlight>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Proud Boys sparked clashes during pro-Trump rally, D.C. officials say*, WASHINGTON POST, Dec. 14, 2020, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/trump-rally-violence-proud-boys/2020/12/14/bf2f5826-3e26-11eb-8bc0-ae155bee4aff_story.html.

⁹ *A Proud Boys Leader Who Burned a Black Lives Matter Flag Gets 5 Months in Jail*, NPR, Aug. 23, 2021, <https://www.npr.org/2021/08/23/1030430809/proud-boys-enrique-tarrio-sentence>.

¹⁰ *United States v. Nordean et al.*, First Superseding Indictment, D.D.C., Criminal No. 21-cr-175 (TJK), Mar. 10, 2021, available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/case-multi-defendant/file/1377586/download>.

¹¹ *Proud Boys Say They'll "Be Incognito" During January 6 Trump Rallies in DC*, WASHINGTONIAN, Dec. 31, 2020, <https://www.washingtonian.com/2020/12/31/proud-boys-say-theyll-be-incognito-during-january-6-trump-rallies-in-dc/>.

¹² *United States v. Nordean et al.*, First Superseding Indictment, D.D.C., Criminal No. 21-cr-175 (TJK), Mar. 10, 2021, available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/case-multi-defendant/file/1377586/download>.

¹³ *DOJ releases Capitol riot videos from case involving Proud Boys*, CNN (YouTube), June 22, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecwqRIUrYZI>.

Accordingly, the Select Committee seeks documents regarding these and other matters that are within the scope of the Select Committee's inquiry.

A copy of the rules governing Select Committee depositions, and document production definitions and instructions are attached. Please contact staff for the Select Committee at 202-225-7800 to arrange for the production of documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman