



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler  
City of Portland

April 10, 2018

Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Special Agent In Charge Loren Cannon  
9109 NE Cascades Parkway  
Portland, OR 97220

Re: Russian Interference In Local Politics

Dear Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein and Special Agent In Charge Cannon:

As the Mayor of Portland, Oregon, I am deeply troubled to learn of the large number of fake social-media accounts linked to Russia being used to influence American politics. While most of the attention has focused on the Kremlin's effort to influence the 2016 presidential election, I am concerned that foreign powers may be aiming their technological weapons at local politics as well.

As you know, Special Counsel Robert Mueller recently indicted the Internet Research Agency ("IRA") and 13 Russians for conspiracy to interfere with the U.S. political process, including the 2016 presidential election. As described in the indictment, these Russian conspirators created fake social media accounts and used them to:

- "[S]ow discord in the U.S. political system." Indictment, ¶ 6.
- Wage "information warfare against the United States of America." *Id.* at ¶ 10(c).
- Spread "distrust toward the candidates and the political system in general." *Id.* at ¶ 10(e).

In particular, the indicted Russian conspirators allegedly:

- "[T]hrough fraud and deceit, created hundreds of social media accounts and used them to develop certain fictitious U.S. personas." *Id.* at ¶ 32.
- "[C]reated and controlled numerous Twitter accounts designed to appear as if U.S. persons or groups controlled them." *Id.* at ¶ 36.

- Bought space on computer servers in the U.S. as a way of “masking the Russian origin and control of the activity.” *Id.* at ¶ 39.
- Used the online accounts to “write about topics germane to the United States such as U.S. foreign policy and U.S. economic issues ... to create ‘political intensity through supporting radical groups, users dissatisfied with [the] social and economic situation and oppositional social movements.’” *Id.* at ¶ 33.
- Used these fake social media personas to, among other things, urge people not to vote, to vote in a particular way, spread allegations of voter fraud, and otherwise interfere in the U.S. political system. *Id.* at ¶¶ 45-47.

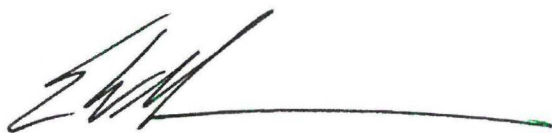
I am concerned that foreign conspirators are using these same tactics to sow discord into local politics in America.

For example, as recently reported in *Willamette Week*, approximately 38% of the followers of my official Twitter account, @tedwheeler, are of dubious origin. In addition, City Staff have noticed some Official City Twitter and Facebook accounts receiving an unusual amount of suspicious, repetitive engagements that raise concern about automated, nefarious activity aimed at official City online accounts.

Finally, based on the nature of some posts to city social media accounts and information on Russian propaganda accounts made publicly available, I believe that it may be likely that Portland Twitter and Facebook accounts may have been, or currently are, being used by foreign conspirators in an attempt to sow political discord into our local politics in Portland.

Accordingly, I respectfully request a federal investigation into foreign interference with our local political process in Portland, Oregon. I suspect this problem reaches far beyond our City, but Portland stands ready to lead the way to keep local politics free of foreign interference. Please let me know how my office can assist in any investigation, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Ted Wheeler  
Mayor, City of Portland