



March 13, 2018

Xavier Becerra
Attorney General
California Department of Justice
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Re: Takeover Public Corruption Investigation of DWP Billing Case Jones v. City of LA From City Attorney

Attorney General Becerra:

One week ago we learned that a massive fraud emanating from the Los Angeles City Attorneys' Office had been perpetrated on the court, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP) ratepayers and the public.

At that time, Consumer Watchdog advised City Attorney Mike Feuer to remove his top aides, who were implicated in the matter, and turn the case over for investigation to the California Department of Justice or another independent agency. He has refused to do so and also publicly denied key facts and evidence brought to the attention of the court under penalty of perjury. Evidence suggests Mr. Feuer knew about the wrongful conduct. We now ask that you take over the investigation of the City Attorney's misconduct in the matter of *Jones v. DWP* and report back to the public about your findings. The City Attorney cannot be trusted to investigate his own agency.

Unrefuted evidence and testimony before LA Superior Court Judge Elihu Berle show that two law firms hired by the City Attorney's office as "special counsel" represented both the plaintiff in the DWP mis-billing case and the defendant, the City of LA and DWP. The court, the public, plaintiff Antwon Jones and ratepayers were not advised of any of this.

The special counsel colluded with an Ohio attorney they had worked with to take over existing ratepayer class actions cases against DWP and steer them toward a quick resolution sought by their other client, the City. That gave them complete control over both sides of the litigation and its outcome. It also allowed them to then sue software consultant PWC and make a nearly 20% contingency fee arrangement with the City of Los Angeles. The public was denied a fair settlement, discovery in the case, and a resolution to their billing error problems, which continue to this day. The Ohio attorney invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination when asked whether he had paid referral fees to the special counsel.

One of the City Attorney's special counsel controlled an LLC that was the beneficiary of a \$36 million no-bid DWP contract that court documents suggest was won under phony pretenses. The company's official business address is an ocean front Santa Monica penthouse condo owned by

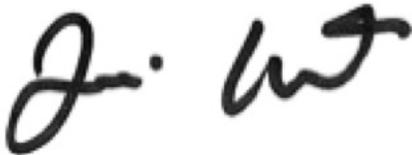
the lawyer. Adding to the mystery of how that money was spent, supposedly consulting services to improve customer service, the LLC, Aventador Utilities Systems, is also named after a \$410,000 Lamborghini.

In the wake of this unfolding scandal, both special counsel resigned. Feuer has hired an ethics expert for a review. However, the City Attorney's continued denials of conflicts of interest in the face of sworn testimony and documents should compel the Department of Justice to open an investigation and take over this matter to uncover all unethical and criminal conduct and to protect the public. When the lead attorney for the class of ratepayers who have been misbilled by DWP has to take the Fifth Amendment there clearly is a conflict of interest.

The problems at DWP have a long shameful history. Your office should immediately begin an investigation into the fraud, billing scandal, and public corruption the new evidence in Berle's court have uncovered.

Attached is our letter of one week ago to Mr. Feuer. We stand ready to assist in any investigation and provide any information we are privy to.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Court". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jamie Court