

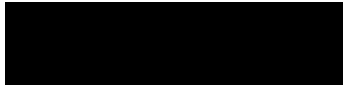


One Hundred Seventeenth Congress

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

January 13, 2022

Mr. Parag Agrawal
Chief Executive Officer
Twitter, Inc.



Dear Mr. Agrawal:

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 Twitter to produce the documents set forth in the accompanying schedule by January 27, 2022.

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, policies, procedures, rules, or regulations. The inquiry includes examination of how various individuals and entities communicated and 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.

Among other areas of investigation, the Select Committee has been investigating the use of social media products to organize the attack, whether social media products contribute to radicalization and/or the spread of misinformation or disinformation, and what these companies know about their use in the attack itself or the spread of extremism that enabled the attack.¹

Twitter’s former CEO Jack Dorsey acknowledged last year that Twitter bore some responsibility for the violence that occurred on January 6th.² Indeed, Twitter subscribers reportedly used the platform for communications regarding the planning and execution of the assault on the United States Capitol,³ and Twitter was reportedly warned about potential violence being planned

¹ Letter from Chairman Bennie G. Thompson to Jack Dorsey (Aug. 26, 2021), available at <https://democrats-january6th.house.gov/sites/democrats.january6th.house.gov/files/2021-08-26.BGT%20to%20Twitter.pdf>.

² See Kate Conger, *Jack Dorsey Says Twitter Played a Role in U.S. Capitol Riot*, N.Y. Times (Mar. 25, 2021), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/25/business/jack-dorsey-twitter-capitol-riot.html>.

³ Atlantic Council’s DFRLab, *#StopTheSteal: Timeline of Social Media and Extremist Activities Leading to 1/6 Insurrection*, (Feb. 10, 2021), Just Security, available at <https://www.justsecurity.org/74622/stopthesteal-timeline-of-social-media-and-extremist-activities-leading-to-1-6-insurrection>; Dan Barry & Sheera Frenkel, *‘Be There. Will be Wild!’: Trump All but Circled the Date*, N.Y. Times (July 27, 2021), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/06/us/politics/capitol-mob-trump-supporters.html>.

on the site in advance of January 6th.⁴ Further, high-profile Twitter subscribers used the platform for communications amplifying allegations of election fraud even after the December 14 certification of election results by the states, and theories of election fraud in the weeks leading up to the January 6th attack following the December 14 certification of election results by the states. For example, President Donald Trump on December 19 tweeted “Statistically impossible to have lost the 2020 Election,” and urged his followers to come to Washington to engage in a “wild” protest on January 6, 2021.

Unfortunately, the Select Committee believes Twitter has failed to disclose critical information that is responsive to its August 26, 2021 document request.⁵ For example, Twitter has not produced important documents relating to warnings it received regarding the use of the platform to plan or incite violence on January 6th. In addition, Twitter has failed to fully comply or even commit to a timeline for complying with the Select Committee’s request for internal company analyses of misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation relating to the 2020 election, efforts to challenge or overturn the election, and the use of Twitter by domestic violent extremists or foreign malign influences to affect the 2020 election. Finally, Twitter has failed to produce any documents that fully explain either its decision to suspend President Trump’s account on January 8, 2021, or any other decisions the company made regarding President Trump’s account relating to the events of January 6th.⁶

After over four months of good-faith negotiations on the part of the Select Committee, it has become clear that Twitter is unwilling to commit to voluntarily and expeditiously complying with the Select Committee’s requests. Accordingly, the Select Committee is transmitting this subpoena for priority documents in the scope of the August 26, 2021 request. A copy of the document production definitions and instructions is attached. Please contact staff for the Select Committee at 202-225-7800 to arrange for the production of documents.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman

⁴ See, e.g., Danica Kirka, *Prince Harry Says he Warned Twitter CEO of Jan. 6 Capitol Riots: ‘I Haven’t Heard From Him Since,’* Associated Press (Nov. 10, 2021), available at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/celebrities/2021/11/10/prince-harry-says-he-warned-twitter-ceo-before-jan-6-capitol-riots/6367058001>.

⁵ Letter from Chairman Bennie Thompson to Jack Dorsey (Aug. 26, 2021), available at <https://january6th.house.gov/sites/democrats.january6th.house.gov/files/2021-08-26.BGT%20to%20Twitter.pdf>.

⁶ See, e.g., Jefferson Graham, *Are Trump’s Days of Special Treatment on Twitter Numbered? Post Presidency, He’ll Be Just Another User,* USA Today (Nov. 17, 2020), available at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2020/11/06/twitter-wont-give-trump-special-treatment-post-presidency/6181794002>.