We are disappointed in ProPublica's decision to proceed with publishing this story given (i) your admission that your reporting is based almost exclusively on the recollections of unnamed sources concerning events which you allege occurred nearly 40 years ago and principally involve individuals who have long since deceased; and (ii) your acknowledgement that you do not possess a single document to corroborate the allegations of any of your sources. Indeed, when I asked you to send me documents corroborating the allegations you responded by sending me the assessed value history reports for two properties, both of which are publically available.

To be clear, at no time did the Trump Organization or any of its employees or principals ever pay anyone for the purpose of unlawfully obtaining a lower tax valuation. This was corroborated by multiple investigations which found no evidence of any wrongdoing by the company or any of its principals. It is also supported by the information we have provided you explaining the basis for the assessed values of certain properties. If anything, the Trump Organization was a victim of the scandal as reflected by the company's lawsuit against the city based on statements by a former assessor that he would artificially raise values on those developers who refused to participate in the scheme. Tellingly, the city agreed to settle that suit.

Given these undisputed facts, we believe that ProPublica's reporting is reckless, irresponsible and violates the most basic principles of ethical journalism. We would urge you to proceed with caution before making any unsubstantiated allegations against the company or any of its current or former employees or principals.