

Monday, February 22, 2021

Aman Bhutani
CEO, GoDaddy.com
14455 N Hayden Rd Suite 100, Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Re: Cutting the Cord with Groups That Incited Capitol Riot

Dear Aman,

As president of government watchdog Accountable.US, I write to you today to express deep concern that your company continues to provide services to several organizations that were closely involved with the “March to Save America” rally that featured Donald Trump and incited the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th.

As a prominent American business leader, who you choose to conduct business with demonstrates your corporate values. We believe that providing a platform for dangerous rhetoric and conspiracies that gin up would-be insurrectionists does not reflect well on those values and poses a serious reputational risk.

In all, we found that GoDaddy.com is the registrar for the websites of eight organizations involved with the events leading up to the January 6th Capitol riots, and serves as host for three organizations, including:

- **Turning Point USA**, whose website is registered by **GoDaddy.com**, helped organize the January 6th rallies that led to the riot, with the organization's leader even providing [80 buses](#) to transport Trump supporters.
- The **Rule of Law Defense Fund**, the fundraising arm of the **Republican Attorneys General Association**, whose website is hosted by **Linode LLC** and registered by **GoDaddy.com**, sent [robocalls](#) urging Trump supporters to march on the Capitol the day before the Capitol riot occurred.
- **Women For America First**, whose website is registered by **GoDaddy.com**, urged a "[caravan](#)" of Trump supporters to attend the January 6th rally that led to the Capitol riot. In November 2020, Women For America First promoted the protests of white nationalist groups seeking to challenge the election results.
- **Tea Party Patriots**, whose website is registered by **GoDaddy.com**, was [listed](#) among the groups participating in the January 6th March to Save America Rally.
- **The Phyllis Schlafly Eagles**, whose website is registered by **GoDaddy.com**, was [listed](#) among the groups participating in the January 6th March to Save America Rally.

- Brian Gibson, the pastor of **HIS Church**, whose website is hosted and registered by **GoDaddy.com**, took part in an event "[billed as a combination worship service and rally for Trump](#)" the day before the January 6th Capitol riot. Gibson had previously spent a month on a national pro-Trump bus tour.
- **The Eighty Percent Coalition**, whose website is hosted and registered by **GoDaddy.com**, was [founded](#) just weeks before the January 6th rally and was named on permits for a November 2020 Pro-trump Rally featuring controversial Trump supporters Marjorie Taylor-Greene and Sebastian Gorka.
- **The Oath Keepers**, whose online store is hosted and registered by **GoDaddy.com**, has several members [charged](#) with conspiracy to commit federal crimes for organizing individuals who stormed the Capitol.

We know that GoDaddy.com has shown a past willingness to cut ties with organizations involved in promoting and amplifying hateful rhetoric. For instance, in October 2018, your company ended its relationship as the domain registrar of a far-right social media site, Gab, after it was found to be in violation of your terms of service following a mass shooting perpetuated by one of its users.

If your company maintains a policy against using your services to promote hate and violence, it was undoubtedly violated by the groups that used their platforms to peddle election conspiracies that culminated in the death and destruction we saw at the nation's Capitol.

As an online vendor, you are America's first line of defense against normalizing hate and misconduct. You should not have to wait for public scrutiny before cutting ties with groups that traffic in sedition. It is far more productive to nip hate in the bud rather than distance yourself from those who used your services to spread it once things inevitably get out of hand. We hope you do the right thing -- the public will be watching.

Sincerely,



Kyle Herrig
President,
Accountable.US