

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 11:29 AM
To: 'rubin-popea@ujafedny.org'
Cc: 'bessendorfa@ujafedny.org'

Subject: **AGAIN, URGENT -- Mamdani, the NYC mayoral race -- & the civic and Jewish obligations of UJA-NY Board Chair Marc Rowan & Board Members**

Attachments: [3-14-25-email-to-mamdani.pdf](#)

TO: Abbie Rubin-Pope, Policy & Advocate Associate for Government and External Relations – UJA-NY

This follows my phone conversation a short time ago with Melissa, who answered my call to the [“General Inquiries” phone number on the UJA-NY website \(212.980.1000\)](#).

Melissa stated you were in today, but at a meeting. However, she would not connect me to your extension or give me your direct number so that I might leave my own voice mail message. She assured me, however, that she would send you a message that I had phoned about the e-mail I sent you yesterday afternoon, in the absence of Ms. Bessendorf, to which I had received an auto-reply that you were then out of the office and would respond upon your return. Indeed, by the conclusion of our conversation, Melissa told me she had already sent you the message.

Below is my yesterday’s e-mail to you, with a subject line that began “URGENT...” and beneath it my e-mail to Ms. Bessendorf for forwarding to UJA-NY Board Chair Marc Rowan and ALL Board members. Kindly confirm that you have forwarded it to them – and, if not, the reason.

Also, please provide me with the name of UJA-NY’s director of government and external relations – which Melissa refused to provide and which Ms. Bessendorf refused to provide. Jef Leb had held that position, but Ms. Bessendorf told me, in our phone conversation on Monday, that he had left in 2012 – and my yesterday’s e-mail to her so-recites. Is that correct? Last evening I found a [Wikipedia entry for Mr. Leb](#) stating that he became “Managing Director of Government and External Relations for the UJA-Federation of New York” in December 2014 and still holds that position. If so, it reinforces the situation to which my yesterday’s e-mail for Board Chair Rowan and the Board members sought to alert them.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 4:23 PM
To: 'rubin-popea@ujafedny.org' <rubin-popea@ujafedny.org>

Subject: URGENT -- Mamdani, the NYC mayoral race -- & the civic and Jewish obligations of UJA-NY Board Chair Marc Rowan & Board Members

TO: Abbie Rubin-Pope

In response to my below e-mail to Anna Bessendorf, I received an auto-reply that that she is out of the office until next Tuesday, August 19th – and that you should be contacted in her absence.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Kindly forward the e-mail to UJA-NY Board Chair Marc Rowan – or call me.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 10:30 AM
To: 'bessendorfa@ujafedny.org' <bessendorfa@ujafedny.org>
Cc: 'ecosgrove@pasyn.org' <ecosgrove@pasyn.org>; 'ravsteven@thebayit.org' <ravsteven@thebayit.org>; 'rabbi@thealtneu.org' <rabbi@thealtneu.org>; 'rabbi@fhjc.org' <rabbi@fhjc.org>; 'yisny@yisny.org' <yisny@yisny.org>; 'rabbi.blake@wrtemple.org' <rabbi.blake@wrtemple.org>; 'rabbicarie@psjc.org' <rabbicarie@psjc.org>; 'rabbifersko@villagetemple.org' <rabbifersko@villagetemple.org>

Subject: Mamdani, the NYC mayoral race -- & the civic and Jewish obligations of UJA-NY Board Chair Marc Rowan & Board Members

TO: Anna Bessendorf, Manager of Government Relations – [UJA Federation of New York](http://www.ujafederation.org) 212-836-1804

This follows your return call to me yesterday afternoon, for which I thank you.

As discussed, it is essential that [UJA Federation of New York Board Chair Marc Rowan](http://www.ujafederation.org) and [Board Members](#) – who, doubtless, in their individual capacities, are generously contributing to PACs opposing Mamdani's election as NYC mayor – be apprised that Mamdani's June 24th Democratic primary win was rigged by NY's press, which had the EVIDENCE of his corruption as a NYS assemblyman, but reported NOTHING – and that it has continued to rig the NYC mayoral race and polls ever since, knowing that this will reasonably enable a Mamdani victory in November. This, where it has the open-and-shut, *prima facie* EVIDENCE of Mamdani's corrupting of lawful, constitutional state governance involving the NYS budget, his legislative

salary, and NY's oversight/"public protection" entities, causing vast, irreparable injury to the People of New York – mandating his indictment and ensuring his conviction.

Above-attached is the starting point of that EVIDENCE, my March 14th e-mail to Mamdani entitled "ELECTIONS ARE A TIME OF ACCOUNTABILITY...", to which he did not respond. It, along with my subsequent e-mails to Mamdani, also unresponded-to, and to NY's press based thereon, are posted on the website of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), www.judgewatch.org, of which I am co-founder and director, accessible from the prominent center link "[ELECTIONS 2025 – INFORMING THE VOTERS – ALERT: Corrupt candidates & incumbents are on the ballot](#)".

Inexplicably, Jewish and Israel-supporting press to which I have turned have also reported NOTHING. This is reflected by my below August 8th e-mail to, among others, Jeffrey Leb, identified by the Jewish Insider's July 29th article "[New York Jewish leaders reluctant to fight against Mamdani](#)" as a "political consultant who is leading a [new super PAC](#) called 'New Yorkers for a Better Future Mayor 2025' that plans to raise at least \$20 million to hit Mamdani" and who "held Zoom calls with more than 500 people and secured commitments..." (hyperlinking in the original).

You confirmed to me that Mr. Leb had been UJA-NY's director of government and external relations, but not since 2012. Surely, however, the "500 people" from whom Mr. Leb "secured commitments" include UJA-NY Board members. They need to know that no PAC is needed to raise and spend millions of dollars in the hope of defeating Mamdani. What is needed is **the certainty of Mamdani's defeat, easily-accomplished, without money, by an honest press simply doing its job of reporting on the EVIDENCE of his corruption and larceny as a NYS assemblyman.** Does UJA-NY not know of any such honest press or freelance reporters who would rise to the occasion to champion our New York State Constitution, the rule of law, Jewish values, the Jewish community, and our beloved Israel, by pumping out such honest journalism on the internet and social media?

As I believe it would be helpful if the eight rabbis serving on the UJA-NY Board furnished religious guidance as to UJA-NY's obligations in this matter – and their own – I am cc'ing them on this e-mail with a request for same.

To them, to you, to Chair Rowan and other Board members, and to UJA-NY's executive officers, I am available, *no matter how early or late*, to answer questions. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, obviously.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, August 8, 2025 1:20 PM
To: 'dgreenfield@metcouncil.org' <dgreenfield@metcouncil.org>; 'bseagal@metcouncil.org'

<bsegal@metcouncil.org>; 'acyperstein@metcouncil.org' <acyperstein@metcouncil.org>;
'Info@CapitolConsultingNY.com' <Info@CapitolConsultingNY.com>; 'elevine@eisemanlevine.com'
<elevine@eisemanlevine.com>; 'RJC@rjchq.org' <RJC@rjchq.org>; 'josh@flatbushjewish.com'
<josh@flatbushjewish.com>; 'Info@flatbushjewish.com' <Info@flatbushjewish.com>; 'sara@nysn.org'
<sara@nysn.org>; 'info@nysn.org' <info@nysn.org>
Cc: 'max@jewishinsider.com' <max@jewishinsider.com>; 'melissa@jewishinsider.com'
<melissa@jewishinsider.com>; 'danielle@jewishinsider.com' <danielle@jewishinsider.com>;
'Josh@JewishInsider.com' <Josh@JewishInsider.com>; 'rob@jewishinsider.com'
<rob@jewishinsider.com>; 'lahav@jewishinsider.com' <lahav@jewishinsider.com>;
'haley@jewishinsider.com' <haley@jewishinsider.com>; 'Matthew@JewishInsider.com'
<Matthew@JewishInsider.com>; 'editor@jewishinsider.com' <editor@jewishinsider.com>

Subject: ALERT: Mamdani can easily be defeated. All it requires is an honest press, reporting on the EVIDENCE of his corruption as a NYS assemblyman, for which he must be indicted & will be convicted.

TO: David G. Greenfield, Esq. -- [CEO & Executive Director – Met Council](#)
Jeffrey S. Leb – [Managing Partner – Capitol Consulting](#)
Eric Levine, Esq. – [Board Member -- Republican Jewish Coalition](#)
Josh Mehlman – [Chair -- Flatbush Jewish Community Coalition](#)
Sara Forman – [Executive Director -- New York Solidarity Network](#)

I am a Jew, a Zionist, lived for four years in Israel, and, for ten months, worked at the Israel Mission to the U.N. under Benjamin Netanyahu, who I greatly admire.

On July 29th you were featured by [Jewish Insider](#) in an article by its reporter Matthew Kassel under the depressing title "[New York Jewish leaders reluctant to fight against Mamdani](#)". In response to this – and unaware of an "analysis" by Editor-in-Chief Kraushaar, depressingly titled "[The collapse of the Mamdani opposition](#)", possibly not then posted, I sent to Kassel, Kraushaar, and others at [Jewish Insider](#), including its publisher and executive editor, the below e-mail entitled "Mamdani can easily be defeated. All it requires is an honest press, reporting on the EVIDENCE of his corruption as a NYS assemblyman, for which he must be indicted & will be convicted. Will that be you?"

[Jewish Insider](#)'s response to this [fully-documented](#) July 29th e-mail, whose starting point is my above-attached March 14th e-mail to Mamdani entitled "ELECTIONS ARE A TIME OF ACCOUNTABILITY...", was no response – and no reporting of Mamdani's corruption. Rather, on August 6th, it published a "fake news" article by Kraushaar entitled "[Most Jewish voters oppose Mamdani — but remain divided on an alternative](#)" – when, as obvious from the July 29th e-mail, Mamdani's candidacy cannot survive reporting of his "on-the-job performance" as a NYS assemblyman – reporting which, as part of the same story, clears the field of "alternatives", starting with Cuomo.

Please forward this e-mail to ALL your members and supporters so that they can make their own assessment of what [Jewish Insider](#) has known since July 29th, but not reported, namely, that Mamdani can be defeated, easily and without expense, simply by the press doing its job. I am cc'ing [Jewish Insider](#) so that it can have the opportunity to respond – and belatedly report.

I am available to answer questions, *no matter how early or late*. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, obviously.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 12:54 PM
To: 'max@jewishinsider.com' <max@jewishinsider.com>; 'melissa@jewishinsider.com' <melissa@jewishinsider.com>; 'danielle@jewishinsider.com' <danielle@jewishinsider.com>; 'Josh@JewishInsider.com' <Josh@JewishInsider.com>; 'rob@jewishinsider.com' <rob@jewishinsider.com>; 'lahav@jewishinsider.com' <lahav@jewishinsider.com>; 'haley@jewishinsider.com' <haley@jewishinsider.com>; 'Matthew@JewishInsider.com' <Matthew@JewishInsider.com>; 'editor@jewishinsider.com' <editor@jewishinsider.com>

Subject: Mamdani can easily be defeated. All it requires is an honest press, reporting on the EVIDENCE of his corruption as a NYS assemblyman, for which he must be indicted & will be convicted. Will that be you?

TO: The Jewish Insider
Max Neuberger, Founder
Melissa Weiss, Executive Editor
Danielle Cohen-Kanik, U.S. Editor
Josh Kraushaar, Editor-in-Chief
Rob Goldblum, Senior Editor
Lahav Harkov, Senior Political Correspondent
Haley Cohen, News Reporter
Matthew Kassel, Features Reporter

RE: Your today's article "[New York Jewish leaders reluctant to fight against Mamdani](#)" by Matthew Kassel.

Mamdani can easily be defeated. All it requires is an honest press, reporting on the EVIDENCE of his corruption as a NYS assemblyman, for which he must be indicted & will be convicted.

That EVIDENCE is particularized by my above-attached March 14th e-mail to Mamdani – and by my below July 13th and July 11th e-mails to The New York Times to which there has been no response. My e-mails to other New York press, to which, likewise, there has been no response, are posted [here](#).

“New York Jewish leaders” must be alerted to this **fully-documented, election-upending story** – and, even more importantly, the New York Jewish community, who have been betrayed by their own Jewish press – the EVIDENCE of which is posted [here](#).

I look forward to answering your questions. Please call, *no matter how early or late*. Time is of the essence, obviously.

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Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2025 12:40 PM
To: 'pdh@nytimes.com' <pdh@nytimes.com>
Cc: 'grace.ashford@nytimes.com' <grace.ashford@nytimes.com>; 'ben.oreskes@nytimes.com' <ben.oreskes@nytimes.com>; 'jay.root@nytimes.com' <jay.root@nytimes.com>; 'metro@nytimes.com' <metro@nytimes.com>; 'editorial@nytimes.com' <editorial@nytimes.com>; 'nytnews@nytimes.com' <nytnews@nytimes.com>; 'letters@nytimes.com' <letters@nytimes.com>; 'benjamin.mullin@nytimes.com' <benjamin.mullin@nytimes.com>

Subject: AGAIN -- The Times' "News Value" Standard & Confirmation "Through Direct Sources" -- MAMDANI, etc.

TO: New York Times Assistant Managing Editor Patrick Healy/Standards & Trust

Eight hours after sending you my below July 11th e-mail – whose several typos in Mamdani's name I have now corrected – the New York Post published "[Zohran Mamdani's campaign persona called into question by vote to give himself raise: critics](#)", identifying that "Mamdani did not respond to The Post's request for comment."

Apparently, The Post saw "news value" in its July 11th story. Do you? Will The Times be following up by requesting Mamdani's comment to The Post article – the tiniest sliver of Mamdani's hypocrisy and corruption that my below linked March 14th, March 17th, March 18th, and March 20th e-mails to him establish. Have you not yet determined their "news value"?

By the way, is The Times' May 28th article "[Mamdani Has a Thin Legislative Record but Is a Forceful Voice in Albany](#)" the only article The Times published about his record as an assemblyman – so puny that it had to be bolstered by comments from other legislators, ALL Democrats, as to his "forceful voice" "to move the ideological center of the Assembly to the left", intersplined with The Times' usual anti-Israel slanting and slandering, consistent with Mamdani's lies as, for instance, in stating: "Mr. Mamdani stands firm in his defense of Palestinians in Gaza, where over [53,000 people have been killed](#) by Israeli forces" – when revealed by the hyperlink is that this figure is "according to Palestinian health officials, who do not distinguish between civilians and combatants" – in other words, it is according to Hamas.

Suffice to say, this May 28th article, by two of your three Albany reporters – recipients of my March 18th and March 20th e-mails and of my May 18th letter to Publisher Sulzberger – concealed the ENTIRETY of what the e-mails particularized, with evidence, and falsely made it appear as if there is nothing irregular in how the Legislature operates, including pertaining to the budget and this fiscal year, and the inclusion of policy – indeed, concluding, as follows:

“Perhaps the most telling evidence of Mr. Mamdani’s evolution came earlier this month, when the budget bills came up for a vote. As in years past, they contained scores of policy changes, not all to Mr. Mamdani’s liking. Mr. Mamdani voted yes.”

For that “yes” vote alone, Mamdani cannot be elected NYC’s next mayor, because – based on my e-mails to him – he must be indicted and will be convicted of corruption. If you have any doubt of this, you should “confirm it through direct sources”, such as [former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Jim Walden](#), running for NYC mayor as an independent, with an [anti-corruption policy platform featured on his campaign website](#).

Tellingly, [Mamdani’s campaign website contains no anti-corruption platform](#) – and none is reflected in The Times’ July 9th guest essay “*If Zohran Mamdani Wins, Then What?*” by Ross Barkan, with its required disclosure: “In 2018, when I ran for state senator in New York City, Mr. Mamdani was my campaign manager”. Barkan, a left-wing, agenda-driven journalist, is an accomplice to the corruption of lawful, constitutional state governance involving the Legislature, the budget, and pay raises. [As far back as May 2013](#), I furnished him with the evidence of what was going on, including my [April 15, 2013 complaint to then U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara](#) – sending him e-mail, after e-mail, to which he never responded. This includes when he was campaigning for the Senate, such as my [October 4, 2017](#) and [January 17, 2018](#) e-mails to him reflecting my entreaties that he could easily win election and, simultaneously, propel non-partisan, good-government reform if he would “blow the whistle” on the corruption of the Senate incumbent – entreaties I would repeat in my e-mails in 2020 to Mamdani, running against an Assembly incumbent. In any event, nothing could be more obscene than Barkan’s sentence, in his essay, “There cannot be any whiff of self-dealing or graft in the Mamdani administration”, considering that “self-dealing” and “graft” are precisely how Mamdani became and conducted himself as an assemblyman, in collusion with his fellow self-dealing, grafting legislators, who would then endorse and support his mayoral candidacy.

Please advise by no later than noon tomorrow, July 14th, whether you will be confirming from Mamdani the obvious truth of my e-mails to him, etc.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
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To: 'pdh@nytimes.com' <pdh@nytimes.com>
Cc: 'grace.ashford@nytimes.com' <grace.ashford@nytimes.com>; 'ben.oreskes@nytimes.com' <ben.oreskes@nytimes.com>; 'jay.root@nytimes.com' <jay.root@nytimes.com>; 'metro@nytimes.com' <metro@nytimes.com>; 'editorial@nytimes.com' <editorial@nytimes.com>; 'nytnews@nytimes.com' <nytnews@nytimes.com>; 'letters@nytimes.com' <letters@nytimes.com>; 'benjamin.mullin@nytimes.com' <benjamin.mullin@nytimes.com>

Subject: The Times' "News Value" Standard & Confirmation "Through Direct Sources" -- The "On-The-Job Performance" of Mamdani & Hoylman-Sigal as State Legislators, Corrupting Lawful, Constitutional State Governance & Irreparably Injuring the People of New York

TO: [New York Times Assistant Managing Editor Patrick Healy/Standards & Trust](#)

The Times' July 4th article "[Mamdani Once Claimed to Be Asian and African American. Should It Matter?](#)" quotes [your statement](#):

"When we hear anything of news value, we try to confirm it through direct sources. Mr. Mamdani confirmed this information in an interview with The Times."

Are you aware of my [March 14th e-mail](#) to Mamdani entitled "ELECTIONS ARE A TIME OF ACCOUNTABILITY...", whose supplement I sent him on [March 17th](#) – thereafter sending both to him again when I cc'd him on my [March 18th e-mail](#) to the roster of Legislative Correspondents Association reporters – The Times' three Albany reporters among them – and then, again, when I cc'd him on my [March 20th e-mail](#) to The Times, New York Post, Daily News, New York Law Journal, Wall Street Journal, and Associated Press, with the five Times e-mail addresses being Metro and Editorial in addition to the three Albany reporters.

The March 20th e-mail I would then feature as "Example #1", at page 1, of my mailed [May 18th letter to Publisher A.G. Sulzberger](#), e-mailed to eight Times e-mail addresses, including Editorial, Metro, and the three Albany reporters, on [May 18th](#) and [May 19th](#).

As the "news value" of my e-mails to Mamdani is obvious, did The Times not ask him to confirm their equally obvious truth? And if not, why not – and will it do so now that he has won the Democratic primary to be New York City mayor?

Also, and plainly reinforcing, was the obvious "news value" of my [March 16th e-mail](#) to Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, also entitled "ELECTIONS ARE A TIME OF ACCOUNTABILITY...", and additionally sent to him, twice, when I cc'd him on the March 18th and March 20th e-mails of which it was part. Did The Times not ask Hoylman-Sigal to confirm the equally obvious truth of these e-mails to him? If not, why not – and will it do so now that he has won [the Democratic primary to be Manhattan borough president](#)?

Please advise – including as to when you would like to interview me with respect to the foregoing election-upending EVIDENCE of the "on-the-job performance" of Mamdani and Hoylman-Sigal as state legislators, corrupting lawful, constitutional state governance and irreparably injuring the People of New York.

Thank you.

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