

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgwatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 8:18 AM

To: 'kpowers@council.nyc.gov'; 'bjacobs@council.nyc.gov';
'hbrundige@council.nyc.gov'; 'SpeakerAdams@council.nyc.gov';
'district6@council.nyc.gov'; 'LBullaro@council.nyc.gov';
'eamador@council.nyc.gov'; 'District14@council.nyc.gov';
'salamanca@council.nyc.gov'; 'SRenwick@council.nyc.gov';
'AHunter@council.nyc.gov'; 'caddison@council.nyc.gov';
'anwright@council.nyc.gov'; 'AskJB@council.nyc.gov';
'borelli@council.nyc.gov'

Cc: 'mwilliams@wmhllaw.com'; 'anthony.crowell@nyls.edu';
'jcampagna@council.nyc.gov'; 'ikaci@council.nyc.gov';
'AskKalman@council.nyc.gov'; 'AHart@council.nyc.gov';
'District20@council.nyc.gov'

Subject: **Today's Hearing of the Rules Committee -- Opposition to Confirmation of Milton Williams, Jr., Esq. & Anthony Crowell, Esq. to Offices of Public Trust**

Attachments: [9-7-22-testimony.pdf](#)

TO: Members of the Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections of the New York City Council:

Above attached is my written testimony for today's hearing on Mayor Adams' appointments of Milton Williams, Jr., Esq. as a member & chair the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board and Antony Crowell, Esq. as a member of the New York City Planning Commission.

The direct link to the EVIDENTIARY webpage of CJA's website on which it is posted is here:
<https://www.judgwatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/nyc/9-7-22-testimony.htm>.

I look forward to your questions, which I would be pleased to furnish, under oath – and I believe all testimony before you should be, under oath. I am cc'ing Messrs Williams and Crowell so that they may have the due process opportunity to respond.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgwatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgwatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgwatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 8:58 AM

To: 'jcampagna@council.nyc.gov' <jcampagna@council.nyc.gov>
Cc: 'kpowers@council.nyc.gov' <kpowers@council.nyc.gov>; 'hbrundige@council.nyc.gov' <hbrundige@council.nyc.gov>; 'bjacobs@council.nyc.gov' <bjacobs@council.nyc.gov>; 'ikaci@council.nyc.gov' <ikaci@council.nyc.gov>; 'AskKalman@council.nyc.gov' <AskKalman@council.nyc.gov>; 'AHart@council.nyc.gov' <AHart@council.nyc.gov>; 'District20@council.nyc.gov' <District20@council.nyc.gov>; 'LBullaro@council.nyc.gov' <LBullaro@council.nyc.gov>; 'eamador@council.nyc.gov' <eamador@council.nyc.gov>; 'district6@council.nyc.gov' <district6@council.nyc.gov>

Subject: Tomorrow's Hearing of the Rules Committee -- Opposition to Confirmation of Milton Williams, Jr., Esq. & Anthony Crowell, Esq. to Offices of Public Trust

TO: Jeffrey Campagna, Esq./Senior Counsel and Parliamentarian/Office of the General Counsel of the New York City Council
(212-482-5438)

This follows up my below August 30th e-mail to you, cc'ing Rules Committee Chair Powers, Standards and Ethics Committee Chair Yeger, Oversight and Investigations Committee Chair Brewer, and Governmental Operations Committee Chair Ung, to which I have received not a single e-mail or phone communication in response.

[Chapter 2, §29 of the New York City Charter](#), entitled "Power of investigation and oversight", reads, in pertinent part:

"a. The council, acting as a committee of the whole, and each standing or special committee of the council, through hearings or otherwise:

...

1. shall review on a regular and continuous basis the activities of the agencies of the city, including their service goals and performance and management efficiency. Each unit of appropriation in the adopted budget of the city shall be assigned to a standing committee. Each standing committee of the council shall hold at least one hearing each year relating to the activities of each of the agencies under its jurisdiction.

b. Any standing or special committee shall have power to require the attendance and examine and take testimony under oath of such persons as it may deem necessary and to require the production of books, accounts, papers and other evidence relative to the inquiry. Copies of all reports or studies received by the council pursuant to section [eleven hundred thirty-four](#) and subdivision c of section [ninety-three](#) shall be assigned to the appropriate standing committees for review and action, as necessary."

It appears that the Council and its committees have NOT been conducting oversight – let alone "on a regular and continuous basis" – of key entities within its jurisdiction essential to the integrity of New York City governance – these being the four entities that were the subject of my below-linked August 26th e-mails, identically-titled: "INVESTIGATION & OVERSIGHT REQUIRED: NYC Conflicts of Interest Board, NYC Dept. of Investigation, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, & NYC's 5 District Attorneys" – and that they have ZERO intention to begin doing so, even in the face of open-and-shut, *prima facie*

evidence of the corruption of these four entities, presented by the record of my complaints and FOIL requests to all four. Is this correct?

By the way, simple inspection of [Public Advocate Williams' website](#) shows that not only has there been no change in his complained-about politicized "progressive" elimination of the preeminent nonpartisan purpose of the office of public advocate, pursuant to [Chapter 2, §24 of the NYC Charter](#), namely, to ensure adherence by the rest of NYC government with the Charter, but an acceleration. Indeed, notwithstanding §24(n):

"Not later than the thirty-first day of October of each year, the public advocate shall present to the council a report on the activities of the office during the preceding fiscal year. The report shall include: (1) a statistical summary of the complaints received during such fiscal year, categorized by agency, type of complaint, agency response, mode of resolution, and such other factors as the public advocate deems appropriate; (2) an analysis of recurring complaints and the public advocate's recommendations for administrative, legislative or budgetary actions to resolve the underlying problems causing the complaints; (3) a summary of the findings and recommendations of the agency program reviews conducted during the fiscal year and a summary of the agency responses to such findings and recommendations; (4) a summary of the charter requirements which, in the opinion of the public advocate are not being implemented by the city agencies and officers subject to them, including a description of the nature and extent of the failure to comply and a summary of the responses of the agencies or officers to the public advocate's conclusions; and (5) a summary of improvements in charter compliance since the public advocate's last annual report. The public advocate shall include an assessment of the fiscal implications of any recommendations presented in this report",

[no such annual "report on the activities of the office" for fiscal year 2020 was presented to the Council by Public Advocate Williams, just as, likewise, he presented none for 2019 or 2018](#) – following in the footsteps of several predecessor public advocates, the most immediate being NYS Attorney General Letitia James, whose corruption, as attorney general, is exposed by the five grand jury/public corruption complaints of larceny and fraud pertaining to the NYS budget and pay raises that NYC's 5 district attorneys are "sitting on". That Public Advocate Williams has rendered no 2020 annual report, notwithstanding the prior violations were complained about by my [May 17, 2021 and June 28, 2021 complaints to the Conflicts of Interest Board and Department of Investigation](#), is a further indicia of the flagrant corruption that exists at both those agencies – and no Council and relevant committees, operating at a constitutional, Charter-adhering level, can deem such violations, designed to impede their own Charter-mandated oversight, as acceptable.

According to [Chapter 2, §26 of the NYC Charter](#), entitled "Salaries and allowances":

- a. The salary of the public advocate shall be one hundred eighty-four thousand eight hundred dollars a year.
- b. The salary of each council member shall be one hundred forty-eight thousand five hundred dollars a year, except that the salary of the speaker shall be one hundred sixty-four thousand five hundred dollars a year. In addition any council member, while serving as a committee chairperson or other officer of the council, may also

be paid, in addition to such salary, an allowance fixed by resolution, after a hearing, for the particular and additional services pertaining to the additional duties of such position.”

Are committee chairs and officers of the Council being paid such “allowance[s] fixed by resolution, after a hearing” – and, if so, for what “particular and additional services pertaining to the additional duties of [their] position[s]”?

Please advise, as immediately as possible, so that I can be guided accordingly in preparing my testimony for tomorrow’s hearing – at which you stated I would have only two minutes to present my opposition to confirmation of Milton Williams, Jr., Esq. as chair of the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board and two minutes for my opposition to confirmation of former Conflicts of Interest Board Member Anthony Crowell, Esq. to the NYC Planning Commission.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 12:33 PM
To: 'jcampagna@council.nyc.gov' <jcampagna@council.nyc.gov>
Cc: 'kpowers@council.nyc.gov' <kpowers@council.nyc.gov>; 'hbrundige@council.nyc.gov' <hbrundige@council.nyc.gov>; 'bjacobs@council.nyc.gov' <bjacobs@council.nyc.gov>; 'ikaci@council.nyc.gov' <ikaci@council.nyc.gov>; 'AskKalman@council.nyc.gov' <AskKalman@council.nyc.gov>; 'AHart@council.nyc.gov' <AHart@council.nyc.gov>; 'District20@council.nyc.gov' <District20@council.nyc.gov>; 'LBullaro@council.nyc.gov' <LBullaro@council.nyc.gov>; 'eamador@council.nyc.gov' <eamador@council.nyc.gov>; 'district6@council.nyc.gov' <district6@council.nyc.gov>

Subject: Sept. 7, 2022 Hearing of the Rules Committee -- Opposition to Confirmation of Milton Williams, Jr., Esq. & Anthony Crowell, Esq. to Offices of Public Trust

TO: Jeffrey Campagna, Esq./Senior Counsel and Parliamentarian/Office of the General Counsel of the New York City Council
(212-482-5438)

Following up our 25-minute phone conversation a short time ago, upon my phoning you regarding my below August 26th e-mail to you, here’s the webpage I created pertaining to Milton Williams, Jr.’s corruption arising from his flagrant disregard for, and violation of, conflict-of-interest rules and protocols as: (1) co-chair of the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption; (2) member of the Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline; and (3) vice-chair of the First Department Attorney Grievance Committee: <https://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/commission-to-investigate-public-corruption/afterlife-members/williams-milton.htm>.

Further down on that webpage, you will find posted my three August 26th e-mails to the offices of Standards & Ethics Committee Chair Yeger ([here](#)), Governmental Operations Committee Chair Ung ([here](#)), and Oversight & Investigations Committee Chair Brewer ([here](#)), each identically-titled “INVESTIGATION & OVERSIGHT REQUIRED: NYC Conflicts of Interest Board, NYC Dept. of Investigation, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, & NYC’s 5 District Attorneys” – furnishing each office with links to the substantiating evidence. I have not heard back from any of the three, not a good sign.

At the bottom of the webpage, you will find a link for CJA’s webpage pertaining to Anthony Crowell’s corruption arising from his flagrant disregard for, and violation of, conflict-of-interest rules and protocols as (1) member of the JCOPE/LEC Review Commission; (2) member of the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board; and (3) chair of the “independent review committee” for the new Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government, established by the “ethics commission reform act of 2022” that wiped out JCOPE. The direct link to that webpage is here: <https://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/celg/crowell.htm>.

I am available to assist you and other attorneys of the general counsel’s office in guiding the committees of the NYC Council as to the public integrity, oversight, and “advise and consent” duties for which they are paid. Meantime, I am cc’ing Rules Committee Chair Powers on this e-mail, as well as the offices of Chairs Yeger, Ung, and Brewer, with invitations that they contact me directly as to the foregoing.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 10:21 AM

To: 'jcampagna@council.nyc.gov' <jcampagna@council.nyc.gov>

Subject: Sept. 7, 2022 Hearing of the Rules Committee -- Opposition to Confirmation of Milton Williams, Jr. to NYC Conflicts of Interest Board, etc.

TO: Jeffrey Campagna, Esq./Senior Counsel and Parliamentarian/Office of the General Counsel of the New York City Council

Belated thank you for your August 15th return call of the Friday, August 12th voice mail message I left at the Office of Rules Committee Chair Keith Powers (212-788-7393) concerning my request to testify in opposition to the confirmation of Milton Williams, Jr as chair of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board.

As you instructed me, I checked the City Council's schedule of hearings – and yesterday [registered via the website](#), upon seeing that a September 7th hearing on the confirmation had been scheduled by the Rules Committee.

I would like to discuss with you the meaning of “preconsidered”, which appears on the [agenda for the September 7th meeting](#), beside the entry for Mr. Williams and the other appointees – and there is another appointee against whom I also wish to testify in opposition.

I have just left a voice mail message for you (212-428-5438) about this – and would appreciate a return call, at your convenience.

BTW, below is my August 11th e-mail to Mr. Etricks that I had mentioned to you when we spoke.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 11:59 AM

To: 'jettricks@council.nyc.gov' <jettricks@council.nyc.gov>

Subject: Thank you, etc. -- Opposition to Confirmation of Milton Williams, Jr. as chair of NYC Conflicts of Interest Board -- Request to Testify

TO: Jonathan Etricks/Director of Legislative Documents for the New York City Council

Thank you for your phone call to me a short time ago, returning the voice message I left at 212-788-7100, on Monday – and advising me that hearings on appointments requiring the advice and consent of the City Council are held by the [Rules Committee](#), chaired by Council Member Keith Powers.

As discussed, I would appreciate your following up on why there appears to be no telephone number for the City Council, posted on its website: <https://council.nyc.gov/>. This is why I had to hunt for it on the internet – with obviously incorrect results. The first number I found, 212-788-6960, was answered by a voice recording stating: “Diana Aya is not available. Record your message at the tone”. This was so perplexing that I then hunted some more and found 212-788-7100, which – as I have now confirmed upon calling it again -- is answered by a recording stating it is the City Council's Legislative Documents Unit. It is for this reason that I thereafter sent the below e-mail to correspondence@council.nyc.gov, which I had found – and to the chairs of the three City Council committees that I believed would be involved in the confirmation hearing.

Again, thank you for your help.

Elena Sassower, Director

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

www.judgewatch.org

914-421-1200

elena@judgewatch.org

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 10:09 AM

To: 'correspondence@council.nyc.gov' <correspondence@council.nyc.gov>; 'AskKalman@council.nyc.gov' <AskKalman@council.nyc.gov>; 'district6@council.nyc.gov' <district6@council.nyc.gov>; 'District20@council.nyc.gov' <District20@council.nyc.gov>

Subject: Opposition to Confirmation of Milton Williams, Jr. as chair of NYC Conflicts of Interest Board - Request to Testify

TO: New York City Council

RE: [Mayor Adams' August 5, 2022 press release](#) of his nomination of Milton Williams, Jr. to chair the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, which must be "presented to the New York City Council for its advice and consent", I have already left a voice mail message at the phone number listed on the Mayor's press release (212-788-2958) that the Mayor must withdraw the nomination of Mr. Williams by reason of his public corruption and requesting a call back – and have, additionally, left a voice mail message at phone numbers I found for the City Council on the internet, 212-788-7100 and, prior thereto, at 212-788-6960, requesting a call back and to testify in opposition to Mr. Williams' nomination, presumably to be the subject of a hearing to be held by the City Council's relevant committees, seemingly, its [Committee on Standards and Ethics](#), chaired by Member Kalman Yeger, its [Committee on Oversight and Investigations](#), chaired by Member Gale Brewer, and its [Committee on Governmental Operations](#), chaired by Member Sandra Ung, all herein included on this e-mail.

Please have someone call me back on this.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

www.judgewatch.org

914-421-1200

elena@judgewatch.org