

# CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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March 2, 2017

TO: New York State Assembly Records Access Officer Robin Marilla

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

RE: FOIL/Records Request: Where are the Assembly's audio/video webcasts and recordings of committee meetings, pursuant to Assembly Rule IV, §2(g) – & the March 17, 2016 recommendations of Speaker Heastie's "Workgroup on Legislative Process, Operations, and Public Participation"?

Among the many salutary recommendations of Assembly Speaker Heastie's "Workgroup on Legislative Process, Operations, and Public Participation", released nearly one year ago – on March 17, 2016 – were the following three:

**“\* Make audio and video webcasts of committee meetings available on the Assembly website. (Rules change.)**

If it takes a significant time and cost to implement full, high-quality video for all committees, a simple webcam and/or audio access should be implemented promptly, with full video access as soon as practicable, beginning with key committees like Codes and Ways and Means.

**\* Ensure that archived vide records of...committee hearings are available promptly online to all Members and the public, on the Assembly website and through the new portal when it is operational. (Rules change.)**

**\* Index...recordings of...committee meetings, so all of these are linked to bills and searchable by bill.**

Without delaying publication, ...recordings of...committee meetings should be indexed, searchable, and linked to records of each bill via the new portal when it is operational.”

Assembly Rule IV, §2, entitled “Meetings of standing committees”, states the following in its subdivision g:

“The audio and/or video broadcast of committee meetings shall be made available on the Assembly Internet site when practicable, and shall be the subject of the same requirements as apply to televised proceedings of Assembly sessions pursuant to Rule X.”

Assembly Rule X, entitled “Televising Assembly Session”, states as follows by its §3:

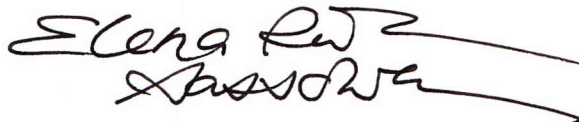
“Televised Proceedings; Internet. All televised proceedings as provided for in this rule shall be made available promptly on the Assembly Internet site.”

Therefore, pursuant to Assembly Rule VIII (“Public Access to Information”), please advise where, on the Assembly’s website, the live-streamed audio and/or video and recordings of them can be found for the meetings, held this session, by the following standing committees:

- Assembly Ways & Means Committee
- Assembly Codes Committee
- Assembly Judiciary Committee
- Assembly Committee on Local Governments
- Assembly Committee on Governmental Operations
- Assembly Committee on Oversight, Analysis and Investigation
- Assembly Committee on Ethics and Guidance.

If the meetings of these committee are not being live-streamed – and no audio or video recordings are being made, let alone posted on the Assembly’s website – please furnish records as to the reason(s) and supply, in electronic form, the agendas of all meetings held by these committees since the start of session – such being necessary because the Assembly removes the committee meeting agendas from its website once they are no longer current: <http://www.nyasassembly.gov/leg/?sh=agen>, rather than placing them in an archive, or maintaining them, originally and thereafter, on the committees’ permanent webpages of “news/updates”: <http://nyasassembly.gov/comm/>.

Thank you.



cc: Assembly Office of Ethics and Compliance  
Jane Feldman, Executive Director