

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 3:37 PM

To: 'rebecca.rand77@journalism.cuny.edu';
'Nicolas.magrino35@journalism.cuny.edu';
'errol.louis@journalism.cuny.edu'; 'errol.louis@charter.com'

Subject: **Confirming Status -- CJA's Oct. 23, 2022 e-mail to CUNY/Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism Students Rebecca Rand & Nicholas Magrino - & Adjunct Professor Errol Louis**

Attachments: [9-7-22-committee-report.pdf](#); [9-7-22-testimony.pdf](#);
[9-7-22-testimony-oral-williams.pdf](#); [9-7-22-testimony-oral-crowell.pdf](#)

**TO: CUNY/Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism
Students Rebecca Rand & Nicolas Magrino
CUNY/Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism
Adjunct Professor Errol Louis, ESQ.**

I have received no responses from you to my below October 23rd e-mail entitled – and correcting the misspelling of Mr. Louis’ first name – “*Was Errol Louis your CUNY Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism professor for whom, in fulfillment of an academic requirement/class assignment, you were at the Sept 7 confirmation hearing at City Hall?*”

Unless I hear from you otherwise, I will assume this is because you did not respond.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2022 9:07 AM
To: 'rebecca.rand77@journalism.cuny.edu' <rebecca.rand77@journalism.cuny.edu>;
'Nicolas.magrino35@journalism.cuny.edu' <Nicolas.magrino35@journalism.cuny.edu>
Cc: 'errol.louis@journalism.cuny.edu' <errol.louis@journalism.cuny.edu>; 'errol.louis@charter.com' <errol.louis@charter.com>

Subject: Was Errol Louis your CUNY Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism professor for whom, in fulfillment of an academic requirement/class assignment, you were at the Sept 7 confirmation hearing at City Hall?

Dear Rebecca & Nicolas,

How surprising to have received no responses from you to my two [September 8th e-mails](#) & [here](#), my [September 12th e-mail](#), and my below [September 13th e-mail](#), with the above-attached, furnishing you with a MAJOR corruption story pertaining to the New York City Council and New York City governance, involving, directly, the corruption of New York State governance – and this year’s elections for governor, attorney general, and comptroller and all 213 state legislative seats, 90-plus of which are for districts in New York City, which I discussed with you, face-to-face, on September 7th, at City Hall, before and after my two-minute oral testimony in opposition to confirmation of Milton Williams, Jr., as chair of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, and the preclusion of my two-minute oral testimony in opposition to Anthony Crowell’s confirmation to the New York City Planning Commission.

Please explain why you did not respond, including as minimally as confirming that you “furnished my September 7th testimony and my proposal for your follow-up investigative reporting to your journalism professors” and “who they are, so that I might contact them directly”.

AS TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, I am cc’ing [Errol Louis, whose faculty bio at CUNY’s Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism identifies that he is “host of NY1’s ‘Inside City Hall,’ the preeminent political news show in New York City”](#), so that he can identify whether you are his journalism students – and, if not, whether he was alerted to the corruption story that you were not pursuing by the professor for whom, in fulfillment of an academic requirement/assignment, you were at the City Hall hearing, presumably thereafter producing some kind of journalism about what you had seen and heard on September 7th – and which, in the complete absence of any reporting by New York City Hall reporters, who presumably had the live-stream and subsequent video, resulted in the City Council’s September 14th confirmation of the nominees. Here is [CJA’s webpage posting the video and transcript links and the evidentiary trail of public corruption at the City Council preceding it](#) which your journalism professor should have expected you to pursue, immediately, or, just as immediately, passed on to other journalism students and relevant faculty for investigative reporting so that culpable and collusive City Council members were held to account, including in [next year’s election to the City Council](#) and prevented from obtaining other offices of public trust.

I ask for your responses – and for Mr. Louis’ – by no later than tomorrow morning, as thereafter I will be communicating with both new [Dean Graciela Mochkofsky](#) and [benefactor Craig Newmark](#) about how [New York’s taxpayer-funded CUNY](#) graduate journalism school has been operating – steering students **away** from non-partisan journalism that exposes public corruption by public officers and, in so-doing, rigging both the re-election of corrupt incumbents and the election of collusive successors and challengers. Such is clearly the product of undisclosed conflicts of interest, including between the New York press which operates in precisely this fashion and the J-school’s faculty and [its former dean, the now Dean Emerita Sarah Bartlett](#), who are, or have been, part of the press. Apparently, this behavior, together with a disregard of the most basic decencies, is being inculcated in journalism students, such as yourselves

CJA’s webpage posting my prior attempts to secure non-partisan, electorally-relevant, corruption-exposing journalism by CUNY’s Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism and its [NYCity News Service](#), which I briefly described to you, is [here](#).

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director

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

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:19 PM

To: 'rebecca.rand77@journalism.cuny.edu' <rebecca.rand77@journalism.cuny.edu>;
'Nicolas.magrino35@journalism.cuny.edu' <Nicolas.magrino35@journalism.cuny.edu>

Subject: FYI -- FOIL -- Records, Rules & Procedures pertaining to the Sept. 7, 2022 Rules Committee hearing on mayoral appointees &, in particular, Milton Williams, Jr., Esq. & Anthony Crowell, Esq.

Dear Rebecca & Nicolas,

After sending you [my yesterday's e-mail](#), I waited more than a day, hoping to hear back from you, before sending my below FOIL request to the City Council, with the above attached.

What's happening on your end with respect to your reporting on the City Council's September 7, 2022 hearing on five mayoral appointees? Please confirm that you have furnished my September 7th testimony and my proposal for your follow-up investigative reporting to your journalism professors and identify who they are, so that I might contact them directly.

Thank you.

Elena

914-421-1200

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

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 2:38 PM

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

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

Subject: FOIL -- Records, Rules & Procedures pertaining to the Sept. 7, 2022 Rules Committee hearing on mayoral appointees &, in particular, Milton Williams, Jr., Esq. & Anthony Crowell, Esq.

TO: New York City Council FOIL Officer Danielle Barbato

Pursuant to FOIL, this is to request records, including of governing rules and procedures, pertaining to the [September 7, 2022 hearing of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections for its "advice and consent" on five of Mayor Adams' appointees](#) – and, specifically, records:

- (1) reflecting why the "[Committee Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections](#)", made publicly available at the September 7, 2022 hearing, prominently identifies "Office of the General Counsel, Jason A. Otano,

General Counsel” – implying that the Office of General Counsel has a role – and whether its role includes ensuring compliance by the City Council with express standards in the New York City Charter for appointees, identified in the “Committee Report”;

- (2) reflecting whether the “Committee staff” identified at the top of the “Committee Report” as “Jeffrey Campagna, *Committee Counsel*; Pearl Moore, *Ethics Counsel*; Francesca Della Vecchia, *Director of Investigations*; Alycia Vasell, *Compliance Investigator*; Ramses Boutin, *Legislative Investigator*” are actually staff of the Office of the General Counsel;
- (3) reflecting why members of the public were not called up to testify immediately after each appointee – with the appointee expected to respond thereto;
- (4) reflecting why Rules Committee Chair Keith Powers was the only member of the Committee present for the public’s testimony, relegated to the end of the hearing – and, beside him, “Committee Counsel” Campagna;
- (5) reflecting why the City Council’s webpage for public testimony, <https://council.nyc.gov/testify/>, does not identify a two-minute limit for oral testimony by members of the public – or that oral testimony concerning more than a single appointee at a given hearing will not be afforded, as to each appointee, two minutes;
- (6) reflecting whether there is any precedent for what Rules Committee Chair Powers did in denying me two minutes to testify as to each of the two appointees for whom, prior to the hearing, I had submitted two separate registrations;
- (7) reflecting what investigation was done – and by whom -- prior to the hearing of my e-mails pertaining to the unfitness of Milton Williams, Jr., Esq., appointed chair of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, and Anthony Crowell, Esq., appointed to the New York City Planning Commission;
- (8) reflecting what investigation was done – and by whom -- subsequent to the hearing of my written and oral testimony in opposition to Messrs. Williams and Crowell – and whether findings of fact have been made with respect thereto;
- (9) reflecting whether my written testimony, sent to the City Counsel, including directly to Counsel Campagna and to Rules Committee Chair Powers prior to the hearing, was distributed to Committee members prior to the hearing;
- (10) reflecting whether, at tomorrow’s Rules Committee meeting at which the mayor’s five appointees are on the agenda, counsel and investigative staff will be presenting Committee members with findings with respect to my opposition testimony, including as to whether, based on the evidence,

Messrs. Williams and Crowell can be confirmed consistent with the Charter's express standards – and whether the meeting will be live-streamed or recorded;

(11) reflecting whether, prior to the City Council's session and vote on the appointments, the City Council members will be alerted to my written opposition testimony to Messrs. Williams and Crowell and findings made with respect thereto – and whether the session will be live-streamed or recorded;

(12) reflecting when was the last time that either the Rules Committee or City Council rejected an appointee.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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