

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:19 PM
To: 'rebecca.rand77@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.**
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](#)

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
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

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