

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 11:05 AM
To: 'bmax@gothamgazette.com'; 'skhurshid@gothamgazette.com';
'ethangs@gothamgazette.com'; 'info@gothamgazette.com'
Subject: **Gov Hochul's 30-Day Amendments, Due Tomorrow -- Returning the Budget to its Constitutional Rails & Removing its Larcenies & Non-Fiscal, Non-Revenue-Producing Policy**

Attachments: [cja-feb-15-23-written-testimony-general-govt-budget-hearing.pdf](#);
[cja-testimony-for-feb-7-2023-public-protection-budget-hearing.pdf](#);
[feb-27-2023-foil-request.pdf](#); [2-27-23-email-transmitting-foil.pdf](#)

TO: **GOTHAM GAZETTE**

“The Place for New York Policy & Politics”
Executive Editor Ben Max
Senior Reporter Samar Khurshid
Reporter Ethan Geringer-Sameth

Following up my [February 5th](#) and [February 26th](#) alerts to you about the FY2023-24 New York State budget

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Below, with the above-attached, is my e-mail of today’s date to Governor Hochul – cc’ing Lieutenant Governor Delgado and her now Budget Director Megna. Its most important attachment, not previously furnished to you, is my February 27th FOIL request, with three simple records requests.

How do YOU explain the mystery of Governor Hochul’s five so-called “FY 2024 Article VII Bills”, demonstrated therein with EVIDENTIARY links, other than as substantiating the truth of the analysis furnished by my March 18, 2020 letter to Governor Cuomo as to the unconstitutionality of such bills?

I am available to answer your questions. What are you waiting for?

If this is not a story you will investigate and report, please forward this e-mail promptly to [Citizens Union Executive Director Betsy Gotbaum](#), to EVERY member of the [“Board of Directors” of the Citizens Union Foundation](#), and to ALL your [funders](#) for their evaluation of your “autonomous” news judgment and fidelity to being a “watchdog publication committed to accountability journalism...holding government and elected officials accountable to their promises and actions” by informing and engaging the public.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 2:17 AM
To: 'records.access@exec.ny.gov' <records.access@exec.ny.gov>
Cc: 'lgnny@exec.ny.gov' <lgnny@exec.ny.gov>; 'budgetdirector@budget.ny.gov' <budgetdirector@budget.ny.gov>; 'foil@budget.ny.gov' <foil@budget.ny.gov>

Subject: Your 30-Day Amendments, Due Tomorrow -- & Your Duty to Return the Budget to its Constitutional Rails & Remove its Larcenies & Non-Fiscal, Non-Revenue-Producing Policy

TO: Governor Kathy Hochul, ESQ.

Germane to your 30-day amendments, due tomorrow, is my below February 22nd e-mail to Lieutenant Governor/Senate President Delgado, with my above-attached two written testimonies, and, additionally, the FOIL request I sent to your FOIL officer and the FOIL officer of the Division of the Budget at 9:37 a.m. on February 27th, also above-attached.

Your unexplained [February 28th announcement](#) that former Budget Director Megna would be taking over for Acting Budget Director Beattie, starting “immediately”, may reasonably be connected with these.

Ironically, just as the press was beginning to disseminate that startling announcement, I was e-mailing Lieutenant Governor Delgado about the status of my February 22nd e-mail, without response. It is also below.

I am available to answer your questions – and those of Budget Director Megna – so that you can do your duty to return the budget to its constitutional rails and remove its larcenies and non-fiscal, non-revenue-producing policy.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 1:35 PM
To: 'lgnny@exec.ny.gov' <lgnny@exec.ny.gov>

Subject: AGAIN, & FOR STARTERS: Lieutenant Governor/Senate President Delgado -- & His Duty with Respect to the Legislature's FY2023-24 budget & Gov. Hochul's Legislative/Judiciary Appropriation Bill S.4001/A.3001

TO: Lieutenant Governor/President of the Senate Antonio Delgado, Esq.

Believing you to be completely unaware of the unconstitutional and corrupt situation presented by my below February 22, 2023 e-mail and its above two attachments, I kept the e-mail confidential so as to give you time to review it, unpressured by anyone – and to contact me with your questions.

I have received no contact from you or your staff. As TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE – and the injury to constitutional, lawful governance and the People of the State of New York is vast, irreparable, and accelerating – please advise as to my below e-mail to you by tomorrow, March 1, 2023, by 5 p.m., so that I may be guided accordingly.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 3:58 PM
To: 'lgny@exec.ny.gov' <lgny@exec.ny.gov>

Subject: Lieutenant Governor/Senate President Delgado -- & His Duty with Respect to the Legislature's FY2023-24 budget & Gov. Hochul's Legislative/Judiciary Appropriation Bill S.4001/A.3001

TO: Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado, Esq.

Notwithstanding the lieutenant governor is part of the executive branch of New York State government and rarely, if ever, is presiding as “the Senate’s President”, the Legislature’s budget pays “a portion of the operational expenses” of your office. It also seemingly pays for all or part of your salary, identified by [the Legislature’s FY2023-24 budget](#) (at p. 2) as \$220,000.

For this reason, above-attached is the written testimony about the Legislature’s FY2023-24 budget and the legislative portion of [Governor Hochul’s Legislative/Judiciary Appropriation Bill #S.4001/A.3001](#) that our non-partisan, non-profit citizens’ organization Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) submitted to the Legislature for its February 15, 2023 budget hearing on “Local Government Officials/General Government”. It presents 38 questions to be answered by Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie about the Legislature’s budget and the Governor’s bill.

Both in your capacity as lieutenant governor and “the Senate’s President”, we deem it your duty to secure answers to these 38 questions – and to ensure that CJA’s February 15, 2023 testimony is furnished directly to Governor Hochul and her budget director so that her upcoming “30-day amendments” appropriately:

- amend Legislative/Judiciary Appropriation Bill #S.4001/A.3001 by REMOVING the 38 pages of “legislative reappropriations” that were inserted into the back of the Governor’s bill in an out-of-sequence, mistitled §4 – as the Legislature’s FY2023-24 budget contained NO “legislative reappropriations” (testimony, questions ##30-35);

- amend Legislative/Judiciary Appropriation Bill #S.4001/A.3001 by REMOVING the entirety of §1 of legislative appropriations, in other words, the Legislature’s budget – because it was NOT furnished to her as “itemized estimates of the financial needs of the legislature, certified by the presiding officer of each house”, as [Article VII, §1 of the New York State Constitution](#) requires (testimony, questions ##1-5);
- amend State Operations Appropriation Bill #S.4000/A.3000 to ADD the Independent Redistricting Commission and such appropriations for it as are, in fact, necessary – because the appropriations for it in the Legislature’s FY2023-24 budget do NOT belong in the Legislature’s budget and are grossly inflated and larcenous, quite apart from the “reappropriations” for the Independent Redistricting Commission that were popped into the Governor’s Legislative/Judiciary Appropriation Bill S.4001/A.3001 (testimony, questions ##16-19).

Certainly, the occasion of her “30-day amendments” provides Governor Hochul with the opportunity to belatedly meet her constitutional duty to furnish the Legislature with “such recommendations as the governor may deem proper” with respect to the legislative and judiciary budgets (Article VII, §1) – as she made NONE on February 1, 2023 in submitting her Legislative/Judiciary Appropriation Bill #S.4001/A.3001 to the Legislature (testimony, question #36).

Finally, as you are a lawyer – indeed, a graduate of Harvard Law School – we call upon you to personally review CJA’s lawsuits suing your fellow constitutional officers for corrupting state governance, including with respect to the state budget and the pay raises that made your salary the \$220,000 it unlawfully is. The most important of these is the one that is LIVE and involves the ethics and investigative entities having oversight over you and them – CJA v. JCOPE, et al. CJA’s above-attached written testimony submitted for the Legislature’s February 7, 2023 “Public Protection” budget hearing furnishes summarizing details – and we request your assistance in securing responses, including findings of fact and conclusions of law.

I am available to answer your questions – and would welcome the opportunity to do so.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 4:25 PM
To: 'Finance Chair' <financechair@nyenate.gov>; 'wamchair@nyassembly.gov' <wamchair@nyassembly.gov>

**Subject: Written Testimony for Legislature's Feb 15, 2023 "Local Gov't Officials/General Government"
Budget Hearing**

**TO: Senate Finance Committee Chair Krueger
Assembly Ways & Means Committee Chair Weinstein**

Attached is my timely-submission of written testimony for today's "local government officials/general government" budget hearing – for distribution to legislators and posting on the Senate and Assembly webpages for today's hearing.

I am available to answer any questions.

Thank you.

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