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

**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 10:19 AM

**To:** 'susan.arbetter@charter.com'; 'jack.arpey@charter.com';

'grace.ashford@nytimes.com'; 'jbeeferman@politico.com'; 'editor@nysfocus.com'; 'jcampbell@nypublicradio.org';

'Dan.Clark@timesunion.com'; 'Keshia.clukey@newsday.com';

'tconnolly514@gmail.com'; 'kcordero@politico.com'; 'gwen@adirondackexplorer.org'; 'jdeline@news10.com';

'SDestra@wmht.com'; 'SDestra@wmht.org'; 'bianca@nysfocus.com'; 'mfrench@politico.com'; 'agault@wdt.net'; 'rgavin@buffnews.com';

'chris@nysfocus.com'; 'vgolden@nypost.com';

'michael.gormley@newsday.com'; 'lynn.halliburton@statewatch.com';

'Jeongyoon Han'; 'mhill@ap.org'; 'lucy.hodgman@hearst.com';

'bernadettejhogan@gmail.com'; 'kevin@statewatch.com'; 'Kyle Hughes';

'aizaguirre@ap.org'; 'Ajefferson@cityandstateny.com'; 'raga.justin@hearst.com'; 'shaneking@statewatch.com';

'colin@nysfocus.com'; 'EKline@wmht.org'; 'kkozak@wmht.org';

'blee@alm.com'; 'rlewis@cityandstateny.com'; 'Kate.Lisa@charter.com';

'David.lombardo@wcny.org'; 'seamus.lyman@charter.com'; 'BLyons@TimesUnion.com'; 'billmahoney@politico.com';

'akash@nysfocus.com'; 'sam@nysfocus.com';

'matthew.mirro@statewatch.com'; 'ben.oreskes@nytimes.com';

'bphillip@nysenate.gov'; 'nreisman@politico.com'; 'julia@nysfocus.com';

'jay.root@nytimes.com'; 'yancey.roy@newsday.com';

'JSheridan@news10.com'; 'Maryfrancis.Stoute@charter.com';

'jvielkind@wnyc.org'; 'Peter.Wendler@wcny.org';

'zwilliams@bloombergindustry.com'; 'timothy.p.williams@charter.com';

'jenny@nyfocus.com'

Subject: ALERT: NYS Budget is violating the NYS Constitution, statutes,& legislative

rules to steal taxpayer money & corrupt governance by policy changes

TO: Albany Legislative Correspondent Association Roster

Why does your reporting on the New York State budget <u>conceal</u> that it is "OFF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RAILS", rife with constitutional, statutory, and legislative rule violations – and that it is massively-larcenous?

Have you not read Article VII, §§1-7 – whose §4 mandates that the Governor's appropriation bills – other than for the legislative and judiciary budgets – "shall...be a law immediately without further action by the governor" once the Senate and Assembly reconcile their separate amendments of those bills, limited to striking out or reducing items of appropriation. Do you dispute that New York has a financially constrained, ROLLING BUDGET – with most of the budget NEVER going back to the Governor.

How is the behind-the-closed doors, "three-men-in-a-room" budget dealmaking of Governor Hochul, Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie, that you have been reporting on for the past three weeks, remotely constitutional?

And what about the Senate and Assembly one-house budget resolutions – each respectively purporting that the <u>Senate</u> and <u>Assembly</u> amended the same eight budget bills. This is fraud. NONE of those eight bills were ever amended, in fact. There are NO votes by ANY senators and ANY assembly members on a single one of them.

And what about Governor Hochul's five so-called "Article VII" bills that contain policy? Here, too, these are fraud. Governor Hochul NEVER introduced any of these five bills, in fact. Rather, she submitted them to the Legislature, as <u>draft bills</u>, requiring Senate and Assembly sponsors. How did they then each mysteriously morph into <u>actual bills</u>, without Senate and Assembly sponsors, falsely stating that they were introduced by the Governor?

Here's <u>CJA's FOIL requests pertaining to the FY2025-26 state budget</u>, from which you can verify the TRUTH about the ten budget bills comprising Governor Hochul's executive budget. Start with:

- CJA's February 7, 2025 FOIL request entitled "FY 2025-26 State Budget for records reflecting: (1) how Governor Hochul's five proposed 'Article VII Bills' each became actual bills, allegedly submitted by her 'pursuant to article seven of the Constitution'; (2) why these actual bills are not posted on her Division of the Budget's website; and (3) findings of fact and conclusions of law made with respect to CJA's March 18, 2020 letter to Governor Cuomo";
- CJA's March 21, 2025 FOIL request entitled "Records reflecting how & where the Senate & Assembly 'amended' 8 of the Governor's FY2025-26 budget bills".

Will you be investigating and reporting this – and the billions and billions of dollars of larcenies of taxpayer monies contained in the Governor's ten budget bills, including for "false instrument" pay raises – whose cumulative cost, since 2012, is itself on the order of a billion dollars. If not, please explain why – and IMMEDIATELY forward this e-mail to your editors and to managerial levels of your publications, including your legal counsel, so that there is no question as to culpability for your *knowingly* false journalism, having NO First Amendment protection and entitling the defrauded public to massive compensatory and punitive damages against all involved.

Finally, as I have received no response from you to my fully-documented <u>March 18<sup>th</sup> press release</u> pertaining to the three testimonies I submitted for the Legislature's budget hearings and its <u>direct</u> relevance to this year's elections, including to the TOP New York City offices that are on the ballot, I take this opportunity to again bring it to your attention.

I am available to answer your questions – and those of your editors, management, and legal counsel – no matter how early or la[te]. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
<a href="https://www.judgewatch.org">www.judgewatch.org</a>
914-421-1200
<a href="mailto:elena@judgewatch.org">elena@judgewatch.org</a>