



CITY OF NEW YORK CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Agency Heads; Elected Officials; Agency Counsel; Agency Training Contacts; Agency Disciplinary Counsel
FROM: Alex Kipp, Director of Training and Education
DATE: May 7, 2014
RE: Rose Gill Hearn to Receive Oliensis Award for Ethics in City Government

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you know, the Conflicts of Interest Board will hold, in collaboration with the New York Law School, the 20th Annual Citywide Seminar on Ethics in City Government on the 20th of May. During the seminar, the Board will present the Sheldon Oliensis Award for Ethics in City Government. We are pleased to announce that the recipient of this year's award will be Rose Gill Hearn, in recognition for her years of work as the longest-ever-serving Commissioner of the Department of Investigation.

The Oliensis award was first presented at the November 1999 reception celebrating COIB's 10th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of the Board of Ethics, our predecessor agency. The Oliensis award is presented to honor an agency or individual for promoting ethics and integrity in City government. The first recipient was the late Mr. Oliensis, and the award was named in his memory shortly after his death. Subsequent recipients have been the Department of Transportation; Department of Environmental Protection; Department of Investigation; Saphora Lifrak; The Center for New York City Law at New York Law School; the Department of Buildings; Ricardo Morales for his work as General Counsel at NYCHA; Rose Tessler, Jonathan Wangel, and Daisylee Sprauve of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Marla Simpson for her work as the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services; and Samantha Biletsky, the Ethics Officer of the Department of Education.

In her tenure at DOI, Commissioner Hearn certainly helped promote ethics and integrity in City government, overseeing DOI's work as the Board's

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investigative arm, expanding corruption-awareness training, and overseeing the creation of offices of Inspectors General for the Board of Elections and not-for-profits receiving City funds. Additionally, under Commissioner Hearn's leadership, DOI was involved in the successful prosecution of many high-profile corruption cases, such as the CityTime scandal; the case against former Council Member Martinez for money laundering and fraud; an extensive investigation that uncovered a \$1 million day care fraud and bribery scheme and has led to six City employees and eight day care operators pleading guilty so far; an investigation which led to federal charges against 29 individuals in connection with defrauding New York's Section 8 program of more than \$1 million in housing subsidies; and an investigation that uncovered and halted two significant and long-running embezzlement schemes within the City's Administration for Children's Services ("ACS") involving the theft of hundreds-of-thousands of dollars by two long-term fiscal managers of that agency and associates who were non-City employees, just to name a few of hundreds of cases.

It is with great pleasure that the Board will confer upon her the Oliensis Award at the plenary session of the seminar on May 20th at the New York Law School.

Best,

The seal of the City of New York is visible in the background, featuring a shield with a sun, a ship, and a plow, surrounded by the words "CITY OF NEW YORK" and "1789".

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