

May 18, 2022

By Email ([carrier@coib.nyc.gov](mailto:carrier@coib.nyc.gov))

Ethan Carrier, General Counsel  
New York City Conflicts of Interest Board  
2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010  
New York, NY 10007

Re: COIB Rule 1-07(d)(1) Approval of Consulting  
Agreement with Former DEP Employee

Dear Mr. Carrier:

This letter serves to notify the Conflicts of Interest Board (“COIB”) that in accordance with COIB Rule 1-07(d)(1), the New York City Water Board (the “Water Board”) is retaining Greg Ascierio as a consultant. Mr. Ascierio is a recently retired full-time employee who, although paid as an employee of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) as a matter of administrative convenience, served the Water Board as its senior attorney and reported exclusively to the Water Board’s management since 1993.

The Water Board is now retaining Mr. Ascierio as a consultant for the purpose of continuing and completing work left unfinished at the Water Board and DEP at the time he retired from City service on April 29, 2022. As a Water Board consultant, he will communicate with DEP during his first year after leaving DEP employment and will work on particular matters that he worked on while serving at the Water Board as a DEP employee.

The rates charged for the water DEP delivers to customers are set by the Water Board, a state public authority formed in 1985. The Water Board is governed by a seven-member board appointed by the Mayor of New York City and administered by a professional staff currently consisting of eight City employees, seven employed by DEP and one employed by the Law Department. Several of these staff members also serve as officers of the Water Board. This included Mr. Ascierio, who served as the Water Board’s Deputy Treasurer from 2011 until his recent retirement.

Mr. Ascierito has significant institutional knowledge of the Water Board and DEP, particularly with the billing rates, policies, and the computer systems used to bill customers. In addition to serving as the Water Board's senior attorney and Deputy Treasurer, he assisted in administering the Water Board's financial operations and was responsible for many years of reviewing water billing appeals and complex customer water billing adjustments.

Mr. Ascierito was also a key individual in assisting in the design, configuration and knowledge transfer required in the multiyear development of a new billing system by DEP and the Water Board. This project is now in a transitional phase which includes stabilizing the system and developing and deploying software upgrade releases on an approximately monthly basis. Several product modules of the new billing system are not yet deployed and require input and design assistance from Mr. Ascierito, who is experienced with the DEP/Water Board customer and billing environment and rate schedule. Such technical skills and subject-matter expertise are not otherwise available among the Water Board's limited staff, making the Water Board's retention of Mr. Ascierito a necessity.

Mr. Ascierito is being retained for a period of two years, plus an option for a third year, which is no longer than reasonably necessary to complete the outstanding and transitional work described above.

Under the consulting agreement, Mr. Ascierito will be compensated at a rate of \$73.75 per hour, which is comparable to the total compensation he last earned as a DEP employee.

Please feel free to contact Ty Rogers of DEP's Bureau of Legal Affairs at (718) 595-6594 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joseph Murin  
Executive Director

- c: Omar Nazem, Water Board Treasurer
- Greg Ascierito, Water Board Consultant
- Elissa Stein Cushman, DEP BLA General Counsel
- Ty Rogers, DEP BLA Assistant Counsel