



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1 Centre Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10007
(212) 669-8300 p (212) 669-4306 f
431 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027
(212) 531-1609 p (212) 531-4615 f
www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Mark D. Levine, Borough President

New York City Conflicts of Interest Board
2 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10007

October 2, 2023

Re: Consulting arrangement with Tomi Vest

Honorable Members of the Board:

This letter serves to notify the Conflicts of Interest Board that, in accordance with COIB Rule 1-07(d), the Office of the Manhattan Borough President (MBPO) is planning to directly retain Tomi Vest as a consultant. Ms. Vest left City service on August 30, 2023, after serving as an attorney for the City for eight years and last earning \$150,000 annually. As the former General Counsel to the MBPO, she is intimately familiar with the complexity of the legal complexity and range of issues that the MBPO is involved with.

Since Ms. Vest's departure in August, the MBPO has been without legal counsel. Although the MBPO initiated a search for a replacement candidate in July, we have been unable to fill the role of General Counsel to date. There is no one on the MBPO staff who is barred and eligible to practice law in the State of New York. The MBPO needs legal support until a replacement can be found and will need a qualified individual to train the replacement General Counsel, once identified.

In the immediate term, Ms. Vest is being retained as consultant to provide legal support given her invaluable subject-matter expertise and prior experience protecting the MBPO's legal rights and interests.

Ms. Vest is being retained for a period of five months, which is no longer than reasonably necessary to find and train a replacement General Counsel. If it is determined that Vest's services are still needed at the conclusion of that five month period, we will consider renewing this arrangement for the additional three-month period.

Under the consulting agreement, Ms. Vest will be compensated at a rate of roughly \$83.33 per hour, which is comparable to her annual salaried rate when she was employed at the MBPO.

Sincerely,

Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President