



QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568

MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

718.286.6000
WWW.QUEENSDA.ORG

November 4, 2020

Jeffrey D. Friedlander, Chair
New York City Conflicts of Interest Board
2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Friedlander:

Pursuant to Rule 1.13(e) of the Conflict of Interest Board, I, as District Attorney of Queens County, hereby designate Colleen Babb, in her official capacity as Executive Assistant District Attorney in charge of the Community Partnerships Division, to work together with Queens Defenders, a non-profit entity, to assist in distributing funds and/or other items to recently released prisoners in an effort to facilitate their reintegration into society.

Queens Defenders is an organization representing defendants in criminal actions in the County of Queens who also provide social services and other assistance to defendants and incarcerated inmates. Recently, Queens Defenders received a grant of \$330,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services "IMLS CARES Act" to assist in re-entry of inmates into society. The organization plans to obtain and distribute cell phones to recently released inmates to assist in their job search capabilities and to educate the formerly incarcerated with the skills needed to transition into the digital age of technology.

The Queens District Attorney's Office, which represents the People of the State of New York in criminal actions in Queens County, is dedicated to protecting the safety of the public while at the same time treating defendants and all others who enter the criminal justice system fairly and justly. As such, this Office has a strong interest in ensuring that those incarcerated for their crimes reintegrate into society as fully and as quickly as possible to prevent recidivism and enable former inmates to become fully productive members of society.

EADA Babb's duties in this Office are directly connected to this mission. As the EADA of the Community Partnerships Division, Ms. Babb is responsible for the overall supervision of the Queens District Attorney's Office's Re-entry Unit known as "New Beginnings". The Queens District Attorney's Office New Beginnings program is tasked with assisting and creating opportunities as well as providing the tools needed for the formerly incarcerated to successfully assimilate into their Queens communities and not reoffend. Additionally, EADA Babb has developed resources and relationships with community-based organizations which provide various services for the formerly incarcerated.

I have thus concluded, pursuant to Rule 1.13(e) that: i) there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed work with Queens Defenders, EADA Babb's City job, and the mission of District Attorney's Office, ii) that such work furthers this agency's mission, and iii) that the proposed work is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit. EADA Babb has informed me that she does not anticipate any conflicts of interest to arise while performing these volunteer duties and she will not participate in any business dealings with the City. I approve of the reasonable use of City time and resources for the purpose stated above.

Sincerely,

Melinda Katz
District Attorney of Queens County