



Bill Chong
Commissioner

January 13, 2020

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Richard Briffault, Chair
Conflicts of Interest Board
2 Lafayette Street, 10th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chair Briffault:

This letter serves to notify the Conflicts of Interest Board (“COIB” or “Board”) that in accordance with COIB Rule 1-13(e), Mike Bobbitt, Assistant Commissioner for Community Action Programs, has been designated to serve as a Member at Large on the Board of Directors of the New York State Community Action Association (“NYSCAA”). Mr. Bobbitt will serve in this capacity as part of his New York City (“City”) job and will utilize City time and resources in doing so.

The Department of Youth and Community Development (“DYCD”) supports City youth and their families by funding a wide range of high-quality youth and community development programs. A portion of these funds derive from Community Service Block Grant (“CSBG”) funds, federal anti-poverty funding which is administered locally via “community action agencies.” DYCD is the Community Action Agency (“CAA”) for the City of New York. As such, and working with the input of the City-wide Community Action Board and local Neighborhood Advisory Boards, DYCD procures and enters into contracts with community-based organizations to provide services targeted to the specific needs of residents in City neighborhoods with high rates of poverty. In his role as Assistant Commissioner for Community Action Programs at DYCD, Mr. Bobbitt is responsible for the programs funded with CSBG dollars.

NYSCAA, established in 1987, is a not for profit organization based in Albany that provides community action agencies across the State with information, professional development, and technical assistance to enhance the capacity of agencies to serve as effective, responsive community resources. DYCD has been a dues-paying member of NYSCAA since at least 2007, and has had members of the Community Action Board and Neighborhood Advisory Boards (both entities that are involved in the administration of the CSBG funds), attend programs at NYSCAA including its annual Poverty Symposium.

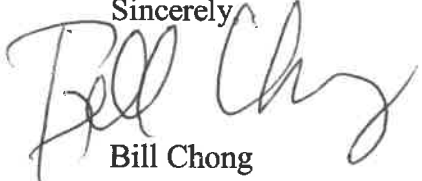
Mr. Bobbitt joined DYCD in April of 2010, as Director of the Fatherhood Initiative and served in that capacity until taking a position as Senior Advisor in 2013. Mr. Bobbitt has served as Assistant Commissioner since 2014. In that same year, Mr. Bobbitt accepted a position on the NYSCAA Board, replacing his DYCD predecessor, Cindy Colter, who also served on the NYSCAA Board during her tenure at DYCD. Mr. Bobbitt attends the NYSCAA Board meetings which are held in Albany four times a year, each lasting two to three hours. The expenses related to his transportation and participation in the Board meetings are covered by CSBG grant monies. In addition to participating in and preparing for Board meetings, Mr. Bobbitt attends NYSCAA's statewide conferences, including its Poverty Symposium, Professional Development Conference, and Executive Director seminar. For purposes of efficiency, the Board meetings are held just prior to each conference. The conference expenses related to Mr. Bobbitt's attendance are also covered by CSBG grant monies.

A doing business search produced no records of business dealings between NYSCAA and New York City. A checkbooknyc.com showed 40 payments from DYCD to NYSCAA between 2010 and 2019. These expenses covered dues, conference fees and related travel expenses. DYCD also purchased "results oriented management and accountability" ("ROMA") training materials as well as training sessions for agency employees so they could then train DYCD providers on the ROMA framework, which is required by CSBG.

There is a clear nexus between Mr. Bobbitt's service on the NYSCAA Board and his role at DYCD. NYSCAA advocates on both state and national levels for sound policy that enables communities to address poverty. It provides pertinent training not only for DYCD but also for its CSBG funded providers who have access to training modules on the NYSCAA website and also participate in the annual Poverty Symposium. As the largest CAA in New York State, DYCD has an interest in having a presence on the Board. Mr. Bobbitt's role on the Board provides networking and coordinating opportunities with the other members of the Board, who are Executive Directors of community action agencies throughout New York State.

If additional information is needed, please contact Caroline Press, General Counsel, at cpress@dycd.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,



Bill Chong