

January 3, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Carrier,

This letter serves to notify the Conflict of Interest Board (“COIB” or “Board”) that consistent with COIB Rules 1-13(e), I hereby designate Eric Macfarlane, in his official capacity as New York City (“NYC”) Department of Design and Construction (“DDC”) Deputy Commissioner, to serve on the National Academies for Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (“NASEM”) as a committee member for the Study on Repurposing Plastics Waste in Infrastructure for the duration of 18 months beginning in January, 2022.

Eric Macfarlane is currently employed at DDC as the Deputy Commissioner of Infrastructure. The Division of Infrastructure manages the design and construction of City streets, water mains, and storm and sanitary sewers. Mr. Macfarlane reports directly to the DDC Commissioner and works with DDC’s sponsoring agencies to design and construct the physical and organizational structure and facilities needed for the operation and function of New York City. Based on Mr. Macfarlanes practical knowledge of infrastructure design and construction and the nature of his responsibilities at DDC, he was selected to sit on this committee.

NASEM was founded in 1863 as a congressionally chartered not-for-profit professional organization that provides independent, objective advice to inform policy with evidence, spark progress, and confront challenging issues for the benefit of society. NASEM is grounded in the expertise of three academies — the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), National Academy of Engineering (NAE), and National Academy of Medicine (NAM). NASEM is conducting the Study on Repurposing Plastics Waste in Infrastructure. This study is a congressionally mandated study that will review and examine the use of repurposed plastics in Infrastructure and how to improve the plastic recycling process. The findings of this study will result in committee members identifying whether repurposing plastic for use in infrastructure is safe, cost-effective and the what the environmental performance will be on a life cycle basis. The findings of this study could have an impact on the future of infrastructure design federally and locally.

There is a demonstrated nexus between the City and the purpose of the Study, such that Mr. Macfarlanes’s involvement with the NASEM Study on Repurposing Plastics Waste in Infrastructure will further the purposes and interests of the City. By participating in this Study, Mr. Macfarlane will have an opportunity to contribute his expertise and knowledge of large city infrastructure projects. Mr. Macfarlane will not receive any compensation from NASEM as all committee members are volunteers; however, NASEM does reimburse travel expenses to/from the committee meetings.

I have been advised that Mr. Macfarlane does not anticipate or foresee any conflicts between his day-to-day responsibilities at DDC and involvement with NASEM. I am supportive of Mr. Macfarlane serving in this role, subject to any required stipulations and/or recusals on his part. I am also requesting that Mr. Macfarlane be allowed the reasonable and incidental use of City time, equipment, supplies and resources for his participation with NASEM as part of his City duties.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Assistant General Counsel Vani Nayyar who can be reached at (718) 391-1062.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. J. Varoli".

David J. Varoli

Deputy Commissioner of Legal Affairs & General Counsel