

2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010 New York, New York 10007 (212) 442-1400; (212) 437-0705 (Fax) www.nyc.gov/ethics

February 21, 2024

Meera Joshi Deputy Mayor for Operations Office of the New York City Mayor City Hall New York, New York 10007

Re: Conflicts of Interest Board Case No. 2024-067 (Joseph Chavez)

Dear Deputy Mayor Joshi:

This is in response to your office's submission to the Conflicts of Interest Board (the "Board"), received January 31, 2024, designating, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1), Joseph Chavez, a New York City Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice ("MOCEJ") employee, to use City time and City resources to perform work for New York City Energy Efficiency Corporation ("NYCEEC"). You also request a determination by the Board, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2), that Mr. Chavez may take part in NYCEEC's business dealings with the City.

Relevant Facts

You advise that at MOCEJ Mr. Chavez is Deputy Director of Resilient and Efficient Building. He manages the City's policies and programs to decarbonize and increase resiliency of the built environment. As part of this work, he oversees the NYC Accelerator Property Accessed Clean Energy ("PACE") Program, a financing tool that helps commercial and multifamily building owners fund energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

You further advise that you have designated Mr. Chavez to serve as a member of the board of directors of NYCEEC, a not-for-profit organization that provides loans for clean energy projects in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Through a contract held by the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services, NYCEEC manages the loan process for the NYC Accelerator PACE Program, helping building owners obtain private loans that are repaid in installments through the building owners' property tax bills. NYCEEC works closely with MOCEJ to run this program and coordinates with the New York City Department of Finance to remit loan payments collected on property tax bills to the private lender. NYCEEC currently has thirteen board members who oversee the NYC Accelerator PACE Program.

COIB Case No. 2024-067 February 21, 2024 Page 2 of 3

By endorsement to your office's submission to the Board, you approve of Mr. Chavez's work on behalf of NYCEEC as part of his work for MOCEJ and seek the Board's approval for his participation in business dealings between NYCEEC and the City.

Relevant Law

Charter Section 2604(b)(2), as interpreted in Board Rules Section 1-13, prohibits a public servant's use of City time or resources for non-City purposes.

Board Rules Section 1-13(e) provides that an agency head may designate a public servant to perform work on behalf of a not-for-profit corporation, association, or other such entity that operates on a not-for-profit basis, including serving as a board member or other position with fiduciary responsibilities, provided that: (i) there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed activity, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency, and such work furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit; (ii) the designated public servant takes no part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity or at his or his agency; and (iii) within 30 days the written designation is disclosed to the Board and will be posted on the Board's website. See Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1)(i).

A public servant designated pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1) may take part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity and/or at his or his agency if, after written approval of the agency head, the Board determines that there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed participation, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency; and that such participation furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit entity. See Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2).

<u>Advice</u>

Based on the above representations and your written designation pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1), the Board has determined that there is a demonstrated nexus between Mr. Chavez's City job, his proposed work for NYCEEC, and the mission of MOCEJ. The Board has also determined that Mr. Chavez's participation in the business dealings between the City and NYCEEC, as described above, furthers MOCEJ's mission to promote resilient and sustainable building construction and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of NYCEEC. Therefore, the Board has determined that Mr. Chavez may participate in the business dealings between the City and NYCEEC.

COIB Case No. 2024-067 February 21, 2024 Page 3 of 3

The advice conveyed in this letter is conditioned on the correctness and completeness of the facts supplied to us. If such facts are in any respect incorrect or incomplete, the advice we have given to you may not apply. If at any time you would like further advice based on a change of circumstances or additional information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

Milton L. Williams Jr.

Chair

cc: Fernando A. Bohorquez Jr.

Wayne G. Hawley

Ifeoma Ike

Georgia M. Pestana

Kristen James Joseph Chavez



To: Meera Joshi, Deputy Mayor of Operations

From: Sharon Lewis-Williams, General Counsel

Re: Designation of Executive Director Elijah Hutchinson to Serve on Board of Green Light

New York, Inc. DBA Building Energy Exchange (BE-EX)

Date: February 26, 2024

Subject to your approval as Deputy Mayor of Operations, Executive Director Elijah Hutchinson may serve as an ex-officio board member of Green Light New York, Inc. OBA Building Energy Exchange (BE-EX). BE-EX is a New York City-based nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting New York City's real estate and design communities to energy and lighting efficiency solutions through education, exhibitions, technology demonstrations, and research.

New York City Charter Section 2604(b)(2) bars public servants from engaging in private activities that conflict with the proper discharge of their duties, including service as a director of an outside organization that does business with the City, unless the public servant is designated by an agency head to perform work on behalf of a not-for-profit organization and (i) there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed work, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency; (ii) such work furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit; (iii) the public servant takes no part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity or their agency, and (iv) a written designation is disclosed to the Conflicts of Interest Board's ("COIB") within 30 days.¹

The Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice's ("MOCEJ") mission is to make NYC's buildings efficient and resilient, ensure New York City's infrastructure is climate-ready, transform New York City's streets and public realm into living, open spaces, and make New York City's energy clean and resilient. Through science-based analysis, policy and program development, and capacity building, and with a focus on equity and public health, MOCEJ leads

See Rules of the Board, Conflicts of Interest § 1-13(e).

the City's efforts to ensure that New York City is both reducing its emissions and preparing to adapt and protect New Yorkers from the intensifying impacts of climate change.

As Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, Elijah Hutchinson oversees the daily and programmatic operations of the Office, which include the following subject areas: resilient and efficient buildings, clean energy, environmental justice, strategic partnerships, living streets and public spaces, climate-ready infrastructure and urban agriculture. Elijah Hutchinson also oversees policy development and policy implementation across all teams at the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, the implementation of PlaNYC commitments, and the maintaining and supporting of relationships with stakeholders across the public and private sectors.

BE-EX's is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. BE-EX's mission is to connect New York City's real estate and design communities to energy and lighting efficiency solutions through education, exhibitions, technology demonstrations, and research. It conducts professional trainings targeted at every type of building decision maker and produces reports that turn data into action and produces educational materials on energy efficiency. Further, BE-EX promotes energy efficient technologies, applications and processes through a comprehensive range of industry-leading training programs and projects. For example, recently, BE-EX led a successful Daylight Hour campaign with hundreds of global participants who turned off their lights for one hour on the sunniest day of the year. BE-EX also recently hosted a panel alongside the Natural Resources Defense Council discussing successful decarbonization pathways for tenant owned and operated buildings as they prepare for compliance with Local Law 97.

BE-EX has had business dealings with the City in the past, but no longer has active business dealings with the City. Additionally, BE-EX does not expect to have business dealings with the City in the future. Should that change, MOCEJ will return to COIB. CheckbookNYC reflects that the City spent approximately \$4,931,250.85 with BE-EX² from 2013-2023 via the Department of Environment Protection, Department of Citywide Administrative Services, and the Department of Transportation. Of that amount. CheckbookNYC indicates that in 2023. the City spent approximately \$20,000 with BE-EX. BE-EX's past business dealings have involved work with the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability, which is now the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice. BE-EX does not currently receive compensation for the performance of services related to operations of the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice. However, BE-EX serves on the Steering Committee for the NYC Accelerator,³ which is an unpaid and advisory role. In addition, BE-EX occasionally invites representatives from Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, as well as other city agencies, to participate as speakers at BE-EX programs and convenings. In the past, BE-EX's business dealings with the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice included:

² Note that BE-EX appears in CheckbookNYC as both Green Light New York Inc. and Green Light New York, Inc.

³ The Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice manages the NYC Accelerator program.

Between 2013-2021, BE-EX provided energy efficiency resources, training, programs and exhibitions pursuant to a contract originally with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, and subsequently the Department of Environmental Protection. The Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice played an active role in managing that contract.

In 2022, BE-EX provided technology explainers for the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice under the NYC Accelerator Program.

BE-EX is governed by a Board of Directors ("Board") comprised of approximately 24 directors tasked with ensuring the organization's activities adhere to its nonprofit mission and that the Directors act as good stewards of BE-EX's resources.

Elijah Hutchinson's position as a member of the BE-EX board meets the Conflicts of Interest Rules' requirements for serving as a board member of an outside entity on City time and with City resources. There is a clear and direct nexus between BE-EX's work, Elijah Hutchinson's City job as Executive Director, and the mission of the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, because each is focused on making buildings across New York City more efficient and resilient as well as a just energy transition. Additionally, the work furthers the mission of the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice and is not undertaken primarily to benefit BE-EX because achieving a just energy transition and becoming a more resilient and energy efficient City is among the administration's top priorities.

I recommend that you approve Elijah Hutchinson's request to serve as a member of BE-EX's Board on city time.

Approved:

Meera Joshi

Deputy Mayor of Operations



2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010 New York, New York 10007 (212) 442-1400; (212) 437-0705 (Fax) www.nyc.gov/ethics

March 5, 2024

Sheena Wright
First Deputy Mayor
Office of the New York City Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Re: Conflicts of Interest Board Case No. 2024-096 (Ana Almanzar)

Dear First Deputy Mayor Wright:

This is in response to your letter to the Conflicts of Interest Board (the "Board"), dated February 8, 2024, designating, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1), Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives Ana Almanzar to use City time and City resources to perform work for the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City (the "Mayor's Fund"). You also request a determination by the Board, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2), that Deputy Mayor Almanzar may take part in the Mayor's Fund's business dealings with the City.

Relevant Facts

You advise that at the Mayor's Office Deputy Mayor Almanzar oversees, among other things, the Office of Strategic Partnerships, which includes the Mayor's Fund and affiliated not-for-profit organizations. She coordinates the City's targeted, strategic investments and partnerships across multiple sectors to improve the lives of City residents.

You further advise that Deputy Mayor Almanzar serves as Chair of the board of directors of the Mayor's Fund. The Fund is a not-for-profit organization created by the City that facilitates public-private partnerships between the City and the private sector and serves as a vehicle for foundations, corporations, and individuals to contribute to City programs and initiatives. The Fund's mission is to advance initiatives to improve the lives of City residents, and its programs include strategic investments to promote mental health services, increase workforce development, and meet the needs of the City's immigrant community. The Fund is governed by a board of directors, each of whom is appointed by the Mayor and is responsible for the general management of the affairs and property of the Mayor's Fund, including approving the Mayor's Fund's budgets, approving contracts, and employing personnel. The Fund has registered with the Board as a not-for-profit

COIB Case No. 2024-096 March 5, 2024 Page 2 of 3

affiliated with an elected official under Chapter 9 of Title 3 of the New York City Administrative Code.

Pursuant to its by-laws, the Mayor's Fund's board of directors meets at least three times per year. As Chair and Deputy Mayor of Strategic Initiatives, Deputy Mayor Almanzar would preside over these meetings, oversee fundraising for the Mayor's Fund's initiatives, and sign checks, notes, drafts, or other negotiable instruments on behalf of the Mayor's Fund, such that she would be involved in the business dealings between the Mayor's Fund and the City.

By your letter to the Board, you approve of Deputy Mayor Almanzar's work on behalf of the Mayor's Fund as part of her work for the Mayor's Office and seek the Board's approval for her participation in business dealings between the Mayor's Fund and the City.

Relevant Law

Charter Section 2604(b)(2), as interpreted in Board Rules Section 1-13, prohibits a public servant's use of City time or City resources for non-City purposes.

Board Rules Section 1-13(e) provides that a deputy mayor may designate an agency head to perform work on behalf of a not-for-profit corporation, association, or other such entity that operates on a not-for-profit basis, including serving as a board member or other position with fiduciary responsibilities, provided that: (i) there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed activity, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency, and such work furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit; (ii) the designated public servant takes no part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity or at their agency; and (iii) within 30 days the written designation is disclosed to the Board and will be posted on the Board's website.

A public servant designated pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1) may take part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity and/or at their agency if, after written approval of the agency head, the Board determines that there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed participation, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency; and that such participation furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit entity. See Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2).

Advice

The Board has determined, based on the above representations and your written approval, that there is a demonstrated nexus between Deputy Mayor Almanzar's work at the Mayor's Office, her work for the Mayor's Fund, and the mission of the Mayor's Office. The Board has also determined that Deputy Mayor Almanzar's participation in the business dealings between the City and the Mayor's Fund furthers the Mayor's Office's

COIB Case No. 2024-096 March 5, 2024 Page 3 of 3

mission. Accordingly, Deputy Mayor Almanzar may use City time and City resources to perform work for the Mayor's Fund and may be involved in business dealings between the Mayor's Fund and the City. <u>See</u> Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2).

The advice conveyed in this letter is conditioned on the correctness and completeness of the facts supplied to us. If such facts are in any respect incorrect or incomplete, the advice we have given to you may not apply. If at any time you would like further advice based on a change of circumstances or additional information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

Milton L. Williams Jr.

Chair

cc: Fernando A. Bohorquez Jr.

Wayne G. Hawley

Ifeoma Ike

Georgia M. Pestana

Bill Heinzen

Ana J. Almanzar



THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE MAYOR NEW YORK, NY 10007

To: First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright

From: Bill Heinzen, Special Counsel, Office of the Chief Counsel

Re: Designation of Maria Torres-Springer to use City time and resources to perform work on

behalf of the Perelman Performing Arts Center

Date: March 5, 2024

Subject to your approval and designation, Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer may serve as a member of the Perelman Performing Arts Center (the "PACNYC") Board of Trustees on using City resources including City Time.

New York City Charter Section 2604(b)(2) bars public servants from engaging in private activities that conflict with the proper discharge of their duties, including service as a director of a not for profit using City resources, unless the public servant is designated by an agency head to perform work on behalf of a not-for-profit organization and (i) there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed work, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency; (ii) such work furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit; (iii) the public servant takes no part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity or their agency, unless an agency head approves the public servant taking part in such business dealings and upon COIB's determination that elements (i) and (ii) above have been met; and (iv) a written designation is disclosed to COIB within 30 days.¹

As Deputy Mayor, Maria Torres Springer is charged with spearheading the Administration's efforts to strengthen the City's economy, housing and workforce. As part of that role, Ms. Torres-Springer oversees the Department of Cultural Affairs and is responsible for expanding New Yorkers' access to cultural services, as well fostering the economic growth spurred by New York's entertainment and artistic sectors, including jobs and tourism. The PACNYC is also an important piece of the City's longterm plan to recover from the attacks of September 11, 2001 and re-orient business and cultural connections in downtown Manhattan.

¹ See Board Rule 1-13(e).

PACNYC is a 501(c)(3) organization which opened in 2023 with the mission of creating connections within the City by cultivating bonds between extraordinary artists and communities through its performances. PACNYC also operates a civic alliances program which maintains ongoing relations with anchor organizations committed to serving New Yorkers and project-based alliance aimed at creating dialogue and programming around PACNYC specific events, performances, and productions. PACNYC is governed by a Board of Trustees (the "Board").

Ms. Torres-Springer's proposed service on the PACNYC's Board meets the Conflicts of Interest Rules' requirements for serving as a board member of an outside not for profit entity on City time and with City resources. There is a clear and direct nexus between the PACNYC's mission, Ms. Torres-Springer's City jobs, and the mission of the Mayor's Office, given the focus of the Mayor's Office on promoting the City's key cultural institutions and economic growth.

If you approve Ms. Torres-Springer's designation to serve as member on the PACNYC's Board of Trustees using City resources, please sign below.

Approveda

Sheena Wright

First Deputy Mayor

MEMORANDUM

To: Anne Williams-Isom, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

From: Bill Heinzen, Special Counsel and Hamza Suhail, Legal Intern

Re: Designation of Director Heather Day to Serve on Community Council for The

Partnership for After School Education (PASE)

Date: April 12, 2024

Subject to your approval as Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, Heather Day of the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health's ("MOCMH") may serve as a member of the Community Council of the Partnership for After School Education ("PASE"), and she may use City time and resources in connection with those services in accordance with COIB rule 1-13(e)(1).

The Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health and Ms. Day's Role

The Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health's ("MOCMH") mission is to improve mental health support for all New Yorkers and ensure that more people receive the mental health and support they need to lead healthy and content lives. MOCMH partners with City agencies to reduce barriers for mental health care for underserved communities. As Director of Community and Workforce Initiatives at MOCMH, Heather Day is responsible for supporting the development and implementation of mental health capacity building initiatives and policies designed to strengthen the public sector behavioral health workforce and improve access to services for diverse communities across New York City. Her work includes:

- Managing interagency projects within the Community and Workforce Initiatives portfolio, including research, project development, drafting budgets, and identifying appropriate partners;
- Leading a portfolio of collaborative relationships with city agency leaders, community and faith-based organizations, academic institutions, and other external stakeholders to advance mental healthcare for all; and
- Contributing to mental health promotion by developing written and visual materials for public education, presentations, and reporting.

PASE is a New York City-based 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting quality afterschool programming, particularly those that serve young people from underserved communities, by ensuring that the individuals in the after-school programs are prepared, trained, and capable of providing high-quality services. PASE has formed a Community Council to inform PASE's after-school programming by ensuring that the programming is accessible, equitable, and inclusive as possible for all participants.

The PASE Community Council launched in 2022 to provide input, accountability, and direction for PASE programming. The Community Council members provide insight and feedback to help inform program offerings for the year ensuring that the programming is accessible, equitable, and inclusive as possible. Community Council members have a two-term limit, meet quarterly, and are offered a \$500.00 honorarium. (Ms. Day will decline any compensation including an honorarium in order to participate during work hours).

CheckbookNYC reflects that the City spent approximately \$3,230,250.00 on PASE programing from 2007-2023 via the Department of Education and the Department of Youth and Community Development. Of that amount, CheckbookNYC indicates that in 2023, the City spent approximately \$99,998.98 with PASE. PASE's past business dealings have involved work with the Department of Education and the Department of Youth and Community Development.

COIB Requirements and Heather Day's proposed service

New York City Charter Section 2604(b)(2) bars public servants from engaging in private activities that conflict with the proper discharge of their duties, including service as a director of an outside organization that does business with the City, unless the public servant is designated by an agency head to perform work on behalf of a not-for-profit organization and (i) there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed work, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency; (ii) such work furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit; (iii) the public servant takes no part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity or their agency, and (iv) a written designation is disclosed to the Conflicts of Interest Board's ("COIB") within 30 days.1

Heather Day's request to serve as a member of the PASE Community Council on City time and with City resources meets COIB's requirements. There is a nexus between PASE's work, her City position as Director of Community and Workforce Initiatives, and the mission of the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health, because each is focused on ensuring that the underserved youth of New York City receive the proper resources to lead successful lives and that the public sector workforce responsible for these services is

¹ See Rules of the Board, Conflicts of Interest § 1-13(e)

equally supported and provided with opportunities for growth. Additionally, the work furthers the mission of the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health and is not undertaken primarily to benefit PASE because providing opportunities for and properly educating the underserved youth of New York City about mental health awareness and support is among the administration's top priorities.

PASE does not currently receive compensation for the performance of any services related to or on behalf of, MOCMH. In the event that PASE does have business dealings with MOCMH, Heather Day will recuse herself from any such matters as COIB requires; she will take no part in the PASE's business dealings with the City at PASE or at MOCMH.

We recommend that you approve Heather Day's designation to serve as a member of PASE's Community Council using City resources, including City time.

Approved:

Anne Williams-Isom

Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services



2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010 New York, New York 10007 (212) 442-1400; (212) 437-0705 (Fax) www.nyc.gov/ethics

April 29, 2024

Mayor Eric Adams
Office of the New York City Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Re: Conflicts of Interest Board Case No. 2023-841 (Sheena Wright)

Dear Mayor Adams:

This is in response to your office's submission to the Conflicts of Interest Board (the "Board"), received December 1, 2023, and subsequent communications between your office and Board staff, designating, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1), First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright to use City time to perform work for the National September 11 Memorial And Museum (the "Museum") and requesting a determination by the Board, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2), that she may take part in the Museum's business dealings with the City.

Relevant Facts

You advise that First Deputy Mayor Wright manages the day-to-day operations of the Mayor's Office and coordinates the policies and operations of the other Deputy Mayors and their agencies. Her role includes advising on civic engagement and overseeing various public and private partnerships.

You further advise that you have designated First Deputy Mayor Wright to serve on the board of trustees of the Museum, a not-for-profit organization that documents the impact and examines the continuing significance of 9/11 through exhibitions, programs, and events. The Museum receives funding from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs ("DCLA") for museum operations and initiatives. It also has business dealings with the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") and the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development ("DYCD") to conduct exhibition tours and speaker series for public school students and with the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") to provide security training to Museum personnel and for the Museum to host professional programs for NYPD homicide detectives and NYPD partner organizations. According to its bylaws, the Museum is governed by a self-perpetuating board of trustees responsible for managing the Museum's affairs. As a board member, First Deputy Mayor Wright would review and vote on approving the Museum's budget, contracts, and hiring.

COIB Case No. 2022-841 April 29, 2024 Page 2 of 3

By endorsement to your office's submission to the Board, you approve of Frist Deputy Mayor Wright's work on behalf of the Museum as part of her work for the Mayor's Office and her participation in the business dealings between the Museum and the City.

Relevant Law

Charter Section 2604(b)(2), as interpreted in Board Rules Section 1-13, prohibits a public servant's use of City time or City resources for non-City purposes.

Board Rules Section 1-13(e) provides that the mayor may designate an agency head to perform work on behalf of a not-for-profit corporation, association, or other such entity that operates on a not-for-profit basis, including serving as a board member or other position with fiduciary responsibilities, provided that: (i) there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed activity, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency, and such work furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit; (ii) the designated public servant takes no part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity or at their agency; and (iii) within 30 days the written designation is disclosed to the Board and will be posted on the Board's website.

A public servant designated pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1) may take part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity and/or at their agency if, after written approval of the agency head, the Board determines that there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed participation, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency; and that such participation furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit entity. See Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2).

<u>Advice</u>

The Board has determined, based on the above representations and your written approval, that there is a demonstrated nexus between First Deputy Mayor Wright's work for the Mayor's Office, her work for the Museum, and the mission of the Mayor's Office. The Board has also determined that First Deputy Mayor Wright's participation in the business dealings between the City and Museum furthers the Mayor's Office's mission. Accordingly, First Deputy Mayor Wright may use City time to perform work for the Museum and may be involved in business dealings between the Museum and the City. See Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2).

COIB Case No. 2022-841 April 29, 2024 Page 3 of 3

The advice conveyed in this letter is conditioned on the correctness and completeness of the facts supplied to us. If such facts are in any respect incorrect or incomplete, the advice we have given to you may not apply. If at any time you would like further advice based on a change of circumstances or additional information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

Milton L. Williams Jr.

Chair

cc: Wayne G. Hawley Ifeoma Ike Amy E. Millard

Georgia M. Pestana

Bill Heinzen Sheena Wright



2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010 New York, New York 10007 (212) 442-1400; (212) 437-0705 (Fax) www.nyc.gov/ethics

April 29, 2024

Meera Joshi Deputy Mayor for Operations Office of the New York City Mayor City Hall New York, New York 10007

Re: Conflicts of Interest Board Case No. 2024-242 (Hayley Elszasz)

Dear Deputy Mayor Joshi:

This is in response to your office's submission to the Conflicts of Interest Board (the "Board"), received April 2, 2024, and subsequent communications between your office and Board staff, designating, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1), Hayley Elszasz, a New York City Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice ("MOCEJ") employee, to use City time and City resources to perform work for Megalopolitan Coastal Transformation Hub ("MACH"), a research hub run by Rutgers University. You also request a determination by the Board, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2), that Dr. Elszasz may take part in MACH's business dealings with the City.

Relevant Facts

You advise that at MOCEJ Dr. Elszasz is the Climate Science Advisor. She oversees academic partnerships related to climate science and ensures that City policies align with the best available climate science. As part of this work, she manages the New York City Panel on Climate Change, a City advisory board that synthesizes scientific information on climate change to inform City policy and of which Rutgers is a member. She also managed the Climate Vulnerability, Impact, and Adaptation Analysis ("VIA"), which assessed future projections of climate change to inform City decision-making. While Rutgers was not part of the initial VIA, Rutgers would likely participate in a second VIA should MOCEJ receive funding.

You further advise that you have designated Dr. Elszasz to serve as a member of the Government Advisory Board of MACH, a group of thirteen academic institutions led by Rutgers and funded by the National Science Foundation. MACH is part of a network of research hubs around the country with a mission to manage climate-change-related risk through research and equitable community participation. MACH researches climate change risks to the City, New Jersey, and Philadelphia area. MACH's Government Advisory Board members provide comments on MACH research and attend MACH

COIB Case No. 2024-242 April 29, 2024 Page 2 of 3

seminars.

By endorsement to your office's submission to the Board, you approve of Dr. Elszasz's work on behalf of MACH as part of her work for MOCEJ and seek the Board's approval for her participation in business dealings between Rutgers and the City.

Relevant Law

Charter Section 2604(b)(2), as interpreted in Board Rules Section 1-13, prohibits a public servant's use of City time or resources for non-City purposes.

Board Rules Section 1-13(e) provides that an agency head may designate a public servant to perform work on behalf of a not-for-profit corporation, association, or other such entity that operates on a not-for-profit basis, including serving as a board member or other position with fiduciary responsibilities, provided that: (i) there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed activity, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency, and such work furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit; (ii) the designated public servant takes no part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity or at her or her agency; and (iii) within 30 days the written designation is disclosed to the Board and will be posted on the Board's website. See Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1)(i).

A public servant designated pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1) may take part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity and/or at her or her agency if, after written approval of the agency head, the Board determines that there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed participation, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency; and that such participation furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit entity. See Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2).

<u>Advice</u>

Based on the above representations and your written designation pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1), the Board has determined that there is a demonstrated nexus between Dr. Elszasz's City job, her proposed work for MACH, and the mission of MOCEJ. The Board has also determined that Dr. Elszasz's participation in the business dealings between the City and Rutgers, as described above, furthers MOCEJ's mission to implement policies based on the best available climate science and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of MACH or Rutgers. Therefore, the Board has determined that Dr. Elszasz may participate in the business dealings between the City and Rutgers.

COIB Case No. 2024-242 April 29, 2024 Page 3 of 3

The advice conveyed in this letter is conditioned on the correctness and completeness of the facts supplied to us. If such facts are in any respect incorrect or incomplete, the advice we have given to you may not apply. If at any time you would like further advice based on a change of circumstances or additional information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

Milton L. Williams Jr.

Chair

cc: Wayne G. Hawley Ifeoma Ike Amy E. Millard

Georgia M. Pestana

Kristen James Hayley Elszasz



2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010 New York, New York 10007 (212) 442-1400; (212) 437-0705 (Fax) www.nyc.gov/ethics

April 29, 2024

Sheena Wright
First Deputy Mayor
Office of the New York City Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Re: Conflicts of Interest Board Case Nos. 2024-264/a

(Ana Almanzar and Jason Parker)

Dear First Deputy Mayor Wright:

This is in response to your letter to the Conflicts of Interest Board (the "Board"), dated February 13, 2024, designating, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1), Ana Almanzar, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives, and Jason Parker, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives, to use City time and City resources to perform work for NYC Kids RISE. You also request a determination by the Board, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2), that Deputy Mayor Almanzar and Mr. Parker may take part in NYC Kids RISE's business dealings with the City.

Relevant Facts

You advise that the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives leads interagency efforts to support New Yorkers' educational, economic, and emotional well-being. Deputy Mayor Almanzar and Mr. Parker are responsible for coordinating the City's strategic investments and partnerships across multiple sectors to improve the lives of City residents, including those served by NYC Kids RISE.

You further advise that Deputy Mayor Almanzar serves as an ex-officio member on the board of directors of NYC Kids RISE and Mr. Parker serves as her alternate. NYC Kids RISE is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2016 by the New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection ("DCWP"), the New York City Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity, and the Gray Foundation, a not-for-profit organization committed to improving the lives of low-income children in the City. NYC Kids RISE promotes financial education and post-secondary education expectation, opportunities, access, and success. As part of this work, NYC Kids RISE administers the Save for College Program: a City scholarship and educational savings program that provides every kindergarten student enrolled in a City public school with an educational savings account

COIB Case Nos. 2024-264/a April 29, 2024 Page 2 of 3

and an initial \$100 deposit. DCWP is responsible for distributing \$45 million to NYC Kids RISE over three years to fund the initial cash deposits into the Save for College Program savings accounts.

Pursuant to its by-laws, NYC Kids RISE has between seven and fifteen members of its board of directors, three of whom serve *ex-officio*: the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") and two other officials designated by the Mayor: a Deputy Mayor and a Commissioner or other high-level City official. The Mayor has designated the DCWP Commissioner and Deputy Mayor Almanzar to serve as *ex-officio* members of NYC Kids RISE's board of directors. As an *ex-officio* board member, Deputy Mayor Almanzar, and Mr. Parker as her alternate, attend quarterly board meetings and vote on and discuss the Save for College Program; thus, they would be involved in the business dealings between NYC Kids RISE and the City.

By your letter to the Board, you approve of Deputy Mayor Almanzar's and Mr. Parker's work on behalf of NYC Kids RISE as part of their work for the Mayor's Office and seek the Board's approval for their participation in business dealings between NYC Kids RISE and the City.

Relevant Law

Charter Section 2604(b)(2), as interpreted in Board Rules Section 1-13, prohibits a public servant's use of City time or City resources for non-City purposes.

Board Rules Section 1-13(e) provides that a deputy mayor may designate an agency head to perform work on behalf of a not-for-profit corporation, association, or other such entity that operates on a not-for-profit basis, including serving as a board member or other position with fiduciary responsibilities, provided that: (i) there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed activity, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency, and such work furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit; (ii) the designated public servant takes no part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity or at their agency; and (iii) within 30 days the written designation is disclosed to the Board and will be posted on the Board's website.

A public servant designated pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1) may take part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity and/or at their agency if, after written approval of the agency head, the Board determines that there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed participation, the public servant's City job, and the mission of the public servant's agency; and that such participation furthers the agency's mission and is not undertaken primarily for the benefit or interests of the not-for-profit entity. See Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2).

COIB Case Nos. 2024-264/a April 29, 2024 Page 3 of 3

Advice

The Board has determined, based on the above representations and your written approval, that there is a demonstrated nexus between Deputy Mayor Almanzar's and Mr. Parker's work at the Mayor's Office, their work for NYC Kids RISE, and the mission of the Mayor's Office. The Board has also determined that Deputy Mayor Almanzar's and Mr. Parker's participation in the business dealings between the City and NYC Kids RISE furthers the Mayor's Office's mission. Accordingly, Deputy Mayor Almanzar and Mr. parker may use City time and City resources to perform work for NYC Kids RISE and may be involved in business dealings between NYC Kids RISE and the City. See Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2).

The advice conveyed in this letter is conditioned on the correctness and completeness of the facts supplied to us. If such facts are in any respect incorrect or incomplete, the advice we have given to you may not apply. If at any time you would like further advice based on a change of circumstances or additional information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

Milton L. Williams Jr.

Chair

CC:

Wayne G. Hawley Ifeoma Ike Amy E. Millard Georgia M. Pestana

Bill Heinzen Ana J. Almanzar Jason Parker