

CITY OF NEW YORK CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

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April 29, 2026

Julie Su
Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice
Office of the New York City Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Re: Conflicts of Interest Board Case Nos. 2026-207/a
(Samuel Levine and Nichole Davis)

Dear Deputy Mayor Su:

This is in response to your letter to the Conflicts of Interest Board (the "Board"), received April 1, 2026, designating, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1), New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection ("DCWP") Commissioner Samuel Levine and Deputy Commissioner Nichole Davis to use City time and City resources to perform work for the Cities for Financial Empowerment ("CFE") Coalition and its related organization, the CFE Fund, and requesting a determination by the Board, pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(2), that they may take part in the CFE Fund's business dealings with the City.

Relevant Facts

You advise that Commissioner Levine oversees the operations of DCWP, which enforces the City's consumer and worker protection laws, licenses businesses operating in the City, and provides services such as free tax preparation and financial counseling to City residents. Ms. Davis is Deputy Commissioner of DCWP's Office of Financial Empowerment ("OFE") and oversees initiatives that support City residents and communities with low to moderate incomes in building wealth and improving their financial health.

The Board is advised that in 2008 then New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg co-founded the CFE Coalition with then San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom to advance municipal financial empowerment initiatives and advocate for policy on the state and national levels; the CFE Coalition currently comprises of 19 municipal financial empowerment offices across the country, including DCWP. The CFE Coalition is supported by the CFE Fund, a not-for-profit organization established in 2012 that offers

funding and technical assistance to mayoral administrations to provide financial empowerment and consumer protection services to their constituents.

You advise that Commissioner Levine will serve as the City's representative to the CFE Coalition, and Ms. Davis will serve as Commissioner Levine's designee; in this role Ms. Davis will represent the City at CFE Coalition Convenings and meetings, participate in the Policy Committee, and provide subject matter expertise. Additionally, Ms. Davis was selected by CFE Coalition members to serve a two-year term as Co-Chair of the CFE Coalition; she will work with the CFE Fund and CFE Coalition member cities to create learning opportunities, share best practices, and plan bi-annual CFE Coalition Convenings. The CFE Fund has provided two grants to the City: one to DCWP's OFE to provide technical assistance and mentoring to the municipalities of Alexandria, Virginia; Gaithersburg, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Newport News, Virginia to develop their own Offices of Financial Empowerment and one to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development to support the Summer Jobs Connect program, which connects young people with safe and appropriate banking accounts. Commissioner Levine and Ms. Davis may take part in the CFE Fund's business dealings with the City.

By your letter to the Board, you approve of Commissioner Levine's and Ms. Davis's work on behalf of the CFE Coalition as part of their work for DCWP and seek the Board's approval for their participation in business dealings between the CFE 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.

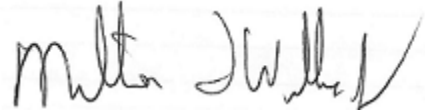
A public servant designated pursuant to Board Rules Section 1-13(e)(1) may take part in the entity's business dealings with the City at the entity and/or at their agency if, after written approval of the agency head, the Board determines that there is a demonstrated nexus between the proposed participation, 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 Commissioner Levine's and Ms. Davis's work at DCWP, their work for the CFE Coalition and CFE Fund, and the mission of DCWP. The Board has also determined that Commissioner Levine's and Ms. Davis's participation in the business dealings between the City and the CFE Fund furthers DCWP's mission. Accordingly, Commissioner Levine and Ms. Davis may use City time and City resources to perform work for the CFE Coalition and CFE Fund and may be involved in business dealings between the CFE Fund 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Milton L. Williams Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Milton L. Williams Jr.
Chair

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

Elizabeth Segal
Samuel Levine
Nichole Davis