



May 29, 2026

Carl Weisbrod, Chair
Dr. Larian Angelo, Commissioner
Dr. Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, Commissioner
New York City Quadrennial Advisory Commission
c/o CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance
10 East 34th Street, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10016

Dear Chair Weisbrod, Commissioners Angelo and Barrios-Paoli:

We write as the elected District Attorneys of New York City to advise the Commission on the setting of compensation for New York City's elected officials. We want to thank the Commission for their ongoing participation as part of this process, and for their work on behalf of our city's public servants.

Given the rise in the cost of living in New York over the past decade, as well as salary adjustments for city government employees, we join with good government advocacy groups and other colleagues in government to urge that salaries of elected officials be increased. We encourage the Commission to develop a similar analysis to the one used during the issuance of the Commission's past reports. To determine those recommendations for our city's five elected District Attorneys, the Commission provided a cost-of-living analysis as well as a comparative look of how the salaries for New York City's elected prosecutors compared to other elected prosecutors in similarly sized jurisdictions across the nation. We think this is a fair and reasonable approach to set statutorily defined salary adjustments.

When an agency head's salary stagnates, it can have the effect of depressing compensation throughout the entire organization. While we understand public sector legal salaries will never rise to the level of our private sector counterparts, we are all recruiting from the same pool of talent, and as that gap widens our retention and recruiting challenges grow. That artificial ceiling directly affects the thousands of line prosecutors and professional staff who carry out this work every day while facing rising housing, transportation, childcare, food, and student debt costs.

Prosecutors do not choose public service for the money; they choose it to serve their communities. And they have done this important work to keep our city safe while embracing the most sweeping changes in criminal practice in decades, which have included state law changes that have dramatically expanded prosecutors' review and disclosure obligations. But stagnant pay affects who can afford to enter public service and who can afford to stay. Talented prosecutors increasingly leave our offices because they can no longer absorb the financial sacrifice required to remain in one of the most expensive cities in the world.

When experienced prosecutors leave, institutional knowledge disappears, younger attorneys lose mentors, and complex prosecutions become harder to staff and supervise. Financial pressure also threatens the diversity of our offices. Public service should not be a privilege reserved for those with independent financial safety nets; our offices must be staffed by talented professionals from every community and economic background. Fair compensation is necessary to sustain the experienced and diverse workforce New York City needs to deliver justice and protect public safety.

We thank you for your consideration and ask the Commission to conduct a full and fair analysis of elected official compensation, mindful of the increasing volume and complexity of the work, the erosion in real compensation, and the critical public safety progress New York City's prosecutors are committed to continuing.

Respectfully submitted,



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Bronx County District Attorney



Eric Gonzalez
Kings County District Attorney



Michael McMahon
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Melinda Katz
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Alvin L. Bragg, Jr.
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