

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:10 PM
To: 'whylandfm@nyassembly.gov'

Subject: **FOIL/Records Request: The decision NOT to record the live-stream of committee meetings, as recommended by the March 17, 2016 report of Assembly Speaker Heastie's "Workgroup on Legislative Process, Operations, and Public Participation"**

Attachments: [3-8-23-response.pdf](#)

TO: Assembly Records Access Officer Fern Whyland

Following up our phone conversation earlier today in which you confirmed what appeared obvious from your above March 8, 2023 response to my below March 1, 2023 FOIL/records request, namely, that the Assembly is NOT recording the live-streams of its committee meetings, notwithstanding the recommendations at page 2 of the [March 17, 2016 report of Assembly Speaker Heastie's "Workgroup on Legislative Process, Operations, and Public Participation"](#), *to wit:*

- ❖ **Ensure that archived video recordings of...committee meetings are available promptly online to all Members and the public, on the Assembly website and through the new portal when it is operational. (Rules change.)**
- ❖ **Index...recordings of...committee meetings, so all of these are linked to bills and searchable by bill.**

Without delaying publication,...recordings of...committee meetings should be indexed, searchable, and linked to records of each bill via the new portal when it is operational." (bold in the original).

Pursuant to [Assembly Rules VIII "Public Access to Records"](#), I hereby request all records reflecting who made the decision – and the reason – for NOT recording the live-stream of Assembly committee meetings, as well as the date(s) on which Assembly began live-streaming committee meetings.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:55 PM

To: whylandfm@nyassembly.gov

Subject: FOIL/Records Request: Live-Stream & Videos of Assembly Committee Meetings, as Recommended in 2016 by Assembly Speaker Heastie's "Workgroup on Legislative Process, Operations, and Public Participation"

TO: Assembly Records Access Officer Fern Whyland

It is now almost SEVEN FULL YEARS since the [March 17, 2016 report of Assembly Speaker Heastie's "Workgroup on Legislative Process, Operations, and Public Participation"](#) which recommended that Assembly committee meetings be live-streamed on the Assembly's website, with the videos promptly archived and made available and easily accessible. The annotation to the first of these several recommendations was:

"If it takes significant time and cost to implement full, high-quality video of all committees, a simple webcam and/or audio access should be implemented promptly, with full video access as soon as practicable, beginning with key committees like Codes and Ways & Means." (at p. 2).

Assembly Committee meetings are still NOT live-streamed and NO meeting videos are archived or available, unlike the Senate which has live-streamed meetings and accessibly archived videos, since at least 2010, as may be seen from the February 9, 2010 meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee, [here](#).

Pursuant to [Assembly Rules VIII "Public Access to Records"](#), please furnish all records reflecting action by Assembly Speaker Heastie to implement the above recommendations of his own "Workgroup on Legislative Process, Operations, and Public Participation", including ascertaining its cost.

Thank you.

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