

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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June 3, 2024

TO: Bruce A. Hidley/Albany County Clerk & County FOIL Officer

FROM: Elena Ruth Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

RE: FOIL Request:

(1) Albany County D.A. salary – and whether and when D.A. Soares alerted Albany County to the state-mandated D.A. salary increase resulting from the December 4, 2023 Report of the (3rd) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation; (2) D.A. Soares’ other “compensation and non-salary benefits”; (3) “state aid”/“state reimbursement” to Albany County for the D.A. salary; (4) the salaries of Albany County’s other officers.

Pursuant to FOIL – and as instructed by a [May 31, 2024 e-mail from Albany County Department of Management and Budget Commissioner M. David Reilly](#) – this is to request the following:

- (1) records reflecting the current Albany D.A. salary, believed to be \$223,700, effective April 1, 2024;
- (2) records reflecting when and whether Albany D.A. Soares alerted Albany County that his 2024 district attorney salary might be, or had been, increased by the (3rd) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation by reason of [Judiciary Law §183-a](#) mandating that his salary be at least “equivalent to that” of an Albany County Court judge;
- (3) records reflecting that from January 1, 1999 to March 31, 2012, the Albany County D.A. salary was \$131,400 – this having been the salary of an Albany County Court judge pursuant to [Judiciary Law §221-D](#);
- (4) records reflecting that as a result of the [August 29, 2011 Report of the Commission on Judicial Compensation](#), the \$131,400 Albany County D.A. salary was hiked, as follows:
 - effective April 1, 2012, to \$153,800;
 - effective April 1, 2013, to \$160,600;
 - effective April 1, 2014, to \$167,300;

- (5) records reflecting that \$167,300 remained the Albany County D.A. salary from April 1, 2014 until, as a result of the [December 24, 2015 Report of the \(1st\) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation](#), it was hiked, as follows:
- effective April 1, 2016, to \$185,600;
 - effective April 1, 2017, to \$187,400;
 - effective April 1, 2018, to \$200,000;
 - effective April 1, 2019, to \$202,800;
- (6) records reflecting that \$202,800 remained the Albany County D.A. salary from April 1, 2019 until April 1, 2024, when it was hiked as a result of the [December 4, 2023 Report of the \(3rd\) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation](#);
- (7) records reflecting, that apart from salary, Albany County pays its D.A. other “compensation and non-salary benefits”, what they are, and which are salary-based;
- (8) records reflecting the approximate monetary value of the other “compensation and non-salary benefits” that D.A. Soares has received each year, beginning with the April 1, 2012 increase in his D.A. salary;
- (9) records reflecting the amount of “state aid” or “state reimbursement” for D.A salary that Albany County has received from the state pursuant to [County Law §§10 and 11](#) and any other provision of law:
- for each year from 1999 to 2011, when the state-mandated Albany County D.A. salary was \$131,400;
 - for 2012 when the state-mandated Albany County D.A. salary rose to \$153,800;
 - for 2013 when the state-mandated Albany County D.A. salary rose to \$160,600;
- (10) records reflecting that for 2014 Albany County received \$78,514 from the state as “state aid”/“state reimbursement” for D.A. salary – and has received this identical amount each year since – unchanged despite the increased costs to Albany County of the state-mandated increases in D.A. salary;
- (11) records reflecting the cost to Albany County of the state’s failure, since 2014, to increase “state aid”/“state reimbursement” commensurate with the state-mandated increases in D.A. salary;

(12) records reflecting whether the state-mandated Albany County D.A. salary is the highest salary of any Albany County officer paid from the Albany County budget – and whether it was the highest BEFORE Judiciary Law §183-a was enacted in 1972;

(13) records reflecting the salaries, from 2005 to 2018,¹ of:

- the Albany County Executive;
- the Albany County Comptroller;
- the Albany County Clerk;
- the Albany County Sheriff;
- the members of the Albany County Legislature; and
- the Chair of the Albany County Legislature.

Thank you.

s/ ELENA SASSOWER

¹ Albany County's adopted budgets for 2005 to 2017 are not posted on [Albany County's webpage for its budgets](#). The 2018 adopted budget is posted, but does not open.