

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 11:14 AM
To: 'SteveB@westchesterlegislators.com'; 'bass@westchestergov.com'
Subject: FOIL/Records Request: Westchester County Board of Ethics -- Board of Legislators' September 16, 2014 Newsroom release "BOL Appointments Committee Demands List of County Ethics Board Members"
Attachments: ethics-board-9-16-14-bol-newsroom.pdf

TO: Steven Bass, FOIL/Records Access Officer for the Westchester County Board of Legislators & its Legislative Specialist & Coordinator for the Litigation Committee

On the Board of Legislators' website is a newsroom release bearing a date of September 16, 2014, entitled "*BOL Appointments Committee Demands List of County Ethics Board Members*":
<http://westchesterlegislators.com/newsroom/2545-bol-appointments-committee-demands-list-of-county-ethics-board-members.html?tmpl=component&print=1&page>, also attached. It begins, as follows:

"The Westchester County Board of Legislators (BOL) Appointments Committee, chaired by Legislator Ben Boykin (D-White Plains), demanded a list of active members presently serving on the County Ethics Board yesterday, having already requested the same information several times.

'I cannot understand why the Astorino Administration has ignored this simple request, unless there are issues which they are trying to hide or ignore,' said Boykin. 'To uphold the confidence the public puts in its elected officials, it's time for us all to know who is serving on the Ethics Board to monitor conflicts of interest for Westchester residents.'"

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law [Public Officers Law, VI], request is made for records reflecting:

- (1) all requests by the Board of Legislators, whether by its Appointments Committee, by any other committee, or by individual legislators, to the Astorino Administration for "a list of active members presently serving on the County Ethics Board" from the inception of the Astorino Administration to the present;
- (2) all responses thereto from the Astorino Administration;
- (3) all replies thereto whether by the Board of Legislators as a whole, or by any of its committees, or by individual legislators – including requests from any of them to the Westchester County Attorney or to any other counsel for a legal opinion with regard to the referred-to "court case regarding appointments of commissioners and deputy commissioners waiting for confirmation" and as to steps available to the Board of Legislators for securing what Westchester County Code Chapter 192 mandates: a functioning Westchester County Board of Ethics, with a full complement of 7 members, duly appointed and confirmed – including by instituting a mandamus/certiorari lawsuit against County Executive Astorino, pursuant to CPLR Article 78;
- (4) the monies for the operations of the Westchester County Board of Ethics appropriated by the Westchester County budget for each year from 2008 to 2017 – or expended by the Westchester County Board of Ethics for each of those years;
- (5) the monies for the operations of the Westchester County Board of Ethics appropriated by County Executive Astorino's just-released proposed Westchester County budget for 2018;
- (6) the list of current members of the Westchester County Board of Ethics;
- (7) current contact information for the Westchester County Board of Ethics.

Pursuant to FOIL (Public Officers Law §89.3), your response/acknowledgment is required "within five business days" of your receipt of this request. Kindly sent it to this e-mail: elena@judgewatch.org

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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