

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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March 1, 2017

TO: Senate Records Access Officer/Secretary of the Senate Francis Patience

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

RE: FOIL/Records Request:
Annually published “guidelines” required by Senate Rule VII, §1
pertaining to referral of bills to “appropriate standing committee[s]”

Senate Rule VII, entitled “Introduction of Bills and Resolutions”, states, in its §1:

“...The Temporary President with the Independent Democratic Conference Leader shall jointly refer bills or designate an officer to refer bills to the appropriate standing committee. Bills shall be referred in accordance with a set of guidelines to be jointly published annually by the Temporary Senate President with the Independent Democratic Conference Leader setting forth the respective statutes over which each of the standing committees shall have subject matter jurisdiction for purposes of referral. Such referrals shall reflect the subject matter having predominance in the bill as determined by the Temporary President together with the leader of the Independent Democratic Conference.” (underlining added).

Upon information and belief, the requirement that the Temporary Senate President and Independent Democratic Conference Leader “jointly publish[] annually”:

“a set of guidelines...setting forth the respective statutes over which each of the standing committees shall have subject matter jurisdiction for purposes of referral”,

appearing in Rule VII, §1 of the Senate Rules for 2017-2018, appeared, identically – or materially identically – in Senate rules going as far back as the Senate Rules for 2013-2014.

Therefore, pursuant to Senate Rule XV, “Freedom of Information”, please furnish:

- (1) the “set of guidelines” that the current Senate Rule VII, §1 requires the Temporary Senate President and Independent Democratic Conference Leader to have “jointly published” for 2017;

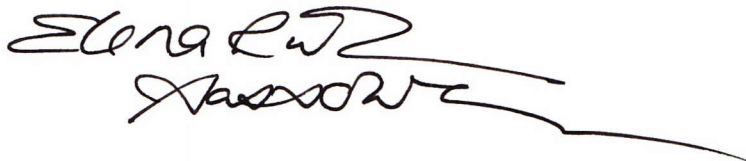
- (2) the “set of guidelines” that the Temporary Senate President and Independent Democratic Conference Leader were required to “jointly publish[]” for 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, pursuant to Rule VII, §1 of the Senate Rules for 2013-2014 and Rule VII, §1 of the Senate Rules for 2015-2016;
- (3) records showing the date and the manner in which the Temporary Senate President and Independent Democratic Conference Leader, this year and in the past four years, have “jointly published” their “set(s) of guidelines”.

In that regard, enclosed is CJA’s April 4, 2014 FOIL/records request to you entitled “Annually published ‘guidelines’ pursuant to Senate Rule VII, §1”. In addition to requesting the “guidelines” for 2013 and 2014, it stated:

“If – as it appears – the Senate’s website does not post the Majority Coalition Leaders’ annually published ‘guidelines’, please confirm that they will be promptly posted.”

I have no record of having received a response to this April 4, 2014 FOIL/records request. Did you respond? If so, kindly furnish me with a duplicate – and identify where, on the Senate’s website, the “guidelines” for this year are posted – and whether this is where the “guidelines” for past years were also posted, if, in fact, they were posted or even promulgated.

Thank you.

The image shows two handwritten signatures. The top signature is in cursive and appears to read "Elena R. W.". Below it is another signature, also in cursive, which is less legible but appears to be a name followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Enclosure: CJA’s April 4, 2014 FOIL/record request

cc: Senate Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance, pursuant to Senate Rule VIII, §3
All recipients of CJA’s February 23, 2017 FOIL records request/misconduct-fraud complaint
Committee on Open Government – ATT: Robert Freeman, Executive Director

CENTER *for* **J**UDICIAL **A**CCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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April 4, 2014

TO: New York State Senate
Francis W. Patience, Secretary of the Senate

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

RE: RECORDS REQUEST:
Annually published "guidelines" pursuant to Senate Rule VII, §1

According to Senate Rule VII, "Introduction of Bills and Resolutions", §1, the Majority Coalition Leaders are required to "publish[] annually":

"a set of guidelines...setting forth the respective statutes over which each of the standing committees shall have subject matter jurisdiction for purposes of referral."

Pursuant to Senate Rule XV, "Freedom of Information", please furnish the "set of guidelines" published by the Majority Coalition Leaders for this year and last.

In that connection, Senate Rule V, §5d states:

"The Secretary of the Senate shall, to the extent practicable, use the Internet and other electronic media to provide access to the public policy debates, decision-making process and legislative records of the Senate."

If – as it appears – the Senate's website does not post the Majority Coalition Leaders' annually published "guidelines", please confirm that they will be promptly posted.

Thank you.



cc: Committee on Open Government
ATT: Robert Freeman, Executive Director