

## Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 12, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** 'jlombardi@dailyvoice.com'; 'jcraig@dailyvoice.com'; 'kdavis@dailyvoice.com'; 'sbarron@dailyvoice.com'; 'zfailla@dailyvoice.com'; 'briggs1004@gmail.com'; 'careif31@gmail.com'; 'kreakes123@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Observing "Sunshine Week": Getting answers from local senate & assembly members about the NYS budget -- starting with answers about the Legislature's own budget  
**Attachments:** 2-6-17-ltr-to-leadership-with-enclosures.pdf; 1-30-17-statement-supplementing-testimony.pdf

Dear Editors & Reporters of the White Plains Daily Voice

Is White Plains Daily Voice new? We so need a meaningful local press – one that goes beyond the posturing of the politicians. It is because the press largely operates by simply repeating the press releases of the politicians, rather than critically examining their records in office, that so many of our elected public officers are able to seek re-election UNCONTESTED within their own party – and UNCONTESTED by any opposition party.

If you reach out to ordinary citizens working, in the trenches, on issues of governance, there is much valuable information they can furnish you... -- and you can create an impactful local press that will make a HUGE electoral and good-government difference and empower the People.

The Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) – a White Plains-based, non-partisan, non-profit citizens organization, of which I am co-founder and director -- has much to offer the White Plains Daily Voice. Illustrative is my below February 8<sup>th</sup> e-mail to Assemblyman David Buchwald, who represents White Plains and is MY assembly member, attaching my February 6<sup>th</sup> letter to the Legislature's four majority and minority leaders – one of whom represents White Plains and is MY senator – Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who is Senate Minority Leader. Assemblyman Buchwald and Senator Stewart-Cousins were each UNCONTESTED in the 2016 elections – and I have received NO response to my February 6<sup>th</sup> letter from either of them.

For that matter, I have received NO response from the other legislators to whom I sent the February 6<sup>th</sup> letter. Please read the letter, which is attached – and view the referred-to VIDEOS of my testimony before the Legislature at its January 30<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> budget hearings. The direct link to CJA's webpage posting the VIDEOS is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/budget-hearings.htm>. Also attached is my January 30<sup>th</sup> "Statement Supplementing Testimony" – as it furnishes you, ready-made, with 26 enumerated questions about the Legislature's proposed budget and about Governor Cuomo's combined the Legislative/Judiciary budget bill. The proposed legislative budget & the Legislative/Judiciary budget bill are posted here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/budget-documents.htm>.

This is "Sunshine Week" – a week that coincides with the Legislature's roll-out of its "off-the-constitutional rails" one-house budget resolutions. Why shouldn't the White Plains Daily Voice get answers from Assemblyman Buchwald and Senate Minority Leader Stewart-Cousins to the 26 enumerated questions and to the further questions posed by my February 6<sup>th</sup> letter, including why they have NOT scheduled a meeting with me, as I have requested. Wouldn't that be a powerful way to demonstrate the reality of their commitment to the People's right to know, about which they are so rhetorically supportive.

Indeed, why shouldn't each of your local Daily Voice publications get answers from each of the Senate and Assembly members of the multiple localities you cover? Their answers – or non-answers – would be devastating admission of

unconstitutionality, unlawfulness, and fraud – and start a chain-reaction, by other media, throughout the state, that would, in short order, change an utterly corrupted budget process and much of the corruption it propels.

I look forward to speaking with Daily Voice editors and publishers about how easy it would be for the Daily Voice to lead to way with A NEW MODEL OF LOCAL JOURNALISM – or, at very least, to meaningfully report on the “on-the-job performance” of senate and assembly members within the localities of your readership.

Feel free to call, any time. I am available to answer questions and to be interviewed.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200  
Cell/Text: 646-220-7987

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 10:22 AM

**To:** 'roithmayra@nyassembly.gov' <[roithmayra@nyassembly.gov](mailto:roithmayra@nyassembly.gov)>

**Cc:** 'BuchwaldD@nyassembly.gov' [BuchwaldD@nyassembly.gov](mailto:BuchwaldD@nyassembly.gov)

**Subject: Letter to Leadership: (1) Legislative Law Article 5-A Commissions on Gov't Administration & State-Local Relations; (2) requested meetings to prevent repeat of constitutional, statutory, & legislative rule violations re: fiscal year 2017-18 budget**

**TO: Alex Roithmayr/chief of staff to Assemblyman David Buchwald/member, Assembly Judiciary Committee; Assembly Committee on Governmental Operations; & Assembly Committee on Local Governments**

As discussed by phone a short time ago, please be sure that my attached February 6<sup>th</sup> letter to Senate and Assembly leadership – identifying, on its first page, that I and CJA are Assemblyman Buchwald's constituents -- is furnished to Assemblyman Buchwald.

Time is at a premium. I spoke with Assemblyman Buchwald briefly at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> local budget hearing -- just as he was, seemingly, on his way out. Although he told me he was not leaving, he, in fact, did not return to the community room and did not hear my testimony. Nor was he present when I testified in Albany on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the budget hearing on “Local Government Officials/General Government” – although he sits on the Assembly Committee on Local Governments and on the Assembly Committee on Governmental Operations -- or when I testified on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the budget hearing on “Public Protection” – although he sits on the Assembly Judiciary Committee. I therefore request that he view the VIDEOS of my testimony at both those hearings – repeating the request I made directly to him in the few minutes we spoke on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. As we spoke, I believe I furnished him with the written statement I had handed up at the January 30<sup>th</sup> hearing and, additionally, the hand-out I had prepared for the local budget hearing, consisting of Article VII, Secs. 1-7; Article IV, Sec. 7; and Article III, Sec. 10 of the New York State Constitution, on which I had written “**Red Alert: The NYS budget is OFF the constitutional rails**” – which is what I have repeatedly said to you in our phone conversations.

The VIDEOS of the Legislature's January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> budget hearings – and my testimony, at the end of each hearing -- are posted on CJA's website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), via the link “2017 Legislative Session”. Indeed, they are posted beneath where my attached February 6<sup>th</sup> letter is posted. The direct link is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/new-year.htm>.

I would like to meet with Assemblyman Buchwald, as soon as possible, about the issues presented by my testimony – including with respect to the ten causes of action of CJA’s citizen-taxpayer action – and the record based thereon. The direct link is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/citizen-taxpayer-action/2016/menu-2nd-citizen-taxpayer-action.htm>. Considering his Harvard law degree, this should be EASY – especially as the state of the record is laid out by the September 30, 2016 memorandum of law of the non-lawyer individual plaintiff – myself: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/citizen-taxpayer-action/2016/9-2-16-osc-complaint/9-30-16-response.htm>.

Meantime, and as I requested when we spoke on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, upon my return from the local budget hearing, I would like information as to what the “table target” are, how they are computed, who computes them, etc.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
914-421-1200  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 3:32 PM  
**To:** 'flanagan@nyenate.gov' <[flanagan@nyenate.gov](mailto:flanagan@nyenate.gov)>; 'speaker@nyassembly.gov' <[speaker@nyassembly.gov](mailto:speaker@nyassembly.gov)>; 'Carl Heastie' <[cehbronx@gmail.com](mailto:cehbronx@gmail.com)>; 'scousins@nyenate.gov' <[scousins@nyenate.gov](mailto:scousins@nyenate.gov)>; 'kolbB@nyassembly.gov' <[kolbB@nyassembly.gov](mailto:kolbB@nyassembly.gov)>  
**Cc:** 'jdklein@nyenate.gov' <[jdklein@nyenate.gov](mailto:jdklein@nyenate.gov)>; 'bonacic@nyenate.gov' <[bonacic@nyenate.gov](mailto:bonacic@nyenate.gov)>; 'hoylman@nyenate.gov' <[hoylman@nyenate.gov](mailto:hoylman@nyenate.gov)>; 'WeinstH@assembly.state.ny.us' <[WeinstH@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:WeinstH@assembly.state.ny.us)>; 'montesanom@assembly.state.ny.us' <[montesanom@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:montesanom@assembly.state.ny.us)>; 'lanza@nyenate.gov' <[lanza@nyenate.gov](mailto:lanza@nyenate.gov)>; 'savino@nyenate.gov' <[savino@nyenate.gov](mailto:savino@nyenate.gov)>; 'squadron@nyenate.gov' <[squadron@nyenate.gov](mailto:squadron@nyenate.gov)>; 'LentolJ@nyassembly.gov' <[LentolJ@nyassembly.gov](mailto:LentolJ@nyassembly.gov)>; 'grafa@nyassembly.gov' <[grafa@nyassembly.gov](mailto:grafa@nyassembly.gov)>; 'marchione@nyenate.gov' <[marchione@nyenate.gov](mailto:marchione@nyenate.gov)>; 'kaminsky@nyenate.gov' <[kaminsky@nyenate.gov](mailto:kaminsky@nyenate.gov)>; 'MagnarW@nyassembly.gov' <[MagnarW@nyassembly.gov](mailto:MagnarW@nyassembly.gov)>; 'friendc@nyassembly.gov' <[friendc@nyassembly.gov](mailto:friendc@nyassembly.gov)>; 'gallivan@nyenate.gov' <[gallivan@nyenate.gov](mailto:gallivan@nyenate.gov)>; 'bailey@nyenate.gov' <[bailey@nyenate.gov](mailto:bailey@nyenate.gov)>; 'murphy@nyenate.gov' <[murphy@nyenate.gov](mailto:murphy@nyenate.gov)>; 'PeopleC@nyassembly.gov' <[PeopleC@nyassembly.gov](mailto:PeopleC@nyassembly.gov)>; 'johnsm@nyassembly.gov' <[johnsm@nyassembly.gov](mailto:johnsm@nyassembly.gov)>; 'TitoneM@nyassembly.gov' <[TitoneM@nyassembly.gov](mailto:TitoneM@nyassembly.gov)>; 'errigoj@nyassembly.gov' <[errigoj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:errigoj@nyassembly.gov)>; 'cyoung@nyenate.gov' <[cyoung@nyenate.gov](mailto:cyoung@nyenate.gov)>; 'lkrueger@senate.state.ny.us' <[lkrueger@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:lkrueger@senate.state.ny.us)>; 'farrellh@nyassembly.gov' <[farrellh@nyassembly.gov](mailto:farrellh@nyassembly.gov)>; 'OaksR@nyassembly.gov' <[OaksR@nyassembly.gov](mailto:OaksR@nyassembly.gov)>; 'abinantit@nyassembly.gov' <[abinantit@nyassembly.gov](mailto:abinantit@nyassembly.gov)>; 'RyanS@nyassembly.gov' <[RyanS@nyassembly.gov](mailto:RyanS@nyassembly.gov)>; 'kavanaughb@nyassembly.gov' <[kavanaughb@nyassembly.gov](mailto:kavanaughb@nyassembly.gov)>; 'jacobs@nyenate.gov' <[jacobs@nyenate.gov](mailto:jacobs@nyenate.gov)>; 'simotasa@nyassembly.gov' <[simotasa@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simotasa@nyassembly.gov)>; 'PretloJ@nyassembly.gov' <[PretloJ@nyassembly.gov](mailto:PretloJ@nyassembly.gov)>; 'OtisS@nyassembly.gov' <[OtisS@nyassembly.gov](mailto:OtisS@nyassembly.gov)>; 'GalefS@nyassembly.gov' <[GalefS@nyassembly.gov](mailto:GalefS@nyassembly.gov)>; 'BuchwaldD@nyassembly.gov' <[BuchwaldD@nyassembly.gov](mailto:BuchwaldD@nyassembly.gov)>

**Subject: Letter to Leadership: (1) Legislative Law Article 5-A Commissions on Gov't Administration & State-Local Relations; (2) requested meetings to prevent repeat of constitutional, statutory, & legislative rule violations re: fiscal year 2017-18 budget**

Attached is the Center for Judicial Accountability’s letter of today’s date, addressed to you – or indicating you as a recipient.

It is already posted on CJA’s website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), accessible *via* the prominent homepage link “2017 Legislative Session”. Here is that webpage, directly: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017->

[legislature/new-year.htm](#) -- on which is also posted the VIDEOS of my January 30<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> testimony at the Legislature's budget hearings on "Local Government Officials/General Government" and "Public Protection".

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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914-421-1200  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)