

From: Senate Foil <foil@nysenate.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 4:57 PM

To: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.(CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Subject: Re: FOIL/records request: The Senate Finance Committee's ranking member -- & the stipend payable for the "significantly more work" and "additional duties" the position entails

April 13, 2020

Ms. Elena Ruth Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.
Post Office Box 8101
White Plains, NY 10602
cja@judgewatch.org

Dear Ms. Sassower:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email dated April 07, 2020 pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law.

Your request included:

(1) records establishing the date on which Senator James Seward became disabled, due to illness – and/or notified the Senate that, by reason of illness, he was unable to discharge his duties as the Senate Finance Committee's ranking member;

Please be advised the records you request, if the records even exist, are not subject to disclosure pursuant to Senate Rules.

(2) records of consultation between Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Senate Minority Leader Flanagan, Esq., as to how to proceed;

Please be advised the records you request, if the records even exist, are not subject to disclosure pursuant to Senate Rules.

(3) records as to the date on which a successor or an "acting" ranking member for the Senate Finance Committee was appointed, presumably by Senate Minority Leader Flanagan, Esq.;

Please be advised after a search, there are no documents / records responsive to your request or match your request.

(4) records reflecting appropriate financial arrangements with respect to the \$20,500 annual stipend payable to the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee (Legislative Law, §5-a) for the "significantly more work" and "additional duties" he/she is expected to perform (December 10, 2018 report of the Committee on Legislative and Executive Compensation), *to wit*, (a) termination of future stipend payments to the disabled Senator Seward; and (b) initiation of stipend payments to the appointed successor/"acting" ranking member;

Please be advised after a search, there are no documents / records responsive to your request (or match your request).

(5) records reflecting whether the appointed successor/"acting" ranking member was apprised of the Center for Judicial Accountability's written communications to Ranking Member Seward pertaining to the FY2020-21 executive budget – specifically including the above three attachments, submitted for the record of the Legislature's February 12, 2020 "public protection" budget hearing by the below February 19, 2020 e-mail, and CJA's subsequent March 3, 2020 and March 18, 2020 letters to Governor Cuomo, to which Ranking Member Seward was a recipient. CJA's webpage for the 2020 legislative session – from which is accessible the full correspondence pertaining to the FY2020-21 executive budget sent to Ranking Member Seward for appropriate action -- is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2020-legislative/2020-session-menu.htm>;

Please be advised the records you request, if the records even exist, are not subject to disclosure pursuant to Senate Rules.

I have attached a copy of the Senate's Rules and Regulations Relating to the Public Inspection and Copying of Legislative Records for your information.

Sincerely,

Alejandra N. Paulino, Esq.
Secretary of the Senate

From: "Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.\(CJA)" <elena@judgewatch.org>
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Date: 04/07/2020 02:55 PM