

Testimony of Milton L. Williams Jr.

before the

New York City Council Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections

February 27, 2024

Thank you Chair Powers, Speaker Adams, and Members of the Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections for your consideration of my reappointment to the Conflicts of Interest Board where, for the last year and five months, it has been my privilege to serve as the Chair.

The idea that public service is a public trust has guided my professional career. I've served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (where I had the privilege of working with Amy Millard), as an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, as co-chair of the Moreland Commission to investigate public corruption, as a member of the Cardinal's Review Board of Allegations of Improper Relations Between Clergy and Minors, and as a member of various attorney grievance committees. I have consistently worked to ensure that people with authority in our society act with integrity and serving as the Chair of the Conflicts of Interest Board has afforded me a unique opportunity to do so.

The Conflicts of Interest Board is a tiny City agency that serves a big purpose: Protecting the public's trust in government. That public trust is the lifeblood of everything our City does, because government depends on the hard-earned faith that public servants at every level of government that are doing their work in the interest of the City and its residents rather than their own private interests.

No group of public servants are more devoted to serving this mission than my hard-working fellow Board members and the agency's dedicated staff. Under the City Charter, the Board is charged with four main responsibilities: training, advice, annual disclosure, and enforcement. These responsibilities reflect both the organizational structure of our office and the pillars of our endeavor to keep conflicts of interest out of City government by (1) teaching public servants about the conflicts of interest law, (2) giving practical legal guidance about complying with the conflicts of interest law, (3) providing transparency about the financial holdings of high-level public servants, and (4) enforcing the law fairly and equitably when it has been violated.

I believe the Conflicts of Interest Board has continued to successfully accomplish these four important responsibilities during my relatively brief time as Chair. I very much hope to be confirmed for a full six-year term so that I can continue to serve the mission of the critical Conflicts of Interest Board and the City that I love.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 2/27/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Milton Williams

Address: _____

I represent: COIB nominee

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 2/27/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Amy Millard

Address: _____

I represent: COIB nominee

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 2/27/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christopher de Leon Johnson

Address: [Redacted] Burr-910 Ave [Redacted]

I represent: SELF

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms