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The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board announces the highest fine in the Board's history for violations relating to campaign activities, a \$40,000 settlement with former Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes. In the settlement, Hynes admits to routine and extensive use of City resources for his 2013 reelection campaign (the "Campaign") and to having his City subordinates use City time and City resources for activities related to the Campaign.

The Board also announces settlements with four of Hynes's former Kings County District Attorney's Office ("KCDA") subordinates for their use of City time and/or City resources for the Campaign.

The Board takes this opportunity to remind public servants that using City time, resources, or personnel for campaign activities in *any amount* is a violation of the City's conflicts of interest law.

Former KCDA District Attorney Pays \$40,000 fine: From May 2012 through November 5th 2013, while serving as Kings County District Attorney, Hynes used his KCDA email account and his KCDA computer to exchange over 5,000 Campaign-related emails with Campaign managers, political consultants, friends, fundraisers, donors, a New York State Supreme Court judge, political allies, and his KCDA subordinates. As detailed more fully in the attached dispositions, Hynes's improper emails include communications regarding:

- Campaign staffing
- Campaign press releases
- Campaign strategy
- Campaign fundraising
- Campaign endorsements
- Campaign debate preparation
- Campaign work to be performed by his KCDA staff.

The former District Attorney admitted that he violated City Charter Section 2604(b)(2) and Board Rules Section 1-13(b) by using his KCDA computer, KCDA email, and KCDA personnel for the Campaign. He also admitted that he violated City Charter § 2604(b)(2) and Board Rules Section 1-13(d)(1) by knowingly causing his subordinates to use City time and City resources for the Campaign. \

Former KCDA Public Information Officer Pays \$6,000 Fine: For a period of approximately 14 months, a now-former KCDA Public Information Officer performed unpaid work for the Campaign. In pursuit of this work, he frequently used his KCDA email account and his KCDA computer, often during his KCDA work hours, to communicate with Hynes and Campaign staff regarding Campaign press statements he drafted or approved, as well as Campaign-related news,

internal Campaign issues, polling, debate preparation, and requests for Campaign interviews and debates.

KCDA Chief Assistant District Attorney Pays \$4,500 Fine: A now-former KCDA Chief Assistant District Attorney used her KCDA email account and her KCDA computer, often during her KCDA work hours, to prepare Campaign responses to negative press coverage; to critique, discuss, and assist Hynes with preparation for debates and Campaign TV appearances; to coordinate a Campaign meeting; and to arrange the logistics of a Campaign appearance.

Former KCDA Principal Administrative Associate Pays \$3,000 Fine: While working as Hynes’s administrative assistant at KCDA, a now-former KCDA Principal Administrative Associate regularly used her KCDA email account, KCDA computer, KCDA telephone, and KCDA printer during her KCDA work hours to coordinate Hynes’s Campaign appearances, interviews, and fundraisers, and to perform Campaign-related administrative tasks.

Former KCDA Counsel to the District Attorney Pays \$1,000 Fine: A current KCDA Assistant District Attorney, while serving as Counsel to then District Attorney Hynes, used his KCDA email account to send four emails relating to efforts to get the *New York Carib News* to endorse Hynes’s candidacy.

Director of Enforcement Michele Weinstat handled these matters for the Board. The Board gratefully acknowledges the work of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), DOI Commissioner Mark Peters and DOI General Counsel Michael Siller, for DOI’s investigation of this matter.

The dispositions are attached as “COIB Disposition (KCDA-1) through (KCDA-5).”

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COIB is the independent, non-mayoral City agency charged with interpreting, administering, and enforcing the City's Conflicts of Interest Law, Annual Disclosure Law, and Lobbyist Gift Law. The agency's jurisdiction extends to all City agencies and current and former officers, elected officials, and employees of the City, as well as lobbyists. Learn more about COIB and the law at nyc.gov/ethics.

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