



May 7, 2021

Dear Manhattan District Attorney Candidates:

We are a coalition of defender and wrongful conviction organizations working in New York City. As you know, on April 7, 2021, District Attorney Gonzalez vacated 90 convictions in which former NYPD Officer Joseph Franco – who is currently facing criminal charges in Manhattan relating to his fabrication of crimes – played an “essential role.” On April 15, 2021, District Attorney Clark and District Attorney Vance each agreed to vacate more than 100 convictions involving Mr. Franco in their respective jurisdictions. On May 3, 2021, New York City’s Special Narcotics Prosecutor announced that her office would vacate 24 more convictions “directly related” to the work of Mr. Franco.

On May 3, 2021, we¹ wrote to the City’s District Attorneys and the Special Narcotics Prosecutor and identified twenty-two NYPD officers who have been convicted of crimes relating to their duties or who have otherwise engaged in serious misconduct in connection with their duties (the “Officers”). In light of the Officers’ convictions and misconduct, we asked that any convictions in which the Officers played an essential role be vacated. We further asked that each office conduct a full, transparent review of any other case in which the Officers were involved, with the full knowledge and participation of the conviction person and their counsel. Finally, we asked that any other officer deemed incredible (e.g., those officers on the Manhattan District Attorney’s *Brady*, *Giglio*, or “Do Not Call” list) have their convictions reviewed in a similar manner.

As candidates seeking the office of the Manhattan District Attorney, you have committed to increasing transparency about and accountability for police officers who break the law, engage in misconduct, or otherwise abuse the public trust. Many of you have detailed initiatives that you will institute, if elected, to address police misconduct and abuse. In advance of the upcoming primary election, we write to ask you to make specific commitments about how you will handle criminal cases and convictions obtained by police officers who have been convicted of crimes relating to their duties, are found to have committed serious misconduct, or who have otherwise been deemed not credible (including those on *Brady*, *Giglio*, or “Do Not Call” lists).

¹ Neither the Exoneration Initiative nor the People’s Coalition for Manhattan DA Accountability was a signatory to the May 3 or April 15 letters.

If you are elected, we ask that you commit to the following:

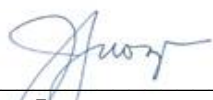
1. Vacate convictions in which the Officers played an "essential role".
2. Conduct a full, transparent review with the participation of the convicted person and their counsel for those cases involving the Officers but where the Officers did not play an "essential role".
3. Whenever an NYPD officer is convicted of crimes relating to their duties, vacate those convictions in which that officer played an "essential role" and conduct a full, transparent review with the participation of the convicted person and their counsel of all other cases involving the convicted officer.
4. Conduct a full, transparent review with the participation of the convicted person and their counsel of all cases involving any police officer who has been deemed incredible, including those on any *Brady*, *Giglio*, or "Do Not Call" list.

The public has made clear that transparency about and accountability for police misconduct and abuse is of the utmost importance. Voters deserve to know prior to June 22, 2021 exactly how the next Manhattan District Attorney will handle convictions obtained by police officers who commit crimes in connection with their duties, engage in serious misconduct or abuse, or are otherwise incredible. We invite you to sign [this](#) pledge in order to give voters this important information. Please sign the pledge on or before May 12, 2021. The People's Coalition for Manhattan DA Accountability joins this letter.

Very truly yours,



Karen A. Newirth
Director, Mass Exoneration Initiative
The Exoneration Project



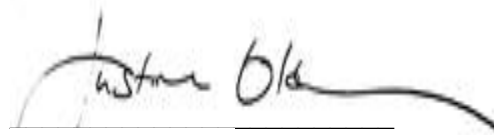
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Justine Olderman
Executive Director
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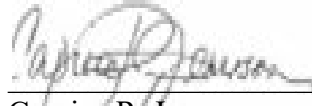


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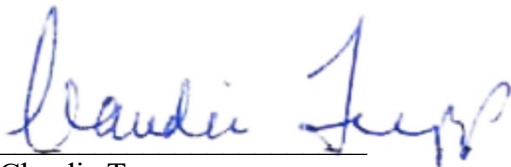
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