

TALI FARHADIAN WEINSTEIN FOR MANHATTAN DA

Dear Coalition Members:

I received your letter of May 7, 2021, requesting that, if elected District Attorney of Manhattan, I would commit to vacating convictions in which any of the Officers listed in your letter played an “essential role,” and some related actions. I share your commitments to transparency and accountability for police misconduct and abuse, and write in reply.

As you know, I supervised the Conviction Review Unit in the Kings County District Attorney's Office before leaving to launch this campaign, and I commend my former colleagues there for the work they have done to vacate 90 convictions in which former NYPD Officer Joseph Franco played an “essential role.” I intend to follow their example, and likewise to proceed with a presumption of vacatur for convictions in which Officers who committed egregious acts like Franco’s played an essential role. I intend to do so expeditiously upon taking office.

Upon assuming office, I will also move expeditiously to take an inventory of the Officers at issue, the cases implicated, and the Officers’ role in them. I am also mindful that the existing Conviction Integrity Unit in the office -- which I intend to change and rebuild significantly -- may have a backlog requiring a system for dedicating resources to the most compelling and urgent cases of innocence and wrongful conviction first.

I look forward to building an office that holds everyone to the highest standard, no matter what uniform they wear or title they hold, and that builds trust with the communities we serve. And I likewise look forward to working with you.

Best,

Tali Farhadian Weinstein