



United Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

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April 15, 2020

Amy Slifka
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings
66 John Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10038
Aslifka@oath.nyc.gov

Dear Ms. Slifka:

It has come to the UFT's attention that OATH has notified Hearing Officers Per Session of its intention to re-open the borough offices for business effective May 4, 2020. Subsequently, some of our members conveyed to you, as well as the new commissioner, legitimate concerns about safely returning to their work sites during the ongoing pandemic. These concerns result from the hazardous and unacceptable conditions that our members endured in the weeks leading up to the office shutdowns in March, including but not limited to cramped and poorly ventilated hearing rooms, overcrowded public waiting areas, and inadequate access to disinfecting supplies.

In your correspondence dated April 13, you stated that "the agency will implement applicable safety measures recommended by DCAS and DOHMH for the reconstituting of a work force, such as regular disinfection, staggered work hours, and teleworking". As the authorized bargaining representative for the hearing officers per session, the union demands bargaining over the implementation of these measures and their impact on the health and safety of our members.

Sincerely,

Allison S. Costanzo
Assistant General Counsel
United Federation of Teachers

Cc: Ilene Weinerman, UFT Special Representative