



United Federation of Teachers  
*A Union of Professionals*

May 2, 2020

Olga Statz  
Acting General Counsel  
Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings  
100 Church Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Ms. Statz,

I am writing in response to your correspondence dated April 22, 2020.

We appreciate that OATH intends to discuss with the Union the recommendations it receives from DCAS and DOHMH concerning reconstitution of the offices. That is precisely why the Union has reached out to OATH now, to ensure that the concerns of our Hearing Officers Per Session members are heard and addressed before plans for re-opening the offices are finalized.

Our members want to return to work. Like all employees, they are entitled to a work environment that is safe and healthy. As reported to the Union, working conditions in the OATH borough offices in the days leading up to the closure clearly did not fit that description, and there is pervasive mistrust of management's willingness to address health and safety issues based on a long history of inaction that pre-dates the current pandemic.

There is now an opportunity to remedy that perception through productive dialogue between the parties about the safety protocols and procedures that will be in place. Toward that goal, the Union repeats its demand to bargain over implementation of these measures. Please advise as to OATH's availability for these discussions to begin.

Sincerely,

Allison S. Costanzo  
Assistant General Counsel  
United Federation of Teachers

Cc: Ilene Weinerman, UFT Special Representative  
Matthew Campese, OLR