



GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY
PROJECT

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By Email (avas@health.nyc.gov)

Commissioner Ashwin Vasan
Department of Health and Hygiene
Gotham Center
42-09 28th Street
New York, NY 11101

August 8, 2022

Re: Notice of Whistleblower Status

Dear Commissioner Vasan:

We represent Dr. Don Weiss, who until his recent reassignment was the Director of Surveillance for the Bureau of Communicable Disease of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

Dr. Weiss is a whistleblower. Beginning in June 2022, he repeatedly raised with DOHMH management significant concerns about the agency's gross mismanagement of public messaging about the Monkeypox pandemic. On July 18, 2022, Dr. Weiss sent you a memorandum, *Monkeypox Is a Sexually Transmitted Infection, Messages Suggesting Otherwise Are Misinforming and Prolonging the Outbreak*. Within days, Dr. Weiss was reassigned to the Division of Family and Child Health where he now works as a Specialist. The reassignment is a demotion; Dr. Weiss is a victim of unlawful whistleblower retaliation.

Dr. Weiss seeks reinstatement. He will be using City and State laws, rules and regulations protecting whistleblowers to obtain that and other relief.

Very truly yours,

/s/

DAVID Z. SEIDE

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CC: General Counsel Lisa Landau, Esq. (llandau@health.nyc.gov)