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January 17, 2019

Tim McChristian, Executive Director
Victor F. Ganzi, Co-Chair
Michael S. Geltzeiler, Co-Chair
Madison Square Boys & Girls Club
733 Third Avenue, Floor 2
New York, New York 10017

Re: Sexual Abuse Victims of MSBC Volunteer Dr. Reginald Archibald

Dear Mr. McChristian, Mr. Ganzi, and Mr. Geltzeiler,

Our law firm represents approximately 150 men and women who were sexually abused by Dr. Reginald Archibald. As you are likely aware from recent press reports, Dr. Archibald worked for decades at Rockefeller University and he used that position to sexually abuse hundreds, if not thousands, of his child patients.

A number of our clients met Dr. Archibald through the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club when it was known as the Madison Square Boys Club or MSBC. According to our clients, Dr. Archibald used his position at MSBC to recruit boys for his “research” and scientific experiments at Rockefeller University which included sexual abuse.

Our clients clearly remember Dr. Archibald as a fixture at MSBC for decades, with his own private office on the premises where he was present most Saturdays. He was often accompanied by well-dressed men in suits and ties. He was very friendly with the executive director at the time, Sherwood T. Ernenwein, and his son Richard.

It is our understanding that Dr. Archibald conducted annual “medical examinations” of every boy at MSBC which were often fully nude and occurred in a private examination room near the indoor swimming pool. At least one client reported that from when he was about 6 through 14 years old, Dr. Archibald took nude photographs of him at MSBC, often positioning and photographing his genitals. We also understand that the first director of MSBC, Albert B. Hines, was an avid photographer and installed his own private darkroom in his personal residence on the fifth floor of the East 29th Street clubhouse in Manhattan. In addition, Dr. Archibald, who was sometimes called the “pool doctor,” watched the boys as they swam naked in the Club’s pool.

In what may have been a coordinated effort between MSBC and Rockefeller University to engage in the “treatment” and correction of “physical...defects” of its members (*see* Madison Square Boys Club 1956 Annual Report, p. 6), Dr. Archibald referred our clients to Rockefeller University where he sexually abused them.

We have also discovered that in 1942, at or about the time that Dr. Archibald started volunteering at MSBC, the Club established a medical clinic which was endowed by many of New York’s then-leading families, including the Astors, legendary singer Lawrence Tibbett, industrialist Morse G. Dial, Columbia University College of Pharmacy President Edward Plautt, and socialite Lila Hotz Luce Tyng.

As the current leaders of the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club, we request the medical and other records of our clients who were members of MSBC. We also ask for any information about nude medical exams conducted at MSBC, any images depicting nude or semi-nude boys, records from the Club’s medical clinic, and any materials concerning the use of the Club as a source of human subjects for experiments at Rockefeller University.

Please also provide copies of any complaints against Dr. Archibald regarding his activities at MSBC as well as any investigations undertaken concerning him.

In addition, please explain any involvement by MSBC in Rockefeller University's investigation of Dr. Archibald in the 1990s and 2004.

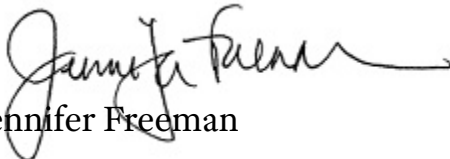
If you have not previously undertaken an investigation of these matters, then we strongly urge that one be promptly commenced with the results made public. We will separately provide a confidential list of our clients who were members of MSBC.

As a non-profit institution with a long and storied past which helped many 'eastside boys,' the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club has an obligation to the children of New York City, its donors, and the public to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the organization's sometimes-disturbing history.

As you know, your organization was founded, funded, and run by some of the wealthiest men in America in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. President Herbert Hoover was a public supporter. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was a frequent visitor. Many powerful single and sometimes married men, almost all of them without children, regarded MSBC as their greatest legacy and the embodiment of their dedication to impoverished boys from the mean streets of New York City. We trust that you will respond accordingly given the seriousness of these injuries and the accountability demanded of the situation.

Please forward this letter to your counsel.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Freeman