

# MARSH

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October 10, 2019

The Honorable Scott Stringer  
Office of the Comptroller  
1 Centre Street – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Child Sexual Abuse at New York City Agencies**

Dear Comptroller Stringer:

August marked the beginning of a historic one-year “look-back window” for thousands of New Yorkers who have suffered for decades because of the sexual abuse they experienced as children. As you know, powerful institutions like the Catholic Church, the Boy Scouts of America, Rockefeller University, and others engaged in systematic cover-ups of egregious sexual abuse against thousands of New Yorkers. Now those survivors can finally seek justice in court.

When the Child Victims Act was passed earlier this year, it sent a loud and unequivocal message: child sex abuse will not be tolerated, and justice will be delivered. A worldwide spotlight has been placed on the wrongdoing of major religious institutions and youth organizations. What has remained under the radar is the decades-old sexual abuse of children by adults working for their own government. Indeed, while in the care of the City of New York, our clients suffered egregious sexual abuse. Some may never recover.

We represent at least 17 survivors who were sexually abused years ago by city employees at agencies like the NYC Department of Education, the Administration for Children’s Services or their foster families, and by those working at other City agencies. The stories are heartbreaking, and the City is facing millions or tens of millions of dollars in legal liability.

We know that as Comptroller you have always done the right thing for taxpayers. Your strategy of fighting cases that are frivolous and settling cases where the City is in the wrong is legally prudent and fiscally smart. It has and will save millions of dollars in the long run. You also have an exceptional track record of advocating for vulnerable children.

Today, we are writing to inform you that the sexual abuse survivors we represent are finally revealing their experiences with the City agencies you represent. They're stepping forward and telling their stories. We plan on filing at least 17 lawsuits against New York City in the coming months, and we hope that when these lawsuits are filed, you will take these stories seriously and work constructively with survivors.

We must endeavor together to right the wrongs of the past. There should be a process, in conjunction with the City's Law Department, for resolving childhood sexual abuse claims in a fair and expeditious manner, either through extrajudicial settlement or through an alternative dispute resolution process established in cooperation with survivors and their attorneys.

We can never ignore the sexual abuse of children at the hands of adults no matter where they work. We look forward to cooperating with you and the Law Department to ensure that justice for survivors is achieved a fiscally sound and responsible manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Freeman", with a stylized, flowing script.

Jennifer Freeman