



The Interfaith Center of New York

November 20, 2020

Emily Murphy, Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F St NW, Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Murphy,

We write to you as faith leaders from New York gravely concerned about your refusal to allow critical access to resources and information to the incoming Administration--information that they need to save lives in the midst of the Covid-19 health crisis. There will be no harm done in allowing the Biden/Harris team to get full access to Federal transition support.

Many of us have congregations and networks of congregations in New York City and across the state and know intimately the cost of delay on human lives in this pandemic. Public Health experts and statisticians at Columbia University showed that had NYC and other cities shut down even *one week earlier* last March 36,000 lives around the country would have been saved.¹

Each day your agency does not do its part in allowing logistical cooperation between incoming and outgoing Administrations, lives of your fellow Americans are lost, needlessly.

History is filled with examples of bureaucrats who, out of fear, callousness, or an inability to grasp the larger purpose of their work, cause untold amounts of human suffering. We beg you, please do not allow your agency become the inadvertent stumbling block to the progress towards the distribution of a life-saving vaccine and public health plan.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director, ICNY
Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Executive VP The New York Board of Rabbis
Peter B. Gudaitis, M.Div., Executive Director & CEO, New York Disaster Interfaith Services
Rev. Dr. William S. Shillady, United Methodist Church
Rev. Que English, Bronx Christian Fellowship
Very Rev. Michael J. Lynch, STL, Pastor (Jamaica, NY Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn)
Dr. Uma Mysorekar, President, The Hindu Temple Society of North America
The Rev. Peter Cooke, Executive Director, The New York State Council of Churches
Sister Aisha Al-Adawiya, Founder, Women in Islam
James Lynch, President, New York Buddhist Council
Bishop Thomas Bickerton, The United Methodist Church

¹ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.15.20103655v2>