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THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPUTY SPEAKER
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May 26, 2022

Dean Dennis Charney, MD
The Mount Sinai Hospital
1 Gustave L. Levy Place
New York, NY 10029-6574

Dear Dr. Charney:

As Deputy Speaker of the NYC Council, I write to urge the leadership of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai to refrain from any effort to influence Mount Sinai postdoctoral research employees' decision to form their union and to agree to a fair, expedient process to verify majority support and begin the collective bargaining process.

Postdoctoral researchers drive Mount Sinai's research mission and produce medical knowledge that benefits the entire world. Their hard work and dedication is a major reason why Mount Sinai received close to half a billion dollars in research grants last year. Their work helps make Mount Sinai one of the highest ranked among medical schools receiving NIH grants in the U.S., and contributes to making NYC a global hub for scientific and technological progress.

It is my understanding the Sinai Postdoctoral Organizing Committee-UAW (SPOC-UAW) recently announced that a majority of Postdocs at Mount Sinai have signed up in support of forming their union.

Collective bargaining is a fair process to address the many challenges workers face, one that is already working for thousands of academic employees in the NYC area. Out of respect for the important work postdoctoral researchers provide at Mount Sinai and for the democratic process, I urge the Mount Sinai administration to:

- Refrain from any legal or other actions that would delay or interfere with Postdocs' right to choose collective bargaining;
- Work with the union to reach a fair, efficient process for determining their majority support; and
- Commence good-faith negotiations for a first contract swiftly upon confirmation that a majority of Postdocs support unionization with SPOC-UAW.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana Ayala'.

Diana Ayala
Deputy Speaker