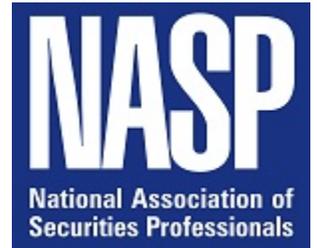


February 16, 2024

The Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Office of the Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236



Dear Comptroller DiNapoli,

The National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP) is proud to partner again with the New York State Comptroller in its Annual Emerging Manager and MWBE Conference. This conference helps highlight your commitment to identifying and engaging with talent in all communities. It is also business driven at its core - enabling increased economic value from enhancing investment return opportunities and from supporting the growth and expansion of diverse owned asset management businesses.

For nearly 40 years, NASP has advocated for diversity in the financial services industry; for inclusion and equal opportunity access for employees as well as business owners. We remain engaged in this mission on many fronts; driving legislative policy and business practices that enable full inclusion; career talent development and networking; community outreach at the high school and college levels promoting financial service career opportunities; partnering with industry stakeholders to enhance business results from inclusivity in market outreach and employment. We believe there is an enhanced and accelerated impact from partnership, collaboration, and outreach. As we continue to speak out for the business and social rationale for diversity, we also seek to work in tandem and support other organizations where our goals and values can be aligned. It is critical that pressure for positive change, and awareness of the economic and social value of inclusion are continuously brought to bear top down and bottom up. This conference is influential not just to promote good policy, but also to help drive a needed change in culture.

In June 2024, NASP will convene its Annual Financial Services Conference in Atlanta GA. This year holds particular significance as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Maynard Jackson Jr.'s first term as Mayor of that city. Maynard was one of the founders of NASP and has a legacy of driving economic engagement and inclusion for black Americans. We look forward with encouragement as a growing number of stakeholders, like The New York State Comptroller, demonstrate the courage and vision of diversity as good for business. We hope that you all will join us in Atlanta.

Comptroller DiNapoli and staff, thank you for your focused intentionality to include growing, diverse owned firms in your investment portfolios. It provides an important and critical example to other institutional asset owners that the benefits and goals of diversifying portfolios should extend beyond just a discussion about asset classes.

Sincerely,

Miguel Thames

Miguel Thames
NASP President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MHall", is positioned to the right of Miguel Thames's signature.

Marshay Hall
NASP Director, Communications and Programs

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