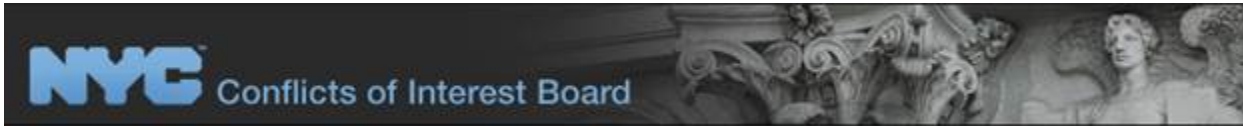


From: Michele Weinstat
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Michele Weinstat
Subject: COIB Settlements Announced
Attachments: COIB Disposition (QCPAO).pdf; COIB Disposition (DOE).pdf; Disposition (ACS).pdf



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 10, 2017

CONTACT: Michele Weinstat at weinstat@coib.nyc.gov or (212) 437-0740

The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (the “Board”) announces three settlements:

Misuse of City Position. The Queens County Public Administrator hired her son’s girlfriend in September 2014 to work at the Queens County Public Administrator’s Office (“QCPAO”). In Spring 2015, after they became engaged, the couple moved in together; the Queens County Public Administrator continued to supervise her son’s live-in fiancé for approximately one year, providing an indirect benefit to her son in violation of the City’s conflicts of interest law. The Board fined the Queens County Public Administrator \$3,000, which took into account the Public Administrator’s high-level position as head of the QCPAO, as well as the lack of evidence that she treated her son’s live-in fiancé differently than other QCPAO employees in terms of assignments and pay. The disposition is attached as “COIB Disposition (QCPAO).”

Misuse of City Position. An Assistant Principal at the Wilton School (“PS 30”) in the Bronx used a school volunteer on at least fourteen occasions to pick up her grandchild from a preschool in Harlem and transport her back to PS 30. She also regularly used the school volunteer to babysit her grandchild during the school day at PS 30. In a joint settlement with the Board and the New York City Department of Education, the Assistant Principal agreed to pay a \$2,000 fine for misusing her City position by having a school volunteer perform personal babysitting services for her. The disposition is attached as “COIB Disposition (DOE).”

Misuse of City Position; Confidential Information. An Administration for Children’s Services (“ACS”) Child Protective Specialist testified in her personal capacity at an associated family member’s family court case. During her testimony, she invoked her position as an ACS Child Protective Specialist three times to inform the judge of specific actions that she deemed appropriate for ACS to take. She also accessed the New York State Central Register’s confidential child abuse and maltreatment database, CONNECTIONS, on one occasion to obtain information about the status of her family member’s case for her own personal use and to benefit the associated family member. In a joint settlement with the Board and ACS, the Child Protective Specialist agreed to serve a six-workday suspension, valued at approximately \$1,339. The Board accepted the ACS penalty as sufficient for the Child Protective Specialist’s conflicts of interest law violations and imposed no additional penalty. The disposition is attached as “COIB Disposition (ACS).”

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COIB is the independent, non-mayoral City agency charged with interpreting, administering, and enforcing the City's Conflicts of Interest Law, Annual Disclosure Law, and Lobbyist Gift Law. The agency's jurisdiction extends to all City agencies and current and former officers, elected officials, and employees of the City, as well as lobbyists. Learn more about COIB and the law at nyc.gov/ethics.

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