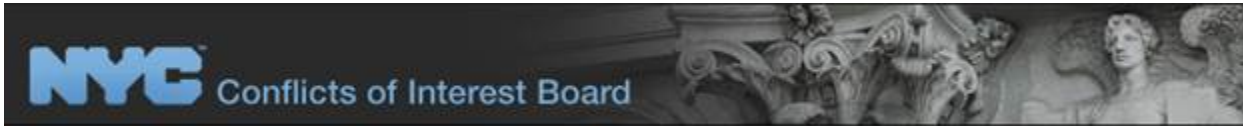


Roy Koshy

From: Michele Weinstat
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:02 AM
To: Michele Weinstat
Subject: COIB Settlements Announced
Attachments: COIB Disposition (DOE).pdf; COIB Disposition (ACS).pdf; COIB Disposition (Council).pdf



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 28, 2017

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

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

Misuse of City Position; Misuse of City Resources. A now former Teacher of the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) admitted to perpetrating a fraudulent scheme to pocket DOE funds from a program he oversaw. Over the course of sixteen months, the former Teacher doctored multiple timesheets to inflate the hours worked by four students under his supervision in a DOE work-study program. The former Teacher then directed the students to split the resulting overpayments with him, netting him approximately \$1,289 in improper payments. Given the grave breach of trust in the teacher-student relationship that occurred as a result of involving his students in this illegal swindle, the Board fined the former Teacher \$40,000. However, based on the former Teacher’s documented showing of financial hardship, the Board agreed to reduce the fine to be paid from \$40,000 to \$1,000. The disposition is attached to this email as “COIB Disposition (DOE).”

Misuse of City Position; Prohibited Ownership Interest. As a part of his job at the Administration for Children’s Services (“ACS”), a Laborer was given an ACS “P-Card” (an ACS credit card) to make small ACS purchases. Now, in a three-way settlement with the Board and ACS, the Laborer admits to misusing the P-Card 104 times to purchase items at a 99-cent store he co-owns with his father, totaling over \$71,000 in purchases. The Laborer’s ACS purchases from his own store also meant his ownership of the store was a “prohibited interest.” (Public servants may not own a business that does business with the City without disclosing the ownership interest to the Board and receiving a Board order permitting the ownership interest.) For these violations, ACS suspended the Laborer without pay for 15 workdays, valued at approximately \$4,000. The Board accepted the ACS-imposed suspension as sufficient penalty for the Chapter 68 violations and imposed no further penalty. In determining the penalty, ACS and the Board considered two mitigating factors:

- 1) there was no evidence of overpayment for goods received, or payment for goods never received; and
- 2) the Laborer’s ACS supervisor knew of his ownership of the store and approved the purchases from it.

The disposition is attached to this email as “COIB Disposition (ACS).”

Revolving Door. A former Councilmanic Aide with the New York City Council admitted to eight separate post-employment violations. Public servants who transition to the private sector are prohibited from communicating with their former City agencies on behalf of their new employer for one year. Within one month of leaving City service, the former Councilmanic Aide began working for a registered City lobbyist, and, over the course of the following two months, she called Council staff to set up appointments with Council

Members and met with and lobbied Council Members. Taking into account fines levied in similar cases, the Board set the fine for this case at \$8,000. However, based on the former Councilmanic Aide's documented showing of financial hardship, the Board agreed to reduce the fine to be paid from \$8,000 to \$1,000. The disposition is attached to this email as "COIB Disposition (Council)."

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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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City of New York Conflicts of Interest Board
2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010
New York, NY 10007
(212) 442-1400