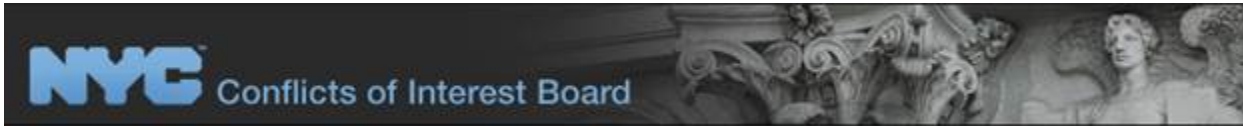


## Roy Koshy

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**From:** Michele Weinstat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** Michele Weinstat  
**Subject:** COIB Settlements Announced  
**Attachments:** COIB Disposition (NYCHA).pdf; COIB Disposition (DOE).pdf



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 24, 2017**

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

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

**Job Seeking.** A former Senior Director for Strategy and Program Development for the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) admitted that she violated the conflicts of interest law by negotiating for a position with a consulting firm she dealt with as a part of her NYCHA duties. After initiating discussions in February 2014 with the firm regarding possible employment (already a violation, since she was dealing with the firm for NYCHA at the same time), she continued discussions regarding potential employment with the firm over the course of the next 10 months, while simultaneously continuing to authorize the firm’s NYCHA-related work and NYCHA payments to the firm.

The City’s conflicts of interest law prohibits public servants from soliciting, negotiating for, or accepting any position with any person or firm “involved in a particular matter with the City, while such public servant is actively considering, or is directly concerned or personally participating in such particular matter on behalf of the city.” *See* Charter Section 2604(d)(1).

Taking into account that the Director’s improper job negotiations were ultimately successful, as well as the demonstrably direct conflict between her NYCHA duties with respect to this firm and her simultaneous private pursuit of a position at the firm, the Board levied a fine of \$9,500. The disposition is attached as “COIB Disposition (NYCHA).”

**Misuse of City Position.** On two occasions, a now-former New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) Assistant Principal asked for and received money from a teacher he supervised. The requests were as follows:

- A \$5,000 donation to a charitable cause he claimed to support and, one month later,
- \$10,000 for personal expenses he claimed to have incurred.

Both of these claims, however, were false. The Assistant Principal neither passed the \$5,000 along to charity, nor did he use the \$10,000 to pay for the expenses he had described to the teacher. Instead, he kept the money for himself.

Irrespective of how the money is spent, it is a violation of the conflicts of interest law to request and/or obtain money, favors, or things of value from a subordinate. *See* Charter Section 2604 (b)(3).

When the teacher learned that she had been lied to, she asked the Assistant Principal to return the money. He complied. His DOE employment ended shortly thereafter. The Board set the fine at \$7,000, taking into account

that the Assistant Principal had fully repaid the teacher. The disposition is attached as “COIB Disposition (DOE).”

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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](http://nyc.gov/ethics).*

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