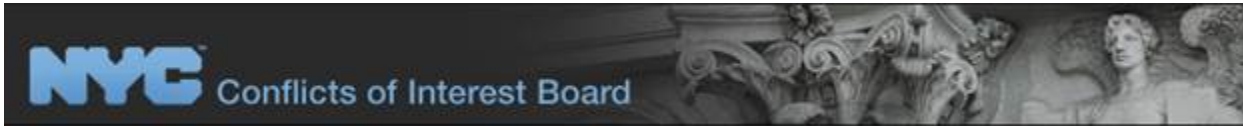


From: Michele Weinstat
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 12:37 PM
To: Michele Weinstat
Subject: COIB Settlements Announced
Attachments: COIB Disposition (NYPD).pdf; COIB Disposition (FISA).pdf



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 22, 2017

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

Prohibited Appearances before the City; Misuse of City Time & Resources; Misuse of City Position. In 2010, before accepting a position with the New York City Police Department (“NYPD”), a now former Traffic Enforcement Agent IV sought advice from the Board regarding whether he could retain ownership of his private business, Junior’s Police Equipment, Inc. (“Junior’s”), if he accepted a position with the NYPD. The Board informed him that he could but cautioned him on two crucial points: in order to avoid violations of the conflicts of interest law, he could not use City time, City equipment, or his City position for Junior’s, nor could he represent Junior’s before any City agency, including the NYPD.

Today, the former NYPD Traffic Enforcement Agent admits to multiple, egregious violations of the City’s conflicts of interest law, primarily relating to his work for Junior’s. The violations are as follows:

- making prohibited appearances before the NYPD by submitting an application and letter to the NYPD in order for his private business to become an NYPD-authorized uniform dealer, and also to sell items with the NYPD logo;
- making prohibited appearances before the NYPD by arranging with the commanding officer at the NYPD Traffic Enforcement Recruit Academy to sell uniforms at the Academy. In yet another prohibited appearance violation, the Traffic Enforcement Agent then made a sales pitch at the Academy to a captive group of on-duty recruits. The pitch netted Junior’s \$32,781 in uniform and equipment orders and \$3,704.85 in deposits;
- misusing City time by, over a three-month period, working for his private business at times when he was supposed to be working for the NYPD;
- misusing an NYPD vehicle for over thirteen months to run his private business, and for other personal, non-City purposes, such as commuting daily, and giving rides to friends;

- misusing NYPD gasoline by, over the course of almost 60 weeks, filling up his NYPD vehicle (free of charge) at an NYPD garage, approximately twice per week, although all or most of his vehicle use related to Junior's business, commuting, and other personal activities;
- misusing an NYPD E-ZPass to pay \$8,827.93 in tolls related to Junior's business and other personal and unauthorized purposes, such as commuting daily, over the course of 13 months;
- misusing an NYPD logo on Junior's business cards; and
- misusing police sirens and lights in 26 non-emergency situations in order to bypass traffic while conducting business for Junior's, commuting, and engaging in personal activities.

The Board levied a \$75,000 penalty, given the egregious nature of the violations despite the Board's prior warnings. However, based on the former Traffic Enforcement Agent's documented showing of financial hardship – including his resignation from the NYPD due to his infractions; revocation of the Junior's uniform dealer authorization, suspension of its gun dealer license, and the resulting closure of Junior's; the Traffic Enforcement Agent's lack of new employment or other income; his lack of liquid assets; and his outstanding debts – the Board agreed to reduce the fine to be paid from \$75,000 to \$5,000. This case was investigated by the NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau. The disposition is attached to this email as "COIB Disposition (NYPD)."

Misuse of City Position. In a three-way settlement between the Board and the New York Financial Information Services Agency-New York City Office of Payroll Administration ("FISA"), FISA's First Deputy Executive Director paid a \$2,500 fine to the Board for helping her daughter obtain a position with a City vendor that she interacted with in her City position. Specifically, during one meeting with the City vendor, the vendor's CEO mentioned that he was looking to hire a recent college graduate for a specific project. The First Deputy Executive Director replied by suggesting her daughter as a candidate. When the First Deputy Director's daughter applied for the job, she used her mother's name. While she did not receive the job originally mentioned by the CEO, the daughter was hired in another position for which no other candidates were interviewed. The City's conflicts of interest law prohibits public servants from using their City position to help their children, other close relatives, or financial associates obtain employment. This case was investigated by the New York City Department of Investigation. The disposition is attached to this email as "COIB Disposition (FISA)."

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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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