

**THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Monday, January 23, 2023

PRESENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, John Bazzano, Richard Bush, Donald Currey, William A. DiBella, John Gale, Joan Gentile, Diane Lewis, Jon Petoskey, Alvin Taylor and Calixto Torres (12)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Dimple Desai, Dominic Pane and Pasquale J. Salemi (3)

ABSENT: Commissioners John Avedisian, Clifford Avery Buell, David Drake, Peter Gardow, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Christian Hoheb, Jean Holloway, Mary LaChance, Byron Lester, Maureen Magnan, Michael Maniscalco, Jacqueline Mandyck, Bhupen Patel, David Steuber, James Woulfe and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (17)

ALSO PRESENT: Linda Russo, Citizen Member
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Steven Bonafonte, Assistant District Counsel
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer (Remote Attendance)
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources (Remote Attendance)
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering (Remote Attendance)
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology
Olga Cordova, Manager of Human Resources (Remote Attendance)
Piotr Krzyk, Financial Analyst (Remote Attendance)
Allen King, Real Estate Administrator (Remote Attendance)
Tra Phan, Controller (Remote Attendance)
Diana Phay, Treasury Manager (Remote Attendance)
Lisa Remsen, Manager of Budget and Analysis (Remote Attendance)
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
David Baker, IT Consultant
Joe Szerejko, Independent Consumer Advocate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DiBella at 1:05 PM

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM

The District Clerk called the roll and informed Chairman DiBella that a quorum of the Commission was present, and the meeting was declared a legal meeting of the District Board of The Metropolitan District of Hartford County, Connecticut.

Chairman DiBella recognized former Commissioner Daniel Camilliere who recently passed away.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Judy Allen of West Hartford inquired about a reference in the Code of Ethics about sharing an interest with the majority of the general public and what that means.

Commissioner Salemi entered the meeting remotely at 1:16 PM

Commissioner Gale entered the meeting at 1:25 PM

PRESENTATION BY OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

Peter Lewandowski, from the Office of State Ethics, provided a presentation regarding Conflicts of Interest.

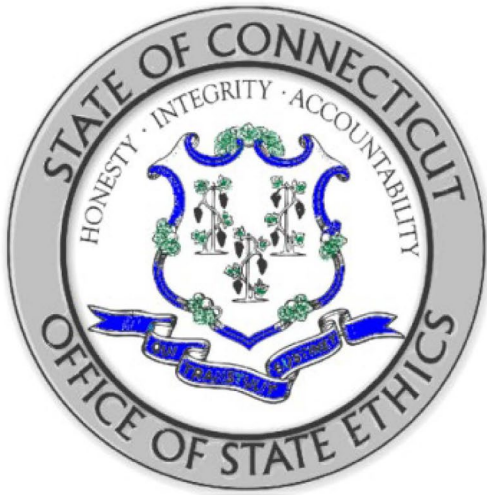
Connecticut Office of State Ethics



Conflicts of Interest and Related Disclosures

Presented by
Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director

The Big Picture



Knowing the Limits

HOW WE CONDUCT OURSELVES
AS PROFESSIONALS

Conflicts of Interest

Prohibitions and Disclosures

Public Policy

Prevent Corruption

Protect Government
Interests

Attract Good Public
Servants

Provide Transparency

Why Disclose?

to maximize public confidence
in governmental decision
making and provide individual
checklist of likely conflicts

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Is it a Conflict?

- Will you derive financial benefit from official action?
- Will your immediate family members benefit from your actions?
- Will any affiliated businesses benefit from your actions?
- Is the benefit distinct from other similarly situated persons?

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Direct or Potential Conflict?
Appearance of a Conflict?

Taking Official Action

Direct (Substantial) Conflicts

You have reason to believe or expect that. . .

- Either you, your immediate family member or an associated business
- Will obtain a *direct* monetary **gain** or suffer a *direct* monetary **loss** by reason of your official activity
- In a way that is distinctly different from its effect on other persons in the same profession, occupation or group
- When faced with direct conflict: recusal is required

Taking Official Action

Examples of Direct (Substantial) Conflicts

- An official failed to recuse himself from taking official action on his own worker's compensation claim which resulted in his financial advantage.
- An official awarded a graduate fellowship to official's spouse. Directed others to hire the official's spouse as a graduate assistant, providing financial benefit to the spouse in excess of \$50,000.

Taking Official Action

Potential Conflicts

When you are required to take official action *that would affect a financial interest of...*

- Either you, your spouse, parent, brother, sister, child or the spouse of a child or an associated business
- No potential conflict if any resultant gain/loss is equal for a substantial segment of the public (e.g., all homeowners) affected by official action or is de minimis (<\$100)

Taking Official Action

TEST FOR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

Reasonable expectation on the part of the individual that there will be some financial impact based on individual's actions. No requirement that the financial impact be direct.

(reasonable expectation = considered likely, as opposed to merely conceivable)

Taking Official Action

WHAT TO DO WHEN FACED WITH POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

- If a member of a board, commission or other deliberative body – abstentions and disclosures
- If an employee - abstentions and disclosures (informing supervisor). If no supervisor – contact legal counsel for advice

Taking Official Action

Examples of Potential Conflicts

- Employee failed to inform his superiors when he was faced with a conflict of interest involving the hiring of his son by a contractor over which he had administrative oversight (approval of hiring and payroll).
- An official created an \$80,000 temporary worker position in a proposed grant for an entity that the official intended to obtain upon official's retirement from public service.

Taking Official Action

Appearances of a Conflict

The Optics Test

Acting in a manner that would cause a reasonable person think that you can be improperly influenced

Consider whether your relationships and affiliations could prevent you from acting fairly and objectively

If yes – disclosure would be required

Taking Official Action

MDC Disclosure Forms

- Code of Ethics Policy Acknowledgment and Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest
- Source Selection Participation Agreement
- Request for Information Participation Agreement

Connecticut Office of State Ethics

When in doubt

**Always Get
Advice**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval