

State of New Jersey STATE ETHICS COMMISSION PO Box 082 Trenton, NJ 08625-0082 www.nj.gov/ethics

Governor Kim Guadagno

**CHRIS CHRISTIE** 

Lt. Governor

July 23, 2014

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William Spearman, ELO South Jersey Transportation Authority Farley Service Plaza PO Box 351 Hammonton, NJ 08037

## Re: Waiver to the Provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 52:13D-17.2(b)

Dear Mr. Spearman:

At its July 22, 2014 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Stephanie McCann, South Jersey Transportation Authority ("SJTA"), temporary Accountant II, and her brother, Luke McCann, Grounds Keeper, who is employed by the Harrah's Hotel & Casino. Based on the facts and circumstances set forth below, the Commission granted a waiver of the general prohibition of section 17.2(b).

Generally, Section 17.2(b) of the Conflicts Law prohibits all State officers and employees and members of their immediate families from holding an interest in, holding employment with, representing, appearing for, or negotiating on behalf of the holder of, or applicant for, a casino license or any holding or intermediary company with respect thereto. However, the statute also contains the following exception language:

> except that a member of the immediate family of a State officer or employee, or person, may hold employment with the holder of, or applicant for, a casino license if, in the judgment of the State Ethics Commission ... such employment will not interfere with the responsibilities of the State officer or employee, or person, and will not create a conflict of interest, or reasonable risk of the public perception of a conflict of interest, on the part of the State officer or employee, or person ....

William Spearman Page 2 July 23, 2014

The Commission took into account your statement that there is no conflict between Ms. McCann's employment duties at SJTA and her brother's employment at the Harrah's Hotel & Casino. Thus, there is no reasonable risk of the public perceiving any kind of conflict of interest between McCann's position and her brother's employment.

Based on the facts and circumstances set forth above and in the information you submitted in support of this request, the Commission has granted the waiver of the general prohibition of section 17.2(b) in the case of Stephanie McCann and her brother Luke McCann.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

For the Commission Susana E. Guerrero, Executive Director

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