



State of New Jersey
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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June 19, 2015

William W. Spearman
Ethics Liaison Officer
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 June 16, 2015 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Ruth Ann Joyce, Support Specialist III, South Jersey Transportation Authority ("SJTA"), and her husband, Michael Joyce. Mr. and Mrs. Joyce are both currently employed by casino license holders. Ms. Joyce is an on-call bartender/food server for Harrah's Casino and the Golden Nugget Casino. Mr. Joyce is an on-call bartender at the Borgata Casino and Harrah's 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

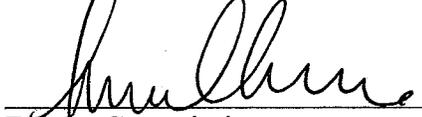
perception of a conflict of interest, on the part of the State officer or employee, or person

The Commission agrees that there is no conflict between Mrs. Joyce's position at SJTA and her position at Harrah's Casino and Golden Nugget Casino or her husband's employment with the Borgata Casino and Harrah's Casino. Her State position and casino employment do not overlap and her employment with these casinos will not interfere with her responsibilities at SJTA. There is, therefore, no reasonable risk of a conflict of interest or the public perceiving any kind of conflict between Mrs. Joyce's position and her on-call casino employment or her husband's casino employment.

Based on the facts and circumstances set forth above, the Commission granted the waiver of the general prohibition of section 17.2(b) in the case of Ruth Ann Joyce and her husband, Michael Joyce.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



For the Commission

Susana E. Guerrero, Executive Director

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