



State of New Jersey
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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July 10, 2019

Pamela Hayes
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 Ms. Hayes:

At its July 9, 2019 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Ruthann Joyce, Project Administrator, South Jersey Transportation Authority ("SJTA"), who is employed by Harrah's Casino and the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino as a bartender. Ms. Joyce's husband, Michael Joyce, is also employed by Harrah's Casino and the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino as a bartender. 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:

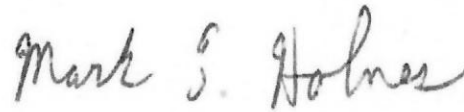
except that (1) a State officer or employee other than a State officer or employee included in the definition of person, and (2) a member of the immediate family of a State officer or employee, or of a person, may hold employment with the holder of, or applicant for, a casino license if, in the judgement 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 Ms. Joyce's position at SJTA and her and her husband's employment with Harrah's Casino and the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Ms. Joyce's position at SJTA does not overlap with her or her husband's casino employment, and there is no conflict of interest or reasonable risk of the public perceiving any kind of conflict between her State position and her and 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 Ruthann Joyce and her husband, Michael Joyce.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



For the Commission
Mark T. Holmes
Executive Director

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