



State of New Jersey

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

PO BOX 082
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0082
WWW.NJ.GOV/ETHICS

PHILIP D. MURPHY
GOVERNOR

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
LT. GOVERNOR

JOSEPH P. LASALA, ESQ.
CHAIR

MARK T. HOLMES, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 28, 2020

Catherine Schafer, Esq.
Ethics Liaison Officer
Department of Children and Families
50 East State Street
PO Box 171
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

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

Dear Ms. Schafer:

At its January 28, 2020 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Anthony Cruz, Program Specialist Trainee, Department of Children and Families, whose father, Wister Cruz, is currently employed by the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino as a slot attendant. 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

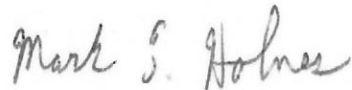
The Commission agrees that there is no conflict between Mr. Cruz's position at Department of Children and Families and his father's employment with the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Mr.

Cruz's position and his father's employment do not overlap, and there is no conflict of interest or reasonable risk of the public perceiving any kind of conflict between his position and his father'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 Anthony Cruz and his father, Wister Cruz.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



For the Commission
Mark T. Holmes
Executive Director

MTH/sc
Exit_Cruz_CW_DCF_1-2020