



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

STEPHANIE A. BROWN, ESQ.
CHAIR

MARK T. HOLMES, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 14, 2021

Kia King
Ethics Liaison Officer
Department of Labor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
Via email ONLY: Kia.King@dol.nj.gov

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

Dear Ms. King:

At its July 13, 2021 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Ishan Shah, Auditor I, Department of Labor, whose father, Harish Shah, is currently employed by the Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa as Casino Cashier and whose mother, Shaku Shah, is employed by the Tropicana Casino as a Casino Cashier. 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. Shah's position at the Department of Labor and his father's employment with at the Borgata Hotel, Casino and Spa or his mother's employment at the Tropicana Casino. Mr. Shah's position and his parents' 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 parent'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 Ishan Shah and his parents, Harish Shah and Shaku Shah.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



For the Commission
Mark T. Holmes
Executive Director

MTH/sc

Exit_Shah_DOL_CW_2021