



**State of New Jersey**  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0082  
[WWW.NJ.GOV/ETHICS](http://WWW.NJ.GOV/ETHICS)

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 21, 2021

Chiqueena Lee, Esq.  
Ethics Liaison Officer  
Department of Corrections  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625  
*Via Email Only:* [Chiqueena.Lee01@doc.nj.gov](mailto:Chiqueena.Lee01@doc.nj.gov)

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

Dear Ms. Lee:

At its April 20, 2021 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Lavar Temple, Senior Police Officer, Department of Corrections, whose sisters, Mariah Temple and Aja Temple, are employed by Ocean Casino as cashiers; Mr. Temple's other sister, Capri Temple, is employed by Harrah's Casino as a front desk representative. 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. Temple's position at the Department and his sisters' employment with Ocean's Casino and Harrah's Casino. Mr. Temple's position and

his sisters' 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 sisters 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 Lavar Temple and his sisters, Mariah Temple, Aja Temple and Capri Temple.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



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For the Commission  
Mark T. Holmes  
Executive Director

MTH/sc  
*Exit\_Temple\_DOC\_CW\_4-2021*