



*State of New Jersey*  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 12, 2018

William 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 September 11, 2018 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Mike Searle, Aircraft Tech, South Jersey Transportation Authority ("SJTA"), whose son, Mike Searle, Jr., is currently employed by Resorts Casino as a food runner. 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. Searle's position at SJTA and his son's employment with Resorts Casino. Mr. Searle's position and his son's employment do not overlap,

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and there is no conflict of interest or reasonable risk of the public perceiving any kind of conflict between his position and his son'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 Mike Searle and his son, Mike Searle, Jr.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



For the Commission  
Mark T. Holmes  
Acting Executive Director

MTH/sc

*Exit Searle\_CW\_SJTA\_9-2018*