



State of New Jersey
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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April 19, 2017

Valerie Hayes
Ethics Liaison Officer
Stockton University
101 Vera King Farris Drive
Galloway, New Jersey 08205-9441

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

Dear Ms. Hayes:

At its April 18, 2017 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Urvija Patel, Building Maintenance Worker, Stockton University ("Stockton"), and her husband, Chirag Patel. Mr. Patel is currently employed by Resorts Hotel & Casino as a valet parker. 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

....

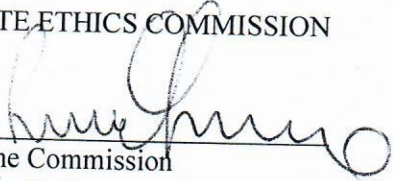
The Commission agrees that there is no conflict between Mrs. Patel's position at Stockton and her husband's employment with Resorts Hotel & Casino. Mrs. Patel's position and her husband's casino employment do not overlap, and there is no conflict of interest or reasonable risk of the public perceiving any kind of conflict between her position and her husband's casino employment.

Page 2
April 19, 2017

Based on the facts and circumstances set forth above, the Commission granted a waiver of the general prohibition of section 17.2(b) in the case of Urviya Patel and her husband, Chirag Patel.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



For the Commission
Susana E. Guerrero, Executive Director

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