



State of New Jersey
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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March 18, 2016

Elizabeth H. Foster
Ethics Liaison Officer
New Jersey Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Avenue, MOB 2nd Floor
Ewing, New Jersey 08618

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

Dear Ms. Foster:

At its March 15, 2016 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Stewart Merrick, Electrical Mechanic, New Jersey Department of Transportation ("NJDOT"), who is employed by Caesars Entertainment as a stage electrician. 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 (1) a State officer or employee other than a State officer or employee included in the definition of person, and (2) a member of the immediate family of a State officer or employee, or of a person, may hold employment with the holder of, or applicant for, a casino license if, in the judgement 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

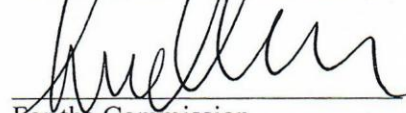
The Commission agrees that there is no conflict between Mr. Merrick's position at NJDOT and his employment with Caesars Entertainment. Mr. Merrick's position and his casino employment do not overlap, and there is no conflict of interest or a reasonable risk of the public perceiving any kind of conflict between his State position and his casino employment.

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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 Stewart Merrick.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



For the Commission

Susana E. Guerrero, Executive Director

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