

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
P.O. Box 082
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0082
(609) 292-1892

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
COMMISSION CASE NO. 50-13**

**IN THE MATTER OF LARRY
LIGGETT, DIRECTOR,
PINELANDS COMMISSION**

:
:
:
:
:
:

**Administrative Action
CONSENT ORDER**

WHEREAS, the State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) is authorized to initiate, receive, investigate, review, and hear complaints regarding violations of the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law, *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq.* (“Conflicts Law”), applicable rules of the Commission, *N.J.A.C. 19:61-1.1 et seq.*, the Uniform Ethics Code and any agency supplemental code of ethics by any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee; and

WHEREAS, this matter was brought before the Commission by a complaint filed with the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted an investigation of all the matters and issues raised by the complaint; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the investigation, the Commission and Larry Liggett (“Liggett”) desire to enter into a final and complete resolution of all matters and issues raised thereby;

IT IS THEREFORE agreed by the parties as follows:

LLC

1. Liggett has been an employee of the Pinelands Commission ("Pinelands") since October 1988. He was promoted to his current position as Director of Land Use and Technology in June 2003.

2. Liggett received in-person ethics training in May 2007 and June 2012, and online ethics training in September 2009.

3. In December 2011, Liggett filed an Outside Activity Questionnaire ("OAQ") for secondary employment as an adjunct professor at Burlington County Community College ("BCCC") and Rowan University ("Rowan"). On January 30, 2014, Liggett filed an OAQ reporting his adjunct professor position at Stockton College ("Stockton"). This OAQ was approved by the Pinelands Ethics Liaison Officer with a note adding conditions that Liggett could not use State resources or undertake activities related to his teaching position during the hours he worked for the Pinelands.

4. Between 2010 and 2014, Liggett used his Pinelands email address to send or receive over 100 emails related to his secondary employment at BCCC, Rowan and Stockton. These emails were exchanged using Liggett's Pinelands email address.

5. Liggett also made regular and extensive use of his State email for his own personal use. Liggett frequently used his State email during working hours to make travel plans, respond to listings on Craigslist, bid on auctions, confirm electronic payments, and engage in communications unrelated to his official State duties.

6. Liggett frequently used his State computer and the State printers in connection with his secondary employment and for personal matters.

7. In February 2013, Liggett received a verbal warning from the Executive Director of the Pinelands regarding his use of the State printers for non-Pinelands matters. Despite this

warning, Liggett continued to use State resources, including his Pinelands email, computer and printers, in connection with his secondary employment and personal use, although with less frequency.

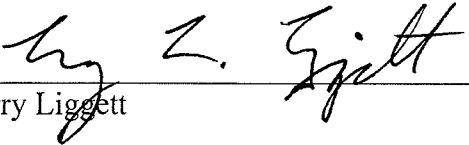
8. It is the Commission's position that Liggett violated section 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts of Interest Law by misusing State time and resources in connection with this secondary employment and for his own personal use. Liggett's misuse of State time and resources, including his State email, computer, copy machine and printer, provided him with an unwarranted benefit and created the appearance that he was engaged in activity that violated the public trust.

9. It is Liggett's position that he has been a dedicated public servant for over 30 years and has worked for the Pinelands for 26 years. He believes that his use of state resources for outside work was very limited over the four-year period cited, as he only began adjunct teaching in the Fall of 2011 and in recent years he has eliminated or limited the use of state resources for his classes altogether. With respect to his use of his state email account, Mr. Liggett believed at the time that his use fell within the meaning of a permitted minimal use.

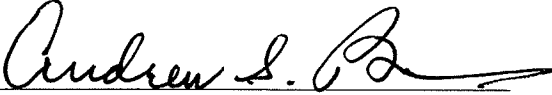
10. Nonetheless, Liggett acknowledges that his use of State resources for his secondary employment and personal use created the reasonable impression that he engaged in conduct violative of the public trust, in violation of section 23(e)(7) of the Conflicts of Interest Law.

11. In consideration of the above, Liggett agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$3,000.

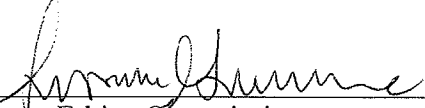
12. The parties agree to enter into this Consent Order in settlement of all matters and issues that are involved herein.


Larry Liggett

Dated: 2/9/15


State Ethics Commission
By: Andrew S. Berns, Chair

Dated: 3/17/15


State Ethics Commission
By: Susana E. Guerrero, Executive Director

Dated: 3/17/15