

State of New Jersey
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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September 30, 2015

Valerie Hayes, J.D., M.S.W. Ethics Liaison Officer Stockton College 101 Vera King Farris Drive Galloway, New Jersey 08205

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

Dear Ms. Hayes:

**CHRIS CHRISTIE** 

KIM GUADAGNO

Lt. Governor

Governor

At its September 22, 2015 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of George Harris, Security Officer, Stockton College ("Stockton"), who is currently employed by the Trump Taj Mahal as a security officer. 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 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. Harris' position at Stockton as a security officer and his employment with the Trump Taj Mahal. There is also no reasonable risk of the

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public perceiving any kind of improper influence by Harris in his outside employment at the Trump Taj Mahal.

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 George Harris.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHIC COMMISSION

For the Commission

Susana E. Guerrero, Executive Director

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