

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
P.O. Box 082
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
COMMISSION CASE NO. 11-13

IN THE MATTER OF	:	
EDITH PETERS-LIGUORI, FORMER	:	Administrative Action
REGIONAL MANAGER, DIVISION OF	:	
DISABILITY DETERMINATION	:	CONSENT ORDER
SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:	:	
AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	:	

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 (“Conflicts Law”), *N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq.*, applicable rules of the Commission, *N.J.A.C. 19:61-1.1 et seq.*, the Uniform Ethics Code and any agency 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 matters and issues raised by the complaint;

WHEREAS, as a result of the investigation, the Commission and Edith Peters-Liguori (“Peters-Liguori”) 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:

1. Peters-Liguori began working for the State Employment Service in 1975 and joined the Division of Disability Determination Services (“DDS”) in 1981. Peters-Liguori retired on June 1, 2014 after serving three years as the Regional Manager for the Upper Northern Region.

2. Peters-Liguori was involved in a number of volunteer activities, including organizing the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade, the Federation of Italian American Societies of New Jersey, and the Seton Hall Prep Mothers Auxiliary. While employed at DDS, Peters-Liguori was aware that the use of State time and resources to conduct outside activities was prohibited, although Peters-Liguori produced some documentation from DDS that charity work was encouraged.

3. Records of emails and documents from Peters-Liguori’s State computer reveal over 400 items unrelated to her State duties, including over 250 emails (many with attachments), and at least 145 word documents related to Peters-Liguori’s volunteer activities or personal matters.

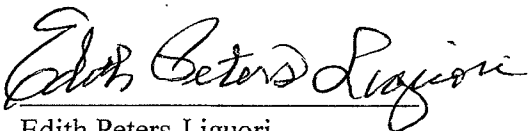
4. Peters-Liguori did not have access to a home computer or a personal email address at the time and she used her State computer and State email address for personal use and to support her volunteer activities. Peters-Liguori also admitted to printing and copying documents unrelated to her State duties using State resources and equipment she was also verbally counseled by her supervisor on two separate occasions when she used State equipment in connection with her volunteer activities.

5. It is the Commission's position that Peters-Liguori violated sections 23(e)(3) and (e)(7) of the Conflicts Law by misusing State time and resources to support her volunteer activities and for her own personal use.


6. It is Peters-Liguori's position that although she used her State email for volunteer activities and personal use and during her lunch hour or break time, she never used State resources for personal gain and she felt that her volunteer work did not interfere with her professional responsibilities.

7. In hindsight, Peters-Liguori acknowledges that her use of State time and resources for her outside activities was in violation of section 23(e)(3) and (e)(7) of the Conflicts Law.


8. The parties agree to enter into this Consent Order in settlement of all matters and issues that are involved herein. In consideration thereof, Peters-Liguori agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$750.00.


Edith Peters-Liguori

Dated: 3-2-15


State Ethics Commission
By: Andrew S. Berns, Chair

Dated: 4/14/15


Susana E. Guerrero, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated: 4/14/15