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CT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

By



OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

DOCKET NUMBER 2024-47 : 165 CAPITOL AVENUE
IN THE MATTER OF A : SUITE 1200
COMPLAINT AGAINST : HARTFORD, CT 06106
SHONDA BROOKS : JUNE 16, 2025

STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to the Code of Ethics, General Statutes §§ 1-79, *et seq.*, Mark Wasielewski, Ethics Enforcement Officer, filed a Complaint against Shonda Brooks (“Respondent”), alleging violations of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. Based on the investigation by the Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics (“OSE”) (together with Respondent, the “Parties”), OSE finds that there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated the Code of Ethics as further set forth herein.

The Parties have entered into this Consent Order following the issuance of the Complaint, but without any adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein.

I. STIPULATION

The Ethics Enforcement Officer and Respondent stipulate to the following facts:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was employed as a Correction Officer at the Connecticut Department of Correction (“DOC”).

2. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was a “state employee” as that term is defined in General Statutes § 1-79 (13).

3. Beginning in or around April 2020, and at all times relevant hereto, DOC administered the Temporary Emergency Lodging Program/Hotel Accommodations Program (the “Hotel Program”) whereby DOC provided hotel rooms at no cost to DOC employees who met certain COVID-19 related criteria.

4. At all times relevant hereto, the Hotel Program was available only to DOC employees who were confirmed to be COVID-19 positive or suspected to be COVID-19 positive, and/or to DOC employees whose family members were self-quarantined or quarantined by the direction of a medical provider.

5. At all times relevant hereto, DOC employees who utilized rooms pursuant to the Hotel Program were required to obtain prior DOC approval.

6. At all times relevant hereto, DOC employees who utilized the Hotel Program were not permitted to have any guests in their hotel rooms.

7. From on or about November 10, 2020, through on or about April 6, 2021, Respondent used the Hotel Program to stay at, and/or make reservations to stay at, a hotel in Southington, Connecticut (the “hotel”).

8. Respondent charged her stay at the hotel to DOC under the Hotel Program.

9. During Respondent’s hotel stay, she permitted her daughter to visit and remain with her at the hotel several days per month in violation of the Hotel Program.

10. DOC paid for Respondent’s hotel stays.

11. General Statutes §1-84 (c) states in pertinent part:

[N]o public official or state employee shall use his public office or position ... to obtain financial gain for himself, his spouse, child, child's spouse, parent, brother or sister or a business with which he is associated.

12. By utilizing state resources to provide free hotel stays for her daughter, Respondent used her public office or position to obtain financial gain for her child and/or herself, in violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

13. Each time Respondent's daughter received a free hotel stay constitutes a separate and distinct violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

II. JURISDICTION

1. The Ethics Enforcement Officer is authorized to investigate Respondent's acts as set forth herein and to enter into this Stipulation and Consent Order.

2. The provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order apply to and are binding upon Respondent.

3. Respondent hereby waives all objections and defenses to the jurisdiction of the Ethics Enforcement Officer over matters addressed in this Stipulation and Consent Order.

4. Respondent waives any rights she may have under General Statutes §§ 1-80, 1-82, 1-82a, 1-87, and 1-88, including the right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Ethics Enforcement Officer to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by General Statutes § 4-177 (c).

5. Respondent consents to jurisdiction and venue in the Connecticut Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, in the event that the State of Connecticut seeks to enforce this Stipulation and Consent Order. Respondent recognizes that the Connecticut Superior Court has the authority to specifically enforce the provisions of this Stipulation and

Consent Order, including the authority to award equitable relief.

6. The terms set forth herein are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other existing or future statutory, regulatory, or other legal obligation that may be applicable to Respondent.

7. Respondent understands that she has a right to counsel and has been represented by counsel during OSE's investigation and in connection with this Stipulation and Consent Order.

III. ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to General Statutes § 4-177 (c), OSE hereby ORDERS, and Respondent agrees, that:

1. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (1), Respondent will cease and desist from any future violation of § 1-84 (c).

2. Pursuant to General Statutes § 1-88 (a) (3), Respondent will pay civil penalties to the State in the amount of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) for her violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c) as set forth in the Complaint and herein.

WHEREFORE, the Ethics Enforcement Officer and Respondent hereby execute this Stipulation and Consent Order dated June 16, 2025.

Dated: 6/27/2025


Shonda Brooks

Dated: 6/30/25


Mark Wasielewski
Ethics Enforcement Officer
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