

STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** September 27, 2012 CONTACT: Nancy S. Nicolescu (860) 263-2397 nancy.nicolescu@ct.gov

## **Connecticut Citizen's Ethics Board Issues \$10,000 Penalty**

*Hartford* –John Tricarico, formerly of Southington and a former employee at the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, used his authority in violation of the Code of Ethics over a subcontractor to solicit free or discounted gifts, services and other items of value, which included lunch and dinners, tickets to Red Sox and Yankee baseball games, tickets to concerts, the use of subcontractor vehicles for personal use and job interviews for relatives.

At the September 20, 2012 public board hearing presided over by Judge Trial Referee James G. Kenefick, Jr., the respondent, Tricarico failed to appear, even though he received and acknowledged notice of the hearing. The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board imposed a \$10,000 civil penalty.

Section 1-86(e) of the Code of Ethics prohibits a person hired by the state as a consultant or independent contractor to use the authority provided to the person under the contract "... to obtain financial gain for the person, an employee of the person or a member of the immediate family of any such person or employee..."

"State contractors and their employees must comply with the restrictions of the Code of Ethics," said Carol Carson, Executive Director of the Office of State Ethics. "In this case, the Board felt strongly that improperly using the state's authority as a contractor for personal gain is egregious and blatant and warrants significant penalties."

View: (1) Complaint for <u>Docket No.: 2011-69</u> in the Matter of John Tricarico.

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The Connecticut Office of State Ethics mission is to ensure honesty, integrity and accountability in state government through education, interpretation and enforcement of the State of Connecticut Code of Ethics. To contact us please visit our website at <u>www.ct.gov/ethics</u> or call us at (860) 263-2400.