



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

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Office of State Ethics Enters into \$2,500 Settlement with Former State Contracting Standards Board Member

Hartford – Former State Contracting Standards Board (“SCSB”) member Robert Sember of Shelton, Connecticut, paid a \$2,500 penalty to the Office of State Ethics for violating sections 1-84 (c) and 1-84 (b) of Code of Ethics which prohibit a public official from using state resources to obtain financial gain and engaging in other employment that impairs the official’s independence of judgement as to his state duties.

Following the issuance of a complaint and a preliminary investigation by this Office, the Enforcement Division determined that on or around January 27, 2020, Mr. Sember was appointed as a member of the SCSB, which holds significant statutory authority over state contracting agencies and their personnel. Shortly after his appointment, in April 2020, Mr. Sember, who was also a paid business consultant, approached the Department of Administrative Services (“DAS”) on behalf of a private business who was looking to sell personal protective equipment (“PPE”) to DAS. DAS is a main procurement and contracting agency for the state. In the course of introducing himself and communicating with DAS procurement employees, Mr. Sember *also* indicated that he was an SCSB member. Ultimately, in referencing his SCSB position in multiple communications with DAS procurement personnel on behalf of a private business, the investigation showed that Mr. Sember was using his state position for financial gain in violation of Section 1-84 (c).

In addition, the Complaint also alleged that Mr. Sember violated Section 1-84 (b). Not only do DAS contracts and state contractors fall under the jurisdiction of the SCSB, but SCSB members are prohibited by law from being “directly involved with any enterprise that does business with the state.” (General Statutes section 4e-2 (e).) As a result, Mr. Sember’s acceptance of employment with the private business – specifically with regard to seeking a PPE contract with DAS – compromised his independence of judgment as to his SCSB responsibilities.

Mr. Sember was paid a total of \$1,200 for consulting fees, a portion of which were paid to him as a result of his representation to DAS. The private business did not obtain a state contract or make a financial gain as the result of Mr. Sember’s actions.

Mr. Sember resigned from his position on the SCSB in May 2020.

[Stipulation and Consent Order: Docket No. 2020-18](#)

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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 www.ct.gov/ethics or call us at (860) 263-2400.