



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2022

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Office of State Ethics Enters into \$750 Settlement with a Connecticut Port Authority Employee Who Accepted Impermissible Gifts from Authority's Contractor and Did Not Reimburse the Contractor Within Thirty-Day Period

Hartford – The Manager of Business Development and Special Projects for the state quasi-public agency Connecticut Port Authority (“CPA”), Andrew Lavigne (“Lavigne”) violated Section 1-84 (m) of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials when he accepted gifts from Seabury PFRA, LLC (“Seabury”). Section 1-84 (m) prohibits any person from knowingly accepting gifts from any person the state employee knows or has reason to know is doing business or seeking to do business with that state employee’s agency or department.

In May 2019, Mr. Lavigne accepted from Seabury a ticket to a National Hockey League playoff game in Boston, as well as food and beverages prior to the game. At the time that Mr. Lavigne accepted these gifts, Seabury was providing services to the CPA pursuant to a contract and was also seeking to be hired by the CPA for grant writing services. Mr. Lavigne attended dinner and the hockey game with his CPA supervisor and several Seabury employees. The gifts totaled approximately \$1,000.00. In July of this year, the Office of State Ethics resolved a related matter (Docket No. 2020-15) with Seabury, who admitted to providing these gifts to Mr. Lavigne, and to additional gifts provided to CPA employees and Board members in 2017 and 2019. Seabury paid \$10,000.00 penalty.

Mr. Lavigne reimbursed Seabury \$1,015.00 in August 2019, prior to the initiation of the Ethics matter. However, because these items were not reimbursed within 30 days, receipt of these gifts was attributed to Mr. Lavigne. (See Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 1-92-54 (c).)

Under the terms of the Stipulation and Consent Order, Mr. Lavigne agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$750.00 to settle this matter. Mr. Lavigne received a two-day unpaid work suspension in a related personnel matter. Further, Mr. Lavigne cooperated with the Office of State Ethics’ investigation and stipulated to the violation as alleged in the Complaint.

“State employees and public officials are prohibited from accepting impermissible gifts,” said Executive Director Peter Lewandowski. “Any gifts that do not meet applicable gift exceptions under the Ethics Code should be either immediately refused or returned, or the donor promptly reimbursed at fair market value within 30 days.”

View: Stipulation and Consent Order: [2020-17](#)

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.