

PRESS RELEASE

Connecticut Office of State Ethics (OSE) Reaches \$6,000 Settlement with Retired State Trooper Theodore Wojtusik for Ethics Violations

June 23, 2008

The Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) executed a stipulation and consent order on June 19, 2008 with Theodore Wojtusik, a former State Police Trooper First Class from Unionville, CT. Wojtusik paid civil penalties totaling \$6,000 for allegedly abusing the overtime system of his office.

Specifically, the complaint alleged that, during 2004 and 2005, Wojtusik systematically over-billed the time it took to complete escorts of wide loads across the State. The OSE's investigation found that Wojtusik, on over one hundred occasions, submitted time cards that exaggerated the amount of time he had spent on overtime duty.

By submitting time cards that did not accurately reflect the overtime hours he had actually worked, Wojtusik received money to which he was not entitled in violation of Connecticut General Statutes § 1-84(c), which prohibits a state employee from using his position for financial gain.

The \$6,000 penalty amount reflects the fact that half of the conduct occurred when the maximum penalty under the law was \$2,000; the other half occurred when the maximum penalty was increased to \$10,000. Prior to his retirement, Wojtusik also reimbursed the State for \$7,968.13 - the entire amount of the overcharge. Should Wojtusik come out of retirement and work for the State again, the Enforcement Division of the OSE will have the authority to audit his billing records and to require him to file an annual statement of financial interests with the agency.

"Using one's state position for personal, financial gain is at the core of the Code of Ethics," said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. "Violations of this critical 'use of office' provision will be diligently investigated and prosecuted."

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