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May 29, 2020

Mark T. Holmes, Esq., Executive Director
State Ethics Commission
28 W. State Street
P.O. Box 082, 8th floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Mr. Holmes:

Please allow this letter to serve as a formal request for an investigation into the employment of Mr. Christopher Neuwirth, former Assistant Commissioner in the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH).

I am troubled by a recent media report published on May 28 by the New Jersey Globe which reveals a host of ethical concerns regarding Mr. Neuwirth's employment by the DOH. Below are facts, according to the New Jersey Globe report:

- Mr. Neuwirth was employed by the DOH as an Assistant Commissioner, earning an annual salary of \$127,386.
- Mr. Neuwirth, as Assistant Commissioner, led the DOH division in Public Health Infrastructure, Laboratories and Emergency Preparedness which offers "strategic and operational leadership to coordinate New Jersey's hospital and public health disaster resilience, laboratory services and emergency preparedness and response."
- Mr. Neuwirth was concurrently employed by Margolis Healy & Associates as a senior associate.
- On March 9, 2020, Margolis Healy & Associates tweeted "Be sure to catch our colleague Christopher Neuwirth discuss Coronavirus Preparedness and Response to the Committee in Homeland Security tomorrow."
- Mr. Neuwirth did not disclose his affiliation with Margolis Healy & Associates on his personal financial disclosure statement.
- Mr. Neuwirth also owns a business, Emergency Manager Project LLC, which provides training classes for EMS professionals.
- Emergency Manager Project LLC is a business that is regulated by the DOH.

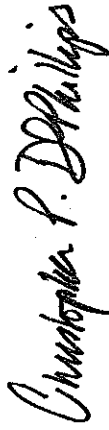
Please conduct a thorough investigation into the following issues:

- 1) Mr. Neuwirth disclosed the business he owns, Emergency Manager Project, LLC, on his financial disclosure form. Who reviewed this form and determined that there was no conflict of interest? Where is this opinion stated?
- 2) Describe the complete process for conducting a review of a DOH employee's personal financial disclosure statement, and how is it determined if there is a conflict of interest?
- 3) Does the State Ethics Commission review all personal financial disclosure forms?
- 4) Were there any DOH contracts awarded to clients of Margolis Healy & Associates?
- 5) Were there any meetings Mr. Neuwirth was involved in which resulted in the DOH taking action that benefited his private business interests.
- 6) Any other ethical concerns the Ethics Commissions deems necessary to review.

Under "normal" circumstances, this is concerning information from both an ethical and operational standpoint. However, as New Jersey endures a COVID-19 death count that has now surpassed 10,000 people, it is horrifying to think that this DOH Assistant Commissioner was engaged in private business dealings while New Jerseyans suffered.

It is my expectation that a thorough review by your office will be conducted and detailed responses to my above questions will be provided. Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Assemblyman Christopher P. DePhillips
40th Legislative District