

## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS 101 SOUTH BROAD STREET CHRIS CHRISTIE Governor PO Box 803

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0803

RICHARD E. CONSTABLE, III Commissioner

July 17, 2014



Re:

Local Government Ethics Law Complaint #LFB-14-008/14-010 Notice of Determination

Dear Mr. Nixon:

KIM GUADAGNO

Lt. Governor

The purpose of this letter is to apprise you of the Local Finance Board's final disposition of the above referenced complaints. The Local Government Ethics Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.1 et seq., authorizes the Board to initiate, receive, hear and review complaints, and hold hearings with regard to possible violations of the Local Government Ethics Law where no local ethics board has been established. Upon receipt of a complaint against a local government officer or employee, the Board determines if a complaint is within its jurisdiction, frivolous, or has no reasonable factual basis prior to conducting an investigation.

You are hereby notified that the complaints filed against you were dismissed.

The Board received identical complaints filed by separate individuals against you in your capacity as a local government officer in the Township of Jackson. These complaints were assigned numbers #LFB-14-008 and #LFB-14-010. The information contained in this letter refers to both complaints. In complaint #LFB-14-008/14-010, as summarized, it was alleged that you violated the Local Government Ethics Law when you acted in your official capacity to support the appointment of Ms. Clara Glory to an open position on the Township of Jackson Municipal Utilities Authority. Ms. Glory had served as the campaign manager for your campaign for Township Committee in 2012.

The complainants cited the following provisions of the Local Government Ethics Law:

N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(c) No local government officer or employee shall use or attempt to use his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for himself or others;

N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d) No local government officer or employee shall act in his official capacity in any matter where he, a member of his immediate family, or a business organization in which he has an interest, has a direct or indirect financial or personal involvement that might reasonably be expected to impair his objectivity or independence of judgment;



Based on a preliminary investigation, the Board determined that you were elected to the Township of Jackson Township Committee in November 2012. You were sworn into office for your first term on January 1, 2013. Ms. Clara Glory was named as the campaign chairperson on forms filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission. Ms. Glory was also named deputy treasurer. A press release from September 12, 2012 includes a quote from Ms. Clara Glory, identifying Ms. Glory as the campaign manager. On March 6, 2012, Ms. Glory lent the campaign \$1,000. This amount was repaid on April 3, 2012.

At the January 6, 2014 meeting of the Township Committee, the Committee considered Resolution 060R-14, titled Approve Appointment of Clara Glory as Member to the Jackson Township Municipal Utilities Authority, pursuant to the Sewerage Authorities Law, N.J.S.A. 40:14A-1 et seq.. Ms. Glory would fill an expiring position on the MUA. The resolution passed with four votes in favor, none opposed, and one abstention. You supported the resolution and voted in its favor. Ms. Glory began her five year term on the MUA on February 1, 2014.

Following a preliminary investigation and evaluation of the facts and circumstances relevant to the complaints and upon consideration of the foregoing provisions of the Local Government Ethics Law, the Local Finance Board voted to dismiss the complaints as having no reasonable factual basis.

The relationship between an elected officeholder and a campaign deputy treasurer or campaign manager is simply not one, in and of itself, which poses a conflict pursuant to the Local Government Ethics Law.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.9, the local government officer or employee against whom a complaint was filed must be notified of the Board's determination regarding a complaint. No action is required on your part. This letter is a notification that a complaint was filed against you and that the complaint has been dismissed.

The cases are now closed.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Nick Bennett at (609) 292-0479.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Neff, Chair Local Finance Board

James HCff

C: Complainant THN:nb C14-008/C14-010.Dismissal.Nixon



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