



# Department of Investigation

## *Press Release*

CITY OF NEW YORK  
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD  
2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 442-1400  
Fax: (212) 442-1407 TDD: (212) 442-1443

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 16, 2001

Contact: Mark Davies, Executive Director COIB (212) 442-1424

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SUSPEND, DEMOTE, AND FINE CITY PARKING OFFICIAL FOR USING HIS POSITION TO SOLICIT A SUBORDINATE TO MARRY HIS DAUGHTER IN ECUADOR AND FOR REPAIRING THE CARS OF SUBORDINATES FOR COMPENSATION**

The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board and the New York City Department of Transportation ("DOT") announced today that they have concluded a three-way settlement with Milton Moran, an Assistant Chief in the Parking Control Division. Mr. Moran admitted that he used his position to solicit a subordinate to marry his daughter to bring her from Ecuador to the United States so that she could obtain permanent resident status. Mr. Moran offered to pay the subordinate \$3,000 - \$5,000, or more, plus reimbursement for travel and expenses and telephone calls to Ecuador. Mr. Moran proposed to the subordinate that records of phone calls from the subordinate to Mr. Moran's daughter, as well as love letters, and photographs be used to document a relationship for immigration authorities. At one point, Mr. Moran offered to pay the subordinate's rent and to give or sell him a car as a further inducement to marry Mr. Moran's daughter. Mr. Moran's attempts to persuade his subordinate to marry Mr. Moran's daughter failed.

Mr. Moran acknowledged that his conduct in soliciting his subordinate to marry Moran's daughter to gain U.S. citizenship for her was an abuse of his office in violation of the DOT Code of Conduct and City Charter Section 2604(b)(3), which provides that public servants shall not use or attempt to use their positions to obtain any privilege or other private or personal advantage, direct or indirect, for the public servant or any person or firm associated with the public servant. One's daughter is "associated" with him for purposes of Chapter 68.

Mr. Moran also repaired the cars of subordinates for compensation and, on at least one occasion,

did so on City time and property. This conduct violated the DOT Code of Conduct and City Charter Section 2604(b)(3), as well as City Charter Section 2604(b)(14), which provides that superiors and subordinates shall not enter into business or financial relationships. He further violated City Charter Section 2604(b)(2) and the related Board Rules Sections 1-13(a) and (b), which provide that City time and property may not be used for a non-City purpose.

Mr. Moran agreed to an array of penalties: a 30-day suspension without pay, a demotion to a non-supervisory position with a \$1,268 annual pay cut and a new work assignment in which he would not be working with the subordinate whom he solicited to marry his daughter, a two-year probation during which he will not be eligible for any promotion or increase in pay, a "two-strikes" provision under which he can be terminated summarily for any further conflict of interest or other misconduct, and the forfeiture of \$2,500 worth of accrued leave time in lieu of a fine.

Mark Davies, the Board's Executive Director, said of the settlement: "With this settlement, the Board and DOT send a strong message to City workers that this kind of abuse of supervisory authority will not be tolerated. City workers should not have to worry that their jobs may be affected if they don't marry the boss's daughter for immigration purposes. Even a failed attempt case such as this one will bring severe penalties. In addition, subordinates should not be subjected to more subtle forms of coercion by becoming involved in other kinds financial relationships with superiors."

The Conflicts of Interest Board is the City's ethics board and is responsible for enforcing Chapter 68 of the New York City Charter, the City's conflicts of interest law. The Board is currently composed of three members, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. Board penalties are civil fines.

Joan R. Salzman, Deputy Executive Director & Chief of Enforcement, and Bonnie Beth Greenball, Associate Counsel, represented the Conflicts of Interest Board in this matter. The case was handled at DOT by Wallace Davidowitz, Deputy Counsel, and Keith Howard and Erica Caraway of DOT's Advocate's Office. The Board acknowledges the crucial investigative work of the New York City Department of Investigation, Edward J. Kuriansky, Commissioner, Felicia A. Mennin, General Counsel, and DOT Inspector General Ron Calvosa. DOI serves as the investigative arm of the Board.