



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION PENALIZES EMPLOYEE FOR VIOLATING ETHICS LAW BY SELLING T-SHIRTS AND PROMOTING ESSENTIAL OILS TO SUBORDINATES

The Conflicts of Interest Board (the "Board") and the City Department of Correction ("DOC") announced today that DOC has disciplined Program Specialist Ronald Jones for selling t-shirts and promoting his side business (sales of essential oils and perfumes) to his City subordinates. Jones admitted that he had violated the City's conflicts of interest law and DOC's rules of conduct. Jones, who has a private business selling oils, incense, perfumes, and t-shirts, admitted selling t-shirts to one or more DOC employees whom he supervises. He also admitted giving free samples of essential oils to another subordinate during a work-related conference.

Mark Davies, Executive Director of the Board, stated: "City employees must take care not to engage in business dealings with other City employees they supervise. Such dealings create opportunities for coercion because subordinates may feel they have no choice but to buy merchandise from the boss. City employees' evaluations should be made strictly on the merits and must have nothing to do with any outside business relationship."

This matter was handled by the Personnel Division of DOC, in consultation with the Board's enforcement staff.

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. Under the City Charter, City agencies in such disciplinary matters are required to consult with the Board prior to final resolution of conflicts of interest allegations.

The matter was investigated by the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), Edward J. Kuriansky, Commissioner, Michael Caruso, DOC Inspector General. DOI serves as the investigative arm of the Board.