



NEW JERSEY SENATE

RAYMOND J. LESNIAK

SENATOR, DISTRICT 20 (UNION)
985 STUYVESANT AVENUE
UNION, NJ 07083
TEL: 908-624-0880
FAX: 908-624-0587

COMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN-ECONOMIC GROWTH
VICE CHAIR-COMMERCE
MEMBER OF: JUDICIARY

Hon. Christopher S. Porrino
NJ Attorney General
Richard J. Hughes Justice
Complex,
25 Market Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Hon. Paul J. Fishman
US Attorney's Office
402 East State St, Room 430
Trenton, NJ 08608

Hon. Preet Bharara
US Attorney's Office
300 Quarropas Street
White Plains, NY 10601-
4150

October 5, 2016

Dear Attorney General Porrino and US Attorneys Fishman and Bharara:

The attached article appeared in Monday's edition of the New York Post. In sum, it appears that Commissioner Goldstock of the Waterfront Commission of New York and New Jersey (WFC) has been engaged in self dealing representing a clear conflict of interest with his duties as a Waterfront Commissioner.

I am told that the cost to the company American Maritime Services (AMS) for this Monitor was in excess of \$500,000. Yet, even after the the WFC determined that a IPSIG monitor was no longer necessary for AMS and dismissed the monitor – the company has still not been given a permanent license. Which begs the questions, why was an IPSIG necessary? And, what was accomplished for the \$500,000 cost?

In addition to what appears in the article, I have also come to learn that the firm that Commissioner Goldstock is affiliated with, Pugh Jones & Johnson (PJJ), was also added to the list of approved monitors at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Office of Inspector General, AFTER, Commissioner Goldstock became affiliated with the firm. This arrangement also raises serious conflict of interest issues as the same companies that do business with the Port Authority are also in many cases subject to the regulatory oversight of the Waterfront Commission. PJJ and Commissioner Goldstock also applied to be the monitor for the Newark Police Department, at the same time Commissioner Goldstock was advancing minority interests at the WFC that benefitted the Mayor of Newark's agenda.

While I am certain that the WFC and Commissioner Goldstock will argue that he is not subject to the New York State – Public Officers Law nor the New Jersey State – Conflict of Interest Law

– if either applied, Commissioner Goldstock’s conduct that is the subject of the Post article would constitute a criminal offense. Regardless, neither the WFC nor Commissioner Goldstock is exempt from federal law governing conflicts between his role as a Waterfront Commissioner and his private business interests, as the WFC is bi-state compact agency approved by US Congress and subject to federal law. Nor is he exempt from common law nor the federal and state criminal laws which govern the conduct of public officials.

I am asking that you all coordinate and open an investigation into Commissioner Goldstocks’ relationship with Pugh Jones & Johnson and his role as a Waterfront Commissioner. Such egregious conflicts and self dealing should never go uninvestigated, unchallenged or unpunished when warranted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Lesniak". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Senator Raymond J. Lesniak