



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

January 9, 1998

P R E S S R E L E A S E

On January 9, 1998, Ethics Commission Principal Attorney Brenda M. Bergeron filed a Complaint against Francis J. Muska Jr., former Chairperson of the Gaming Policy Board. The Complaint alleges that Dr. Muska violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 et seq., when he accepted ground transportation, lodging and meals, valued in excess of \$50, provided to him by or on behalf of A. Robert Zeff and/or Bridgeport Jai Alai, Inc., a registered lobbyist, in connection with a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada. The trip took place from April 24 to April 27, 1996. The Ethics Code prohibits use of state position for financial gain. At the time of the trip, the Code also prohibited the acceptance of benefits valued at \$50 or more in any one year from a registered lobbyist, or anyone acting on behalf of a registered lobbyist, as well as from any person engaged in activities which are regulated by the public official. (The law now prohibits the acceptance of any benefit valued at \$10 or more, with those benefits capped at an annual limit of \$50.) Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-84(c), 1-84(j) and 1-84(m).

On January 9, 1998, the Ethics Commission and Dr. Muska settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Order. Under the settlement, the Commission found that the allegations contained in the Complaint are true. Dr. Muska agreed to pay \$500 to charity to reimburse for the benefits and to pay a \$2000 civil penalty.

Copies of the Complaint and Stipulation and Order are attached.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Alan S. Plofsky
Executive Director and General Counsel

or

Brenda M. Bergeron
Ethics Commission Principal Attorney

566-4472



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DOCKET NUMBER 98-1

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF A

20 TRINITY STREET

COMPLAINT AGAINST

HARTFORD, CT 06106

FRANCIS J. MUSKA, JR.

JANUARY 9, 1998

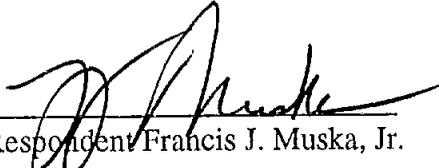
STIPULATION AND ORDER

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-177(c), the State Ethics Commission and the Respondent agree to settle this matter in the manner described below:

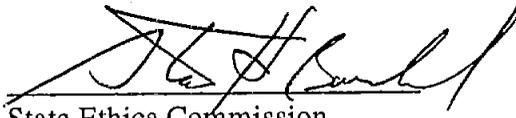
1. The Commission finds that the Respondent violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials as alleged in the Complaint dated December 15, 1997.
2. The Respondent states that at the time of his acceptance of the ground transportation, food, and complimentary hotel rooms, he did not consider that acceptance to be a violation, but now recognizes that said acceptance was not prudent on his part.
3. The Respondent waives any rights he may have under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-82, 1-82a, 1-87 and 1-80, including any right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Commission to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-177(c).
4. The Respondent agrees to pay, within thirty days, the sum of \$500 to charity in reimbursement of the value of the benefits received by him.

WHEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission enters and the Respondent agrees to the following order in lieu of any other action regarding this matter:

The Respondent agrees to pay \$2000.00 to the State Ethics Commission within thirty days of this Stipulation and Order, and henceforth to comply with the Code of Ethics.


Respondent Francis J. Muska, Jr.

1/6/98
Dated


State Ethics Commission
By: Its Chairperson

1/9/98
Dated

muskstip



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCKET NUMBER 98-1

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF A

20 TRINITY STREET

COMPLAINT AGAINST

HARTFORD, CT 06106

FRANCIS J. MUSKA, JR.

JANUARY 9, 1998

COMPLAINT

1. At all times relevant herein, the Respondent was a public official as that term is used in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 et seq., serving as Chairman of the Gaming Policy Board.
2. At all times relevant herein, A. Robert Zeff was the President of Bridgeport Jai Alai, Inc., which also does business as Shoreline Star Greyhound Park and Entertainment Complex.
3. At all times relevant herein, Bridgeport Jai Alai, Inc. was a registered lobbyist, or registrant, as that term is used in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79 et seq.
4. At all times relevant herein, A. Robert Zeff and Bridgeport Jai Alai, Inc. had matters pending before, and/or were regulated by, the Gaming Policy Board, of which the Respondent was the chair.
5. Connecticut General Statutes §1-84(j) prohibits a state employee or public official from knowingly accepting any gift or gifts known to amount to fifty dollars or more in a year from a person whom the state employee or public official knew or should have known to be a registrant or anyone acting on behalf of a registrant.
6. Connecticut General Statutes §1-84(m) prohibits a state employee or public official from knowingly accepting, directly or indirectly, any gift or gifts known to amount to fifty dollars or more in any year from any person the official or employee knows or has reason to know is engaged in activities which are directly regulated by the employee's or official's department or agency. At all times relevant herein, Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(m)

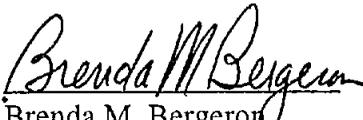
also prohibited public officials or employees from accepting such gifts from any person the official or employee knows or has reason to know has financial interests which may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of official duties by the official or employee.

7. Connecticut General Statutes §1-84(c) prohibits a state employee or public official from using his public office or position to obtain financial gain for himself.

8. From April 24, 1996 to April 27, 1996, the Respondent accompanied A. Robert Zeff on a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada. The Respondent did not pay for ground transportation, including round-trip transportation from Connecticut to JFK Airport in New York, lodging or meals while on this trip.

9. The Respondent's ground transportation, lodging and meals, valued in excess of \$50, were provided by or on behalf of A. Robert Zeff and/or Bridgeport Jai Alai, Inc.

10. The Respondent's acceptance of the ground transportation, lodging and meals worth over \$50 in 1996 violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-84(j), 1-84(m) and 1-84(c).


Brenda M. Bergeron
Ethics Commission Attorney

1-9-98
Dated

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