

## **Bonnie Reemsnyder**

By Electronic Mail

August 19, 2019

Dear Senator Carlo Leone, Representative Roland Lamar, Senator Henri Martin and Representative Laura Devlin:

My name is Bonnie Reemsnyder. I am a former Board member of the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA), having been named Chairwoman on June 19, 2019 after then Chair Scott Bates stepped down. I resigned from the Board at the request of Governor Lamont on July 24, 2019.

On Saturday, August 17, I received an invitation from the Transportation Committee to provide testimony or, in the alternative, to provide a statement for the record. Thank you for that opportunity. Unfortunately, I have pre-existing business commitments incident to my job as First Selectwoman of Old Lyme, Connecticut, on Tuesday that I could not reschedule on short notice in order to appear in person. However, I am glad to provide this written statement and the following information so that people are more fully informed as to the facts surrounding some of the recent events at the CPA that coincided with my resigning from the CPA board.

Two years ago, in August 2017, the CPA committed to renting new office space and allocated funding for the fit-out of this space. Executive Director Evan Matthews was authorized to manage that process. At that time, I was a board member of the CPA. Mr. Matthews retained an interior designer to assist with the work. Unbeknownst to me, this designer reached out to my daughter to inquire as to whether my daughter, a professional photographer, could produce sound-insulating acoustical panels imprinted with photographic images consistent with the CPA's mission.

I learned about these initial discussions only after they had occurred. When I did become aware, I immediately informed Mr. Matthews that I could have no involvement with any aspect of the transaction and told my daughter the same. My understanding is that the purchase was completed and the work delivered and installed in September 2017.

Consistent with the State's Ethics Code governing conflicts of interest, I had no involvement in any aspect of the sale, including no role in the initial decision, negotiations, payment, bookkeeping, or accounting for the transaction, and I did not benefit in any way financially from the transaction.

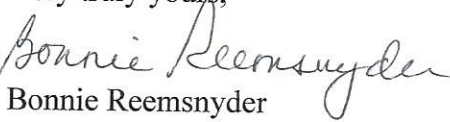
The applicable laws, regulations and bylaws of the CPA do not prohibit or limit the right of the CPA to do business with a relative of a CPA board member. They do, however, in most cases require that the board member recuse himself or herself from decisions regarding the transaction. I followed those rules, recused myself, and took no part in any

discussions or decisions concerning the CPA's purchase from my daughter. In hindsight, I wish I had thought to alert the full Board, and not just Executive Director Matthews, to the situation and my recusal. However, I have recently learned that the Board's chairman at the time, and thus the Board, were fully aware of the transaction and my recusal.

While I conducted myself at all times according to the applicable rules for these conflicted circumstances, it is clear that doing so is not enough to avoid the public appearance of impropriety when there is an overlap between family and government activities. This is a lesson for us all. I am sorry if anyone has been disappointed by or upset over the media accounts of this matter, but can assure you and the citizens of this state that I have not behaved improperly in this instance or otherwise over my 16 years of public service.

Thank you for your consideration of this statement.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Reemsnyder". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bonnie Reemsnyder