



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

One Ashburton Place - Room 619
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

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2020 JUL 22 AM 10:01

Maria J. Krokidas
Chair

David A. Wilson
Executive Director

July 22, 2020

Legal Division
State Ethics Commission
Room 619
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Re: In re Christopher Hicks

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find an Order to Show Cause in the above referenced matter. A version in PDF format is also being provided by email in accordance with the Commission's Electronic Case Filing Procedures.

Sincerely,

Staff Counsel
Enforcement Division

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

SUFFOLK, ss.

COMMISSION ADJUDICATORY
DOCKET NO. 20-0007

IN THE MATTER

OF

CHRISTOPHER HICKS

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

1. The State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) is authorized by G.L. c. 268B to enforce G.L. c. 268A, the state conflict of interest law, and in that regard, to initiate and conduct adjudicatory proceedings.

2. On April 9, 2020, the Commission (a) found reasonable cause to believe that Christopher Hicks violated G.L. c. 268A, §§ 27 and 28 and (b) authorized the initiation of adjudicatory proceedings.

FACTS

3. In May 2018, Christopher Hicks (“Hicks”) was elected to the Town of Berkley Planning Board.

4. As a Berkley Planning Board member, Hicks was municipal employee and subject to G.L. c. 268A.

5. General Laws chapter 268A, § 27, requires every municipal employee, within 30 days of becoming such an employee, and on an annual basis thereafter, to receive a summary of G.L. c. 268A and to sign a written acknowledgment that he has been provided with such a summary.

6. General Laws chapter 268A, § 28, requires every municipal employee, within 30 days after becoming such an employee, and every 2 years thereafter, to complete the Commission's conflict of interest law online training program.

7. At his swearing-in as a Planning Board member, the Berkley Town Clerk provided Hicks with a packet of materials, including the summary of the conflict of interest law. The Town Clerk notified Hicks that he was required to take the Commission's conflict of interest law online training program and acknowledge his receipt of the summary of the conflict of interest law.

8. Hicks did not take the Commission's conflict of interest law online training program after being advised by the Town Clerk of the statutory requirement.

9. Hicks did not acknowledge receipt of the summary of the conflict of interest law after being advised by the Town Clerk of the statutory requirement.

10. In June, August and October 2019, the Commission's Public Education Division repeatedly sought Hicks' compliance with the statutory requirements to take the Commission's conflict of interest law online training program and to acknowledge his receipt of the summary of the conflict of interest law.

11. To date, Hicks has failed to acknowledge his receipt of the summary of the conflict of interest law.

12. By failing to acknowledge his receipt of the summary of the conflict of interest law, Hicks violated § 27.

13. To date, Hicks has failed to complete the Commission's conflict of interest law online training program.

14. By failing to complete the Commission's conflict of interest law online training program, Hicks violated § 28.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner asks that the Commission:

1. find that Christopher Hicks violated G.L. c. 268A, §§ 27 and 28; and
2. levy such fines, issue such orders and grant such other relief as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,
Petitioner State Ethics Commission
By its attorney,



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Date: 7/22/20