

CITY OF COHOES

Charles Valenti, Chairperson
David Emanatian, Member
Deborah Gilchrist, Member
Melody Nadeau, Alternate



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BOARD OF ETHICS

DECISION: COMPLAINT NO. 23-1

BACKGROUND

PRIOR TO THE FEBRUARY 27, 2023 MEETING OF THE COHOES BOARD OF ETHICS (THE "BOARD") COMPLAINT NO. 23-1 WAS RECEIVED AND DISSEMINATED TO ITS MEMBERS. THE BOARD REVIEWED THE COMPLAINT AND INVITED THE COMPLAINANT TO APPEAR AT THE FEBRUARY 27, 2023 MEETING. THE COMPLAINANT WAS GIVEN ALL THE TIME NEEDED TO PRESENT DOCUMENTATION AND EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPLAINT. ON MARCH 27, 2023 THE COMPLAINANT APPEARED AT THE MARCH 27, 2023 MEETING OF THE BOARD AND PRESENTED ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION AND TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPLAINT.

ALLEGATIONS

THE COMPLAINANT ALLEGES THAT THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF COHOES USED MUNICIPAL RESOURCES FOR HIS OWN BENEFIT BY SENDING HOLIDAY CARDS TO VARIOUS EMPLOYEES, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, VOLUNTEERS, AND CLERGY IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 36-4 OF THE COHOES CODE OF ETHICS.

DISCUSSION

THE BOARD REVIEWED THE DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED BY THE COMPLAINANT AND CONSIDERED THE TESTIMONY PRESENTED AT THE MEETINGS.

CONCLUSION

AFTER REVIEWING THE DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED AND CONSIDERING THE TESTIMONY PRESENTED, THE BOARD DETERMINED THAT THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF COHOES USED CITY RESOURCES APPROPRIATELY IN HIS SENDING HOLIDAY CARDS. THEY FELT THAT DOING SO CONSTITUTED A PUBLIC PURPOSE IN THAT IT REFLECTED THE CITY'S APPRECIATION OF THE EFFORTS OF VOLUNTEERS AND ENCOURAGED GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENTS AND INDIVIDUALS. THE BOARD NOTED THAT THE

HOLIDAY CARDS WERE NOT RELIGIOUS IN NATURE. THEREFORE, THE BOARD DECIDED TO DISMISS THE COMPLAINT AS UNFOUNDED. THIS DECISION SHALL CONSTITUTE THE FINAL DETERMINATION BY THE BOARD.

CONCUR

CHARLES VALENTI, CHAIRPERSON

DAVID EMANATIAN, MEMBER

DEBORAH GILCHRIST, MEMBER

PRESENT

MELODY NADEAU, ALTERNATE MEMBER

MARCH 27, 2023