

## NEWS FROM: THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS

MICHAEL K. ROZEN ACTING CHAIR

SETH H. AGATA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT 518.408.3976

## JCOPE SETTLES ETHICS LAW VIOLATION WITH FORMER MTA EMPLOYEE

ALBANY, NY (December 15, 2016) – The Joint Commission on Public Ethics ("Commission") today announced a settlement agreement with a former MTA employee accused of helping a former colleague's daughter get hired for a job despite her lack of qualifications.

Ardlan "Eddie" Feizbakhsh, former Chief Officer of Sandy Recovery & Resiliency for New York City Transit, admitted that he violated the Public Officers Law by directing a subordinate employee to interview the woman for a temporary position, even though other candidates were better qualified. She was eventually hired for the job. Feizbakhsh agreed to pay a \$1,500 fine.

"It is one thing to pass along someone's resume; but using your position to direct a subordinate to interview an unqualified candidate for a job as a favor to a friend not only violates the public trust but also violates the Public Officers Law," said Executive Director Seth H. Agata.

The MTA Office of the Inspector General ("MTA OIG") initially investigated the actions of Feizbakhsh and the subordinate, William Lindner, who settled a separate ethics law violation case with the Commission in April 2016. The MTA OIG then referred the case to the Commission.

To read the Commission's settlement agreement with Feizbakhsh, click here.