



**NEWS FROM:
THE JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JCOPE SETTLES WITH FORMER CHAIR OF STATE ATHLETIC
COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW VIOLATION**

Admits Improperly Used Position to Get Son, Friends Free Entry to Boxing Match

ALBANY, NY (November 17, 2016) -- The New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics (“Commission”) today announced that it has reached a settlement agreement with Thomas Hoover, former Chairperson of the New York State Athletic Commission for violating Public Officers Law.

Hoover admitted that he misused his official position to obtain benefits for others that included, but were not limited to, improperly obtaining official credentials for his son and his son’s friend so that they could get into a boxing match for free. Under the settlement agreement, Hoover will pay a \$2,000 fine. He served as the Athletic Commission’s chair for just over a year before his resignation in July 2016.

“A public officer may not simply dole out free tickets or special access passes to events to friends and family,” said Commission Executive Director Seth H. Agata. “Taking advantage of your position as Mr. Hoover did in this case violates the public trust.

This matter was referred to the Commission by the New York State Office of Inspector General after it completed its own investigation and report on this case, which included providing additional ethics training for commissioners and staff of the Athletic Commission.

To read the Commission’s settlement agreement with Hoover, click [here](#).