

**DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 23(b)(3)**

	PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name of public employee:	Gerard Tuoti
Title or Position:	Senior Public Information Officer
Agency/Department:	State Ethics Commission
Agency address:	1 Ashburton Place, 6 th Floor, Room 619, Boston, MA 02108
Office Phone:	617-371-9500
Office E-mail:	Gerry.Tuoti@mass.gov
	<p>In my capacity as a state, county or municipal employee, I am expected to take certain actions in the performance of my official duties. Under the circumstances, a reasonable person could conclude that a person or organization could unduly enjoy my favor or improperly influence me when I perform my official duties, or that I am likely to act or fail to act as a result of kinship, rank, position or undue influence of a party or person.</p> <p>I am filing this disclosure to disclose the facts about this relationship or affiliation and to dispel the appearance of a conflict of interest.</p>
	APPEARANCE OF FAVORITISM OR INFLUENCE
Describe the issue that is coming before you for action or decision.	In the course of my job duties, it is expected that I will issue a press release about a disposition agreement involving a former City of Taunton official.
What responsibility do you have for taking action or making a decision?	My responsibilities will be limited to proofreading the press release, issuing the press release via the Commission's email distribution Listservs, posting the press release and disposition agreement on the Commission's website, and potentially responding to media inquiries regarding the press release.
Explain your relationship or affiliation to the person or organization.	I formerly worked as a newspaper reporter and editor for the Taunton Daily Gazette and had numerous professional interactions with the subject and members of the community and local government. My news work was well known among members of the local government, some of whom were sometimes critical of me. It is possible that former colleagues from the Taunton Daily Gazette could make media inquiries to me regarding the press release and disposition agreement.
How do your official actions or decision matter to the person or organization?	My official actions will raise public awareness of the subject's conflict of interest law violations and will provide information about these violations to various media outlets, including the Taunton Daily Gazette and my former colleagues.

Optional: Additional facts – e.g., why there is a low risk of undue favoritism or improper influence.	I was not involved in any investigation, adjudication, or negotiation concerning this matter, nor was I involved in drafting the press release concerning this matter. My role in this matter is limited to proofreading the press release, distributing and posting the press release and disposition agreement, and fielding media inquiries in accordance with established Commission procedures and practices.
If you cannot confirm this statement, you should recuse yourself.	WRITE AN X TO CONFIRM THE STATEMENT BELOW. _X_ Taking into account the facts that I have disclosed above, I feel that I can perform my official duties objectively and fairly.
Employee signature:	/s/ Gerard Tuoti
Date:	October 24, 2024

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Not elected to your public position – file with your appointing authority.

Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.

Elected municipal employee – file with the City Clerk or Town Clerk.

Elected regional school committee member – file with the clerk or secretary of the committee.