

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
EXECUTIVE ETHICS BOARD

In the Matter of:

Lorri Gifford

Respondent.

No. 2012-49

STIPULATED FACTS,
CONCLUSIONS AND ORDER

I. STIPULATION

THIS STIPULATION is entered into under WAC 292-100-090(1) between the Respondent, LORRI GIFFORD, and Board Staff of the WASHINGTON STATE EXECUTIVE ETHICS BOARD (Board) through MELANIE DeLEON, Executive Director. The following stipulated facts, conclusions, and agreed order will be binding upon the parties if fully executed, and if accepted by the Board without modification(s), and will not be binding if rejected by the Board, or if the Respondent does not accept the Board's proposed modification(s), if any, to the stipulation.

Section 1: PROCEDURAL FACTS

1.1. On November 9, 2012, the Executive Ethics Board (Board) initiated a complaint alleging that Lorri Gifford, E-911 Program Manager for the Emergency Management Division (EMD) of the Washington Military Department (WMD) may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal gain.

1.2. The Board is authorized under RCW 34.05.060 to establish procedures for attempting and executing informal settlement of matters in lieu of more formal proceedings

under the Administrative Procedures Act, including adjudicative hearings. The Board has established such procedures under WAC 292-100-090.

1.3. Lorri Gifford understands that if Board staff proves any or all of the alleged violations at a hearing, the Board may impose sanctions, including a civil penalty under RCW 42.52.480(1)(b) of up to \$5,000, or the greater of three times the economic value of anything received or sought in violation of chapter 42.52 RCW, for each violation found. The Board may also order the payment of costs, including reasonable investigative costs, under RCW 42.52.480(1)(c).

1.4. Lorri Gifford recognizes that the evidence available to the Board staff is such that the Board may conclude she violated the Ethics in Public Service Act. Therefore, in the interest of seeking an informal and expeditious resolution of this matter, the parties agree to entry of the stipulated findings of fact, conclusions of law and agreed order set forth below.

1.5. Lorri Gifford waives the opportunity for a hearing, contingent upon acceptance of this stipulation by the Board, or his acceptance of any modification(s) proposed by the Board, pursuant to the provisions of WAC 292-100-090(2) which provides in part:

The board has the option of accepting, rejecting, or modifying the proposed stipulation or asking for additional facts to be presented. If the board accepts the stipulation or modifies the stipulation with the agreement of the respondent, the board shall enter an order in conformity with the terms of the stipulation. If the board rejects the stipulation or the respondent does not agree to the board's proposed modifications to the stipulation, the normal process will continue. The proposed stipulation and information obtained during formal settlement discussions shall not be admitted into evidence at a subsequent public hearing.

1.6. If the Board accepts this stipulation, the Board will release and discharge Lorri Gifford from all further ethics proceedings under chapter 42.52 RCW for matters arising out of the facts contained in the complaint in this matter, subject to payment of the full amount of the civil penalty due and owing, any other costs imposed, and compliance with all other terms and conditions of the agreed order. Lorri Gifford in turn agrees to release and discharge the Board,

its officers, agents and employees from all claims, damages, and causes of action arising out of this complaint and this stipulation and agreed order.

1.7. If this Stipulation is accepted, this Stipulation and Order does not purport to settle any other claims between Lorri Gifford and the Washington State Executive Ethics Board, the State of Washington, or other third party, which may be filed in the future.

1.8. If this Stipulation is accepted, this Stipulation and Order is enforceable under RCW 34.05.578 and any other applicable statutes or rules.

1.9. If the Board rejects this stipulation, or if Lorri Gifford does not accept the Board's proposed modification(s), if any, this matter will be scheduled for an administrative hearing in front of the Board and Lorri Gifford waives any objection to participation by any Board member at any subsequent hearing to whom this stipulation was presented for approval under WAC 292-100-090(2). Further, Lorri Gifford understands and agrees that this proposed stipulation and information obtained during any formal settlement discussions held between the parties shall not be admitted into evidence at a subsequent public hearing, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

Section 2: FINDINGS OF FACT

2.1. Ms. Gifford was an Emergency Management Specialist Program Manager, with the EMD for the WMD for all times pertinent to this investigation.

2.2. In the spring of 2010, the WMD network servers were becoming overloaded and in May of 2010, WMD's IT department conducted an audit of the server to determine the cause of the problem. WMD discovered that the servers contained a large amount of stored files, many of which were non-work related. It appeared that EMD personnel were the main violators.

2.3. EMD Assistant Director Tim Clark sent an email to all EMD personnel on August 20, 2010 advising all EMD personnel to remove all personal, non-work related files from their computer by August 25, 2010.

2.4. In January 2011, the network server was still having operational difficulties due to large files still being stored on it. On January 13, 2011, IT conducted a second audit of the network servers. During this audit, EMD management requested IT to obtain screen shots of inappropriate non-work related information stored on their workstations and network servers.

2.5. On March 27, 2012, the EEB staff requested documents from WMD. A review of the files from a January 19, 2011 workstation audit showed that Ms. Gifford violated RCW 42.52.160, when she used her state issued computer for her personal benefit. Some examples of her misuse include:

Documents and Settings:

- Budget Info 11-16-10 - excell doc.
- Car Repairs word doc.
- CCCS Face Sheet - word doc.
- Loan Info. Excel doc
- WSECU Statement Aug 09 pfd.file
- WSECU Statement Jul 09 pfd.file
- Fannie Mae Financial Statement pdf. File
- WSECU Loan Letter word doc
- Lisa Barbier - personal letter - word doc
- smoke chart -Aug 2010 Excel doc
- dave stuff- excel doc
- Mikes profile - word doc
- Mr. Right - word doc
- My Happiness - photo
- stair case- powerpoint
- Johnny Fedora and Alice Blue Bonnet- word doc
- Julia science project- pp

2.6. In October 2010, IT Specialist Edward Toft was completing a work order on Ms. Gifford's state owned laptop computer. Because of the work order, Mr. Toft examined the internet history. As a result of his examination, he found hundreds of internet sites that Ms. Gifford visited with only a dozen that he considered to be work related. Some examples of the non-work related sites are listed below:

- Lumber liquidators

- Lowes
- Greenlake jewelry
- eBay
- Sears
- Kmart
- Target
- Walmart
- Toys R Us

2.7 Ms. Gifford's Sprint aircard bill for her state-issued computer shows that for the month of November 2009, she used 3,137,072 KB of data compared to others in her unit, Jacqueline Randal, who used 209,824 KB, and Bob Oenning, who used 0 KB. For October 2009 Ms. Gifford used almost 15 times more data than her coworkers.

2.8 Ms. Gifford's Sprint aircard bill shows that for the month of December 2009, she used 1,513,251 KB of data compared to others in her unit, Jacqueline Randal – 103,910 KB and Bob Oenning – 89,889 KB. For December 2009 Ms. Gifford used almost 12 times more data than her coworkers.

2.9 Ms. Gifford's Sprint aircard bill shows that for the month of January 2010 she used 2,321,104 KB of data compared to others in her unit, Jacqueline Randal – 0 KB and Bob Oenning – 0 KB.

2.10 There were no extra charges to the agency related to the large amount of usage.

Section 3: CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

3.1. Pursuant to chapter 42.52 RCW, the Executive Ethics Board has jurisdiction over Lorri Gifford and over the subject matter of this complaint.

3.2. Pursuant to WAC 292-100-090(1), the parties have the authority to resolve this matter under the terms contained herein, subject to Board approval.

3.3. The Ethics in Public Service Act, Chapter 42.52 RCW, prohibits state employees from using state resources for their benefit. RCW 42.52.160(1) states:

No state officer or state employee may employ or use any person, money, or property under the officer's or employee's official control or direction,

or in his or her official custody, for the private benefit or gain of the officer, employee, or another.

3.4. Based on Findings of Fact 2.1 through 2.9, Lorri Gifford used state resources for her personal benefit.

3.5. The Board is authorized to impose sanctions for violations to the Ethics Act pursuant to RCW 42.52.360. The Board has set forth criteria in WAC 292-120-030 for imposing sanctions and consideration of any mitigating or aggravating factors.

Section 4: AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS

In determining the appropriateness of the civil penalty, the Board reviewed the criteria in WAC 292-120-030.

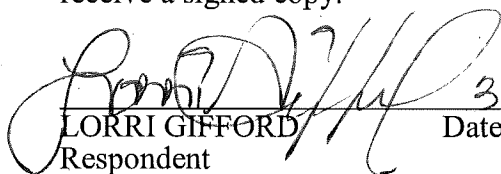
Section 5: AGREED ORDER

5.1 For violating RCW 42.52.160, Lorri Gifford will pay a civil penalty in the amount of, three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00). The Board agrees to suspend (\$1,000) on the condition that Lorri Gifford complies with all terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Order and commits no further violations of RCW 42.52 for a period of two years from the date this agreement is executed.

5.2 The civil penalty of \$2,000 is payable in full, to the State Executive Ethics Board within 45 days after this stipulation is accepted by the Board, or as otherwise agreed to by the parties.

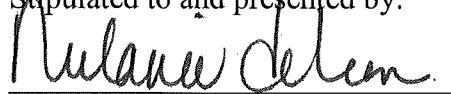
II. CERTIFICATION

I, Lorri Gifford, hereby certify that I have read this Stipulation and Agreed Order in its entirety; that my counsel of record, if any, has fully explained the legal significance and consequence of it; that I fully understand and agree to all of it; and that it may be presented to the Board without my appearance. I knowingly and voluntarily waive my right to a hearing in this matter; and if the Board accepts the Stipulation and Agreed Order, I understand that I will receive a signed copy.


LORRI GIFFORD
Respondent

3/6/13
Date

Stipulated to and presented by:


Melanie deLeon
Executive Director

3/11/13
Date

II. ORDER

Having reviewed the proposed Stipulation, WE, THE STATE OF WASHINGTON EXECUTIVE ETHICS BOARD, pursuant to WAC 292-100-090, HEREBY ORDER that the Stipulation is

✓

ACCEPTED in its entirety;

REJECTED in its entirety;

MODIFIED. This Stipulation will become the Order of the Board if the

Respondent approves* the following modification(s):

DATED this 10th day of May, 2013

Lisa Marsh
Lisa Marsh, Chair

Anna Dudek Ross
Anna Dudek Ross, Vice-Chair

M. Williams III
Matthew Williams, III, Member

Samantha Simmons
Samantha Simmons, Member

* I, Lorri Gifford, accept/do not accept (circle one) the proposed modification(s).

LORRI GIFFORD, Respondent Date