



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

**DANIEL J. HORWITZ
CHAIR**

**LETIZIA TAGLIAFIERRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

JCOPE.NY.GOV

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT 518.408.3976

**FORMER METRO NORTH EXEC VIOLATED STATE ANTI-
NEPOTISM LAW**

Commuter Rail Exec Fined \$3,500 for Hiring Domestic Partner

ALBANY – (Sept. 4, 2014) – The Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) today announced that a former Metro North assistant vice president has admitted to violating the State ethics law prohibiting nepotism by hiring her domestic partner to a position she oversaw.

Sherry Herrington, a former Metro North Railroad Assistant Vice President of Operation Services, admitted in a [settlement agreement](#) to violating the State's Public Officers Law prohibiting employees from hiring relatives when she recommended and ultimately gave final approval to the hiring of her domestic partner in 2008. Under the settlement agreement with the Commission, Herrington was fined \$3,500.

Herrington retired in late 2013 following a report by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Inspector General that found she misled human resources staff about her relationship with her domestic partner, and made the final decision to hire her to the \$84,700 position over better qualified candidates.

New York's ethics laws prohibit State officials from participating in any decision to hire, promote, discipline or discharge a relative, including domestic partners, for any compensated position.

“Ms. Herrington’s involvement with her partner’s hiring was not only inappropriate, it violated the law,” said JCOPE Executive Director Letizia Tagliafierro.

A copy of the settlement agreement may be obtained by clicking [here](#).