



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

**DANIEL J. HORWITZ
CHAIR**

**LETIZIA TAGLIAFIERRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT 518.408.3976

**JOINT COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ETHICS FINES STATE PROJECT
MANAGER \$2,000 FOR USING HIS OFFICIAL POSITION FOR PERSONAL
BENEFIT**

**Office of General Services Project Manager Sought Discounted Price from State Contractor
He Oversaw To Obtain a New Home Water Filtration System**

ALBANY – (March 20, 2015) – The New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics (“Commission”) today announced that a project manager for the State Office of General Services (“OGS”) was fined \$2,000 for violating State ethics laws prohibiting the use of one’s public position for personal gain.

Juan Alvarenga, a project manager for OGS since 1993, paid the fine and admitted violating State ethics law as part of a settlement agreement with the Commission. Alvarenga also completed supplemental ethics training as part of the settlement.

According to the settlement agreement, while Alvarenga oversaw the 2012-2013 renovation and expansion of the State Police barracks in Middletown he asked one of the contractors for a price quote for a water filtration system he intended to install in his home. The price proposed included a contractor’s discount that would not normally have been available to Alvarenga or the general public. Alvarenga purchased the water filtration system through the contractor at the discounted price.

During the renovation project, Alvarenga was responsible for overseeing and evaluating the quality of the contractor’s work.

“A core principal of public service is not using your official position to gain a personal benefit. It simply will not be tolerated,” said Commission Executive Director Letizia Tagliafierro.

Alvarenga admitted, as part of the settlement, to violating Public Officers Law Section 74(3)(d), which prohibits State employees from using or attempting to use their official position to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions for themselves or others.

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