



**THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY**

Room 932
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
(518) 455-3791

SHELDON SILVER
Speaker of the Assembly

September 26, 2008

The Honorable Sam Hoyt
936 Delaware Avenue
Suite 005
Buffalo, NY 14209

Dear Assemblyman Hoyt:

I have been advised by the Assembly Standing Committee on Ethics and Guidance that it has completed its investigation regarding your alleged conduct with respect to student interns.

The Committee recommended that a letter advising you of its findings and recommendations be publicly issued.

After an investigation which included witness interviews and a review of relevant documentary evidence, including evidence obtained by subpoena, the Committee unanimously determined as follows:

1. That in 2003, you engaged in an inappropriate personal relationship with a 23-year-old participant in the Assembly Intern Program; that this relationship began in August of that year, and continued through February, 2005; and that at the time the Assembly's Policy Prohibiting Fraternization with Student Interns ("the Policy") was issued, the individual was no longer an Assembly intern.
2. That the Committee found no evidence that you violated the Policy after it went into effect on May 18, 2004.
3. That your conduct exhibited a significant lack of appreciation for the appropriate and positive role Members of the Assembly should have with respect to student interns, and has brought disfavor upon the New York State Assembly and the Members thereof.

September 26, 2008

4. That your conduct serves as a clear and unequivocal reminder of the negative consequences the Policy was intended to prevent: to the individual students, the Assembly Intern Program, to the New York State Assembly and to the Members thereof.

The Committee thereafter offered its considered and unanimous judgment that the facts before it constrained it from recommending the imposition of sanctions for acts engaged in prior to the adoption of the Policy. It recognized, however, that the integrity and success of any intern program requires not only adherence to stated policies, but a clear appreciation of the appropriate boundaries between mentors and student interns. It was the Committee's recommendation that when poor judgment with respect to these boundaries is exhibited, as in this case, the privilege of participation in all such internships programs should be denied.

I accept the recommendations of the Committee in full. As a result, please be advised that you are hereby directed not to participate in any student internship program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheldon Silver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

SHELDON SILVER
Speaker