 Click to Print[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Corzine names waterfront commissioner
Tuesday, August 18, 2009
STATE HOUSE BUREAU
State House Bureau

A week after he fired the state's representative on the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor over ethics charges, Governor Corzine named a former deputy attorney general to the watchdog agency.

Barry H. Evenchick, a former assistant prosecutor and deputy attorney general who later served as a member of the State Commission of Investigation, replaces Michael Madonna, a commissioner since 2001.

The waterfront commission, created more than 50 years ago to clean up pervasive corruption and mob influence on the docks, has come under intense scrutiny following a two-year investigation by the New York inspector general, who found widespread hiring of unqualified cops with inside connections and a failure to police businesses with criminal ties.

According to the inspector general's report released last week, Madonna forced unqualified job seekers on the commission's police department, including one who failed the required test twice and then scored the highest mark ever recorded on his third try. The applicant later boasted that Madonna had given him the answers.

Madonna, a former state PBA president and a retired police detective with a multimillion-dollar house on Long Beach Island and a condo in Florida, also had a commission employee deliver building materials from the port to his home in Oakland, the report said.

"As a former prosecutor and a well-respected lawyer in the legal community, I am confident that Barry is the right person that will help restore the public's trust and clean up a commission that has been tainted with fraud and abuse," Corzine said in a statement yesterday.

Evenchick Monday pledged "to utilize my experience in law enforcement and as an attorney to further the objectives of the Waterfront Commission and the best interests of the citizens of the state of New Jersey."

Before Corzine announced Evenchick's appointment Monday, Republican gubernatorial candidate Chris Christie criticized the governor for not firing Madonna sooner, as information about the questionable ethical practices came to light. The delay allowed Madonna to file for his state pension, Christie noted. "If I were governor, I would have fired him on the spot," Christie told reporters.


Evenchick, an attorney with the firm of Walder, Hayden & Brogan, served as a member of the New Jersey State Commission of Investigation from 1987 to 1993; was chief of the appellate section of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office from 1965 to 1968; and served as deputy attorney general for the state Division of Criminal Justice from 1970 to 1972.

The Senate, which is in summer recess, must approve the appointment for it to become permanent.

State House Bureau reporters Josh Margolin and Susan K. Livio contributed to this report.

Find this article at:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/state/governor/Corzine_names_waterfront_commissioner.html

 Click to Print[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Copyright © North Jersey Media Group
 Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.