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## Teamsters

### **Teamsters Oversight Board Alleges Corruption by Union Vice President**

**T**he Independent Review Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters has accused Rome Aloise, an international vice president of the union and an ally of its President James P. Hoffa, of various instances of corruption.

The 134-page charge document, dated Feb. 10 and announced Feb. 16 by reform group Teamsters for a Democratic Union, alleges that, among other things, Aloise requested and received tickets to a Super Bowl party sponsored by Playboy magazine from an employer the union was negotiating with.

The charge was issued just before the three-member IRB is slated to transition to a slightly different enforcement mechanism, as specified by an agreement between the Teamsters and federal prosecutors reached last year to phase out U.S. government oversight of the union (9 DLR AA-1, 1/14/15).

**New Mechanism to Function Similarly.** John Cronin, administrator of the IRB, told Bloomberg BNA that Feb. 17 was the last day the board would have three members. Beginning Feb. 18 there will be a five-year transition period during which an “independent disciplinary office” will continue the IRB’s work, through an “independent review officer” and an “independent investigations officer.”

In practice, however, the new enforcement mechanism will function in much the same way as the IRB, Cronin said, and all of its pending matters will continue to be reviewed, including the charges against Aloise.

The general executive board of the Teamsters, which includes Hoffa, has until Feb. 19 to decide whether to file charges against Aloise under the IBT constitution and hold a hearing in the matter, Cronin said, or inform his office that it will decline to do so.

**TDU Calls Out Charges.** Ken Paff, national organizer for TDU, told Bloomberg BNA Feb. 17 that even if Teamsters officials decline to hold a hearing, “the

chance that Aloise gets off is zero,” because in that case the independent review officer could consider the case and issue sanctions.

“It’s sad that our union leadership tolerates and promotes people like Aloise, who degrade the integrity of our great union,” TDU said in a statement. “If Hoffa was not aware of one of his top lieutenant’s criminal activities, he should have been.”

The charge document also alleges that Aloise entered into “sham” collective bargaining agreements with a company owned by a personal friend of his, who entered into the agreements before any other employees signed union authorization cards. The friend also was a member of the IBT, the charge document said, despite his being barred from membership under the union’s constitution.

**‘Sham’ Contract.** “In sum, Aloise allowed the employer to select the employee representative,” the document said, and agreed to the terms of the “sham” contract before he had authority to do so from employees.

The document also cited several instances in which Aloise allegedly sought “jobs for difficult-to-place relatives” with employers that had contracts with the Teamsters, including jobs at Costco and UPS for his stepson, who had a criminal record.

Aloise also allegedly improperly interfered in a union local election, the document said, by “using union resources to support a candidate and subvert her opponents and attempting to deny members’ [Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act] rights to free speech, to sue and to fair hearings.”

A Teamsters spokeswoman declined to comment on the charges Feb. 17, and a message left on Aloise’s mobile phone Feb. 17 was not returned.

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*Text of the charge document is available at <http://src.bna.com/CHj>.*