

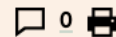
# Letter: Why Goldman boss quit as a DJ to focus on the day job

From Debashis Sarkar, Managing Partner, Proliferator Advisory & Consulting, Mumbai, India



DJ D-Sol plays at an event in a Miami Beach, Florida hotel on February 01 2020 © Craig Barritt/Getty Images

YESTERDAY



Though Goldman Sach chief executive David Solomon was passionate about his art (“Solomon pulls plug on DJ side hustle to focus on tough gig as Goldman chief”, [Report](#), October 18), and donated the proceeds he made as a DJ, this is a cautionary tale on what not to do as the head of an institution.

There is nothing wrong with chief executives cultivating a hobby. Hobbies can serve as sources of energy or creativity, directly contributing to their effectiveness as leaders and problem solvers. Yet, caution must be exercised to ensure it is not distracting attention from the primary responsibilities for which the person has been hired.

When at the helm of a prominent organisation, every action is subjected to intense scrutiny. It is also important to remember that there are individuals, both among employees and the press, who actively look for opportunities to expose any questionable conduct.

The significance of optics amplifies when business performance falls short of anticipated outcomes.

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