

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2013-020)
Ennis R. Bryant, Sr.,)
Respondent.)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)

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BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
2013 MAR 14 PM 1:23

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

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This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission on August 30, 2012. The complaint against the Respondent, Ennis R. Bryant, Sr., was considered by the Commission on November 28, 2012, and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, the Respondent agreed to entry of the following statement of facts, conclusions of law, discussion, admission, and disposition in this matter as follows:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. The Respondent, Ennis R. Bryant, Sr., is a member of the Bishopville City Council.
2. According to a document provided by the City of Bishopville Finance Director, Suzette K. Robinson, from July 2007 through June 2011 Respondent received per diem in the amount of \$7,200.
3. A review of the Bishopville City Council minutes dated August 7, 2012 revealed that Respondent was involved in a discussion in the matter involving per diem money paid to Respondent and council members.
4. A review of the Bishopville City Council minutes dated August 14, 2012 revealed that Respondent did vote against a motion to pay back the City of Bishopville

for per diem funds he received. The minutes do not document the fact that Respondent excused himself from deliberations or a vote on per diem funds.

5. Respondent advised that during the August 14, 2012 city council meeting he voted against the motion involving stipend money because the motion contained language that accused council members of wrongdoing by receiving the money.

6. Respondent advised that he did not prepare a written statement on the matter requiring a decision on the per diem funds to be published in the minutes, and he did not excuse himself from a vote in regard to the per diem funds.

7. A review of Respondent's Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) reports from 2008 through 2011 revealed that Respondent did not document that he received any per diem income. Respondent advised that he would amend his SEI reports, which he did on February 13, 2013.

8. According to a document provided by the City of Bishopville Finance Director, Suzette K. Robinson, Respondent received travel per diem for meals in the amount of \$65.00 per day for the 2011 Municipal Association Conference in Hilton Head. The city policy on travel per diem provides that the \$65.00 is to cover all meals. City Administrator Gregg McCutchen advised that while attending the conference it was customary that the city paid for a group meal attended by city administrator, council members and family members. Mr. McCutchen advised that he used a City of Bishopville Visa credit card issued for the mayor to pay the bill for the entire group meal in the amount of \$668.78. Respondent advised that he did attend the group meal with his spouse, and he was aware that his portion of the bill was paid by the City of Bishopville.

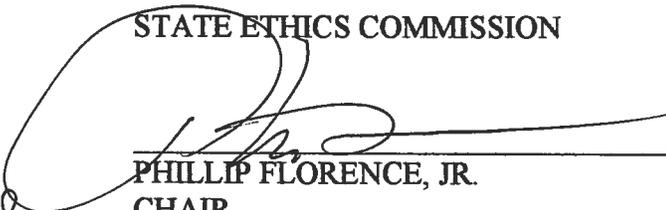
Act and hereby adopts the Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, Admissions, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

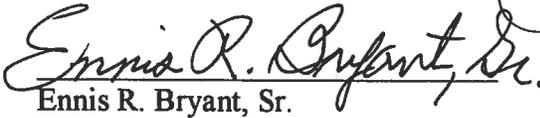
THEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission hereby issues this written warning to Ennis R. Bryant, Sr. for violations of Section 8-13-700(A), Section 8-13-700(B) and Section 8-13-1120 of the Ethics Reform Act,

AND, orders Respondent to pay an administrative fee of \$200.00 within 30 days of receipt of the signed order,

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 13th DAY OF MARCH 2013.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


PHILLIP FLORENCE, JR.
CHAIR


Ennis R. Bryant, Sr.