

RECEIVED

2013 FEB 19 AM 11:52

RECEIVED

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

2013 MAR 15 PM 2:11

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
 COMPLAINT C2013-023)
)
 Willie Mae Robinson Muldrow,)
 Respondent.)
)
 State Ethics Commission,)
 Complainant.)
 _____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

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, Willie Mae Robinson Muldrow, 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:

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. The Respondent, Willie Mae Robinson Muldrow, 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 \$7,200.00.
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 she received. The minutes do not document the fact that Respondent excused herself from deliberations or a vote on per diem funds.

5. Respondent advised that during the August 14, 2012 city council meeting she voted against the motion involving stipend money. Respondent said that since she immediately withdrew her vote, she believed that she did not cast a vote.

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

7. A review of the Respondent's Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) reports from 2008 through 2011 revealed that Respondent did not document that she received any per diem income. Respondent advised that she would amend her SEI reports accordingly, which she has done.

8. According to a second document provided by Ms. 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 guests. 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 she did attend the group meal and there were three guests in her dinner party. Respondent said she paid for the two guests in her party; however, she was aware that her portion of the

bill that included herself and a guest was paid for by the City of Bishopville. Bishopville Mayor Alexander C. Boyd paid the city back for the entire group meal.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Statement of Facts, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Willie Mae Robinson Muldrow, was a public official, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-100(27)(Supp. 2011).
2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
3. Section 8-13-700(A) prohibits a public official from knowingly using his official position to obtain any economic interest for himself.
4. Section 8-13-700(B) prohibits participation by a public official in actions involving the official's personal economic interest.

DISCUSSION

In 2011 I did attend the Municipal Association Conference in Hilton Head. However, I did not have any family members with me at the dinner party. I did have family members with me in 2012, the city paid for me and one guest. I paid for the other two guests in my party. I did not believe that I was using my official position to obtain any economic interest for myself due to the fact that I was the Lee County Crime Stoppers Cook for approximately 8 years. Receipts were turned in for food and items purchased by the city. However, I was receiving a per diem, and it was public knowledge that I served in this capacity. I saw no need to submit additional information. This consisted of approximately 4-6 hours per month depending on the number of participants and time from start to clean-up. Since it was a city meeting, I

Respondent stated that the group meal at the Municipal Association conference was done as employee appreciation for the last 20 years, and paid by the city.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Statement of Facts, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Ennis R. Bryant, Sr., was a public official, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-100(27)(Supp. 2011).
2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
3. Section 8-13-700(A) prohibits a public official from knowingly using his official position to obtain any economic interest for himself.
4. Section 8-13-700(B) prohibits participation by a public official in actions involving the official's personal economic interest.
5. Section 8-13-1120(A)(2) provides that a public official must disclose the source, type and amount of income received from a governmental entity.

DISCUSSION

Respondent states: Once I became aware that I should not vote on the "per diem" motion, I attempted to withdraw my vote.

ADMISSIONS

The Respondent, Ennis R. Bryant, Sr., admits that he unintentionally violated Section 8-13-700(A), Section 8-13-700(B) and Section 8-13-1120.

DISPOSITION

The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Ennis R. Bryant, Sr. in violation of Section 8-13-700(A), Section 8-13-700(B) and Section 8-13-1120 of the Ethics Reform

thought my actions were proper and authorized. Also, I serve in a county that is approximately seventy percent African American. Ninety-eight percent of all affairs attended required a donation. The additional funding was used to offset the cost of representing the city of Bishopville.

ADMISSIONS

The Respondent, Willie Mae Robinson Muldrow, admits that she unintentionally violated Section 8-13-700(A) and Section 8-13-700(B).

DISPOSITION

The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Willie Mae Robinson Muldrow in violations of Section 8-13-700(A) and Section 8-13-700(B), of the Ethics Reform 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 Willie Mae Robinson Muldrow for violations of Section 8-13-700(A) and Section 8-13-700(B) of the Ethics Reform Act,

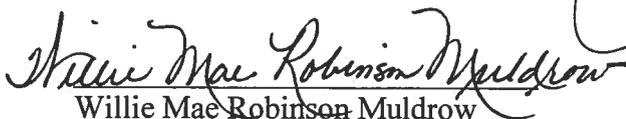
AND, orders Respondent to pay an administrative fee of \$200.00 within 30 days of receipt of the signed order,

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

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



PHILIP FLORENCE, JR.
CHAIR



Willie Mae Robinson Muldrow