

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
 )  
 IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 Complaint 2013-103 )  
 )  
 Darrick Jackson, )  
 Respondent. )  
 )  
 Johnny Wright, )  
 Complainant. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

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This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Complainant, Johnny Wright, on January 28, 2013. The complaint against the Respondent, Darrick Jackson, was considered by the Commission on September 18, 2013 and probable cause found to warrant an evidentiary hearing.

Prior to the call of the case Respondent agreed to entry of the following statements of fact, conclusions of law, admission, discussion, and disposition in this matter as follows.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. The Respondent, Darrick Jackson, is currently serving as the Mayor of Timmons ville.
2. A review of the Town of Timmons ville, accounts payable check listings revealed that on the following dates, checks were written to Carolina Splicing and Terminating, LLC (CS&T):

Check:	Date:	Amount:
# 23254	01/06/2011	\$1,015.00
#24667	12/07/2011	\$750.00
# 24836	01/19/2012	\$750.00

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3. Commission staff along with Timmons ville's Town Administrator, Mrs. Mary Bines, attempted to locate invoices related to the above mentioned checks; however, only one invoice

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from CS&T, LLC, dated December 6, 2011, in the amount of \$750 was found. The invoice documents that the President of CS&T, LLC is Mr. Larry Dobson, and his company installed Christmas lights for the town. According to Mrs. Bines, Mr. Dobson is Respondent's brother in-law.

4. Commission staff obtained a Timmonsville First Citizens Bank check #24836 that was written to Carolina Splicing and Termination on January 19, 2012 in the amount of \$750.00. Staff met with Respondent and he verified that his bother in-law, Mr. Larry Dobson owns Carolina Splicing and Termination. Respondent also verified that he signed the check.

5. Respondent said that he was not aware that the Ethics Law changed in June of 2011, to include family member within Section 8-13-700. Respondent stated that he attended town council meetings in September or October of 2011, during the time town council discussed utilizing the business owned by his brother in-law. Respondent advised that he did not participate in the discussion, or decision to use his brother in-law's business; however, he did not prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring a decision and the nature of his potential conflict of interest.

6. According to the former town treasurer, Mrs. Dora Lee, before Respondent was elected Mayor of Timmonsville, town council approved a telephone allowance for the previous mayor. Mrs. Lee said the same telephone allowance was transferred to Respondent in 2010. A review of Respondent's payroll records revealed, that he began receiving a \$99.00 per month mobile telephone stipend in January of 2010. A review of Respondent's Statements of Economic Interests (SEI) for 2011, and 2012 revealed that he only disclosed the income for the mobile telephone on his 2011 SEI. Staff met with Respondent, and he advised that in 2011, he did

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receive a telephone stipend in the amount of \$1,089.00. Respondent advised that he inadvertently failed to document the income on his 2012 SEI.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Darrick Jackson, was a public member, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-100(26)(Supp. 2012).
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 a family member.
4. Section 8-13-700(B) prohibits a public official from voting on a matter in which a family member has an economic interest.
5. Section 8-13-100(15) defines 'family member' as an individual who is a brother-in-law.
6. 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.

### **ADMISSIONS**

The Respondent, Darrick Jackson, admits he inadvertently violated Sections 8-13-700(A) and 700(B) and Section 8-13-1120 of the Ethics Reform Act.

### **DISPOSITION**

The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Darrick Jackson in violation, albeit inadvertently, of Sections 8-13-700(A) and 700(B) and Section 8-13-1120 of the Ethics Reform Act and hereby adopts the Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, Admissions, Discussion, and



Disposition as agreed upon by Respondent.

THEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission hereby issues a written warning to Darrick Jackson for violation of Sections 8-13-700(A) and 700(B) and Section 8-13-1120 of the Ethics Reform Act,

AND, orders Respondent not to use his official office to obtain an economic interest for a family member,

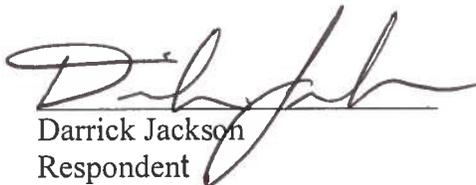
AND, orders Respondent to pay an administrative fee of \$300.00 within 60 days of receipt of the signed order,

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 21 DAY OF May 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



~~Phillip Florence, Jr.~~ JAMES H. BURNS  
Chairman



Darrick Jackson  
Respondent

