

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
))
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint 2014-013)
))
Raymond J. Arceneaux,) **CONSENT ORDER**
Respondent.)
))
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
_____)

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission on August 5, 2013. The complaint against the Respondent, Raymond J. Arceneaux, was considered by the Commission on November 19, 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, Raymond J. Arceneaux, is an elected member of the Parker Sewer and Fire District (the District) in Greenville County.
2. Respondent stated that sometime in 2011 he contacted Mr. Blake Harmon, the District maintenance supervisor, about replacing the struts on his personal vehicle. Respondent said that around lunch time he drove his vehicle to the maintenance shop, and Mr. Harmon replaced two struts on Respondent's vehicle. Respondent stated that he waited at the maintenance shop while his vehicle was being repaired, and the work took about two hours. Respondent said that he paid for all the parts related to the repair. He stated that he did not pay Mr. Harmon for the work he did on the vehicle.

3. Respondent stated that on or about July 18, 2013 he did have his vehicle repaired at the District maintenance shop. Respondent said that Mr. Daniel Haddon, the District mechanic, replaced two drive belts on his Dodge Intrepid sedan. Respondent said that Mr. Blake Harmon, the District maintenance supervisor, assisted Mr. Haddon. Respondent advised that the repair work was done around lunch time, and the repair work took approximately 20 minutes.

4. Respondent provided staff with a receipt from the Napa parts store for the purchase of two belts in the amount of \$26.88. Respondent said he that he did give Mr. Haddon \$20.00 for the repair.

5. According Mr. Harmon and Mr. Haddon the repair work on the drive belts took approximately 30 minutes. Mr. Haddon advised that the repair work took place around lunch time and Respondent did give him \$20.00 for lunch.

6. A review of the Parker Sewer and Fire District policy manual revealed that in Section 21.15 district equipment and tools, (but not materials) may be used by District personnel or commissioners either at District facilities, or at home.

7. Staff interviewed Mr. Blake Harmon Mr. Daniel Haddon. They both provided written statements in regard to repair work they completed for Parker Sewer and Fire District commission members including Respondent.

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, Raymond J. Arceneaux, was a public official, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-100(27)(Supp. 2012).

2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

3. Section 8-13-700(A) prohibits a public official from using his official position to obtain an economic interest for himself.

DISCUSSION

I receive about \$2,000.00 annum in per diem for attending the commissioner meetings in which I receive \$75.00 plus mileage. I probably expend 20 times more time uncompensated, then compensated. I don't feel that I took advantage of my elected office and offered or paid for the performance of labor. Our Fleet Maintenance personnel were such that if an old lady from church came by and had a problem, they would assist her.

ADMISSIONS

The Respondent, Raymond J. Arceneaux, admits he violated Section 8-13-700(A) of the Ethics Reform Act.

DISPOSITION

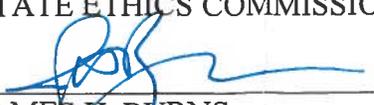
The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Raymond J. Arceneaux in violation of Section 8-13-700(A) of the Ethics Reform Act and hereby adopts the Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, Admissions, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission hereby issues a public reprimand to Raymond J. Arceneaux for his violation of Section 8-13-700(A) of the Ethics Reform Act,

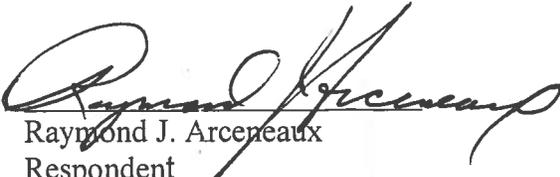
AND, orders Respondent to pay an administrative fee of \$750.00 within 90 days of receipt of the signed order,

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 31st DAY OF October 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



JAMES H. BURNS
CHAIR



Raymond J. Arceneaux
Respondent

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