

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
 COMPLAINT C2014-025)
)
 Art Mann,) **CONSENT ORDER**
 Respondent.)
)
 State Ethics Commission,)
 Complainant;)
 _____)

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This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission, on August 26, 2013. On September 18, 2013, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2013), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint charging the Respondent, Art Mann, with a violation of Section 8-13-765 and Section 8-13-1346 and probable cause was 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, discussion, admission, and disposition in this matter as follows.

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. The Respondent, Art Mann, is a physical education teacher and coach at McCormick County High School, a public high school.
2. Evidence presented by the McCormick County School District indicates that Respondent, while employed at McCormick High School, used school equipment and supplies to duplicate a political campaign flyer for his wife's campaign as a candidate for

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McCormick County School Board of Trustees.

3. McCormick County School District Technology Director sent an item to the school printer and it failed to print because there was no paper. After adding paper the printer began to print flyers promoting Andrea Mann for school board. He then obtained still shots from the security camera showing Respondent, husband of Andrea Mann, entering and exiting the copier room. He also provided a printout from the copier log showing the times the copies were made.

4. On July 17, 2013, in a conversation with Kelly Coxe, McCormick County School District Human Resources Director, Respondent readily admitted that he did use school property to produce campaign flyers for his wife's political campaign.

5. On August 8, 2013 Respondent reimbursed the school district an amount of \$25.20 for the cost of using the school copy machine.

6. Respondent admitted to a Commission investigator that he did, in fact, use public property for a political campaign.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Art Mann, was a public employee as defined by Section 8-13-1300(25).
2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
3. Section 8-13-765(A) provides as follows:
 - (A) No person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign. The provisions of this subsection do not apply

to a public official's use of an official residence.

4. Section 8-13-1346(A) provides as follows:

A person may not use or authorize the use of public funds, property, or time to influence the outcome of an election.

ADMISSIONS

The Respondent, Art Mann, admits he violated Section 8-13-765 and Section 8-13-1346 of the Ethics Reform Act.

DISPOSITION

The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Art Mann in violation of Section 8-13-765 and Section 8-13-1346, hereby adopts the Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, Admissions, and Disposition as agreed upon by Respondent, Art Mann.

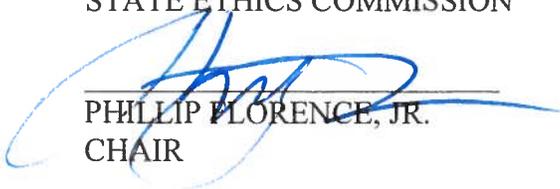
THEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission hereby issues this written warning to Art Mann for his violation of Sections 8-13-765 and Section 8-13-1346,

AND, in order to avoid future violations, orders Respondent Art Mann to be vigilant in reviewing the Ethics Reform Act,

AND, orders him to pay an administrative fee of \$250.00 within thirty days of receipt of the signed order,

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 15th DAY OF JANUARY 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


PHILLIP FLORENCE, JR.
CHAIR


Art Mann
Respondent