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**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA** )

COUNTY OF RICHLAND )

IN THE MATTER OF: )

Complaint 2012-015 )

Charles A. Beasley, )  
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 State Ethics Commission on August 5, 2011. The complaint against the Respondent, Charles A. Beasley, was considered by the Commission on November 16, 2011 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, Charles A. Beasley, is currently serving as Chairman of Lee County Council.
2. Warren Lee is the sole owner of Industrial Waste Services and has never had any business in partnership with Respondent. Lee has allowed Respondent to use Respondent's wood grinding operation on Lee's property because of the DHEC permit, Lee has on his operation on his property. Lee had a verbal agreement with Lee County to handle debris disposal which is now handled by Respondent's company. When Lee receives payment for this service from Lee County, he simply endorses the county check and gives it to Respondent.

3. A review of Lee County Council meeting minutes dated November 9, December 14 and December 21, 2010 revealed that Lee County Council heard a request from Warren Lee asking for a special exception to the zoning ordinance to allow usage in light industry to include an incinerator/pysolysis processing facility. Respondent is reported as participating in discussions concerning Lee's request; however, he recused himself from voting. The chairman of county council will only vote on a matter if there is a tie.

### **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, Charles A. Beasley, 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 employee from using his official position to obtain an economic interest for himself or an individual with whom he is associated.

4. Section 8-13-100(21) states:

'Individual with whom he is associated' means an individual with whom the person or a member of his immediate family mutually has an interest in any business of which the person or a member of his immediate family is a director, officer, owner, employee, compensated agent, or holder of stock worth one hundred thousand dollars or more at fair market value and which constitutes five percent or more of the total outstanding stock of any class.

### **DISCUSSION**

**(AVAILABLE to the Respondent to discuss any mitigating factors.)**

### **ADMISSIONS**

The Respondent, Charles A. Beasley, admits he unintentionally and inadvertently

violated Section 8-13-700(A) of the Ethics Reform Act.

**DISPOSITION**

The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Charles A. Beasley in violation 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.

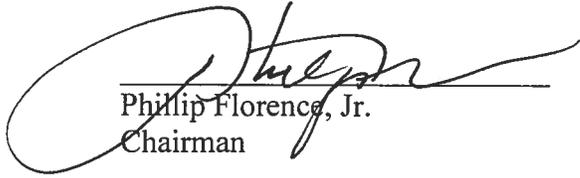
THEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission hereby issues a written warning to Charles A. Beasley for his violation of Section 8-13-700(A) of the Ethics Reform Act,

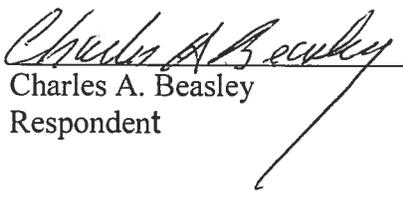
AND, orders Respondent not to use his official office to obtain an economic interest for himself or an individual with whom he is associated,

AND, orders Respondent to pay an administrative fee of \$1000.00 within 30 days of receipt of the signed order,

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2013.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
Philip Florence, Jr.  
Chairman

  
Charles A. Beasley  
Respondent