

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

COMPLAINT FORM

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2022-050

COMPLAINANT: Terence R. Wilson
ADDRESS: 2135 Avenue A Mayesville, SC 29104
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 803-468-4113
TITLE: Council-Town of Mayesville

RESPONDENT: Erickson Jackson
ADDRESS: PO Box 369 Mayesville, SC 29104
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Council-Town of Mayesville

Set forth in detail specific facts upon which you based your complaint against above-named respondent (only detailed, clear factual allegations will be considered. If additional space is needed, attach supplemental sheets).

Conflict of Interest:

Councilman Erickson Jackson & Chief Judge Latrell Jackson

Councilman Jackson is currently and has been a councilman of the town of Mayesville, his spouse Latrell Jackson serves as the Judge of Mayesville. The question has arisen as to the influence of Erickson Jackson being a councilman and Mayor Miller offering the position to Latrell Jackson.

Currently there are no records on file Councilman Erickson Jackson or Judge Latrell Jackson has signed the conflict-of-interest policy, when presented in the March 2022 meeting it was dismissed by all parties.

The town of Mayesville (Mayor Miller) paid \$495 (statement attached) to SC Bar for classes for Judge Jackson without consultation or approval from councilmembers.

I, Terence Wilson, newly elected to Councilman in the town of Mayesville, have the same question as I did when I took office. Is there a conflict of interest between Councilman Erickson Jackson and spouse Judge Latrell Jackson in the operation of the town of Mayesville? Was position that Latrell Jackson hold as Judge of the town of Mayesville given on the influence by Councilman Erickson Jackson position or was the position open and announced that other qualified candidates could have applied.

If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Sumter

Personally appeared before me Terence R. Wilson who, first being duly sworn, says that he/she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of his/her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of May, 2022

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Complainant Signature

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires March 2, 2025

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192
ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

State Ethics Commission Response Letter:

Thank you for allowing me to respond to these alleged conflict of interests submitted to you on behalf of Councilman Terence “Reggie” Wilson. It is quite baffling that Mr. Wilson presented untrue allegations at times when he’s clearly committing criminal activities against several council members, to include: intimidation, stalking, harassing and threatening behavior since the inception of his term of office (November 2021). Furthermore, there is clear and convincing evidence to support my claim through audio recordings, video recordings and witness accounts.

The current allegation of a conflict of interest stated: there’s an “influence of Erickson Jackson being a councilman and Mayor Miller offering the position to Latrell Jackson”.

Answer: NO...Latrell Jackson applied for, submitted her resume & interviewed for the Town’s Magistrate position when the position was made public. There were several individuals that applied for the position, along with 2 current Sumter County magistrates. Interviews were scheduled for the 3 candidates, Judge Mattison Gamble, Judge Bryan K. Griffith, Ariel Benjamin-Gibson & Latrell Jackson. These 2 magistrates & Ms. Benjamin-Gibson failed to show for 2 scheduled interview dates with all of them calling to reschedule due to family issues or emergencies. Town Council had to reschedule twice due to these situations, and they failed to make contact with council which inconvenience council & Latrell Jackson with a waste of scheduled meetings/interviews during that time.

Furthermore, in the “mannerism” of applying for & interviewing for a job to a potential employer, it is quite customary to “show-up” for your interview or if you didn’t “show-up” or call to reschedule the interviews to the potential employer, it alludes to the potential employer that you’re not interested & its a warning sign of your employment behavior once hired. Therefore, the council decided to not waste Latrell Jackson time anymore & interviewed her for the position; for which I EXCUSED & RECUSED myself from her interview process. Councilman Wilson was not a member of council during that time, therefore, in my opinion, he received a 2nd chain of false information from former councilman Kell Compton(who was on council during that time when Judge Jackson was interviewed); the reason: former councilman Kell Compton is still disgruntled and angry at his failed re-election bid for Mayesville Town Council in 2021.

(SPECIAL NOTE: COUNCILMAN TERENCE “REGGIE” WILSON & FORMER COUNCILMAN KELL COMPTON BOTH CAMPAIGN TOGETHER IN 2021 ENGAGING THE PUBLIC/MAYESVILLE COMMUNITY WITH FREE FOOD/DRINKS(PAID OUT OF THEIR POCKETS) ON SEVERAL SATURDAYS DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER IN 2021, WHICH COSTED WELL OVER \$500, AND THERE’S NO CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURES OR RECEIPTS SUBMITTED TO SC STATE ETHICS COMMISSION, ALONG WITH DOZENS OF CAMPAIGN SIGNS PLASTERED THROUGHOUT MAYESVILLE DURING THAT TIME. ADDITIONALLY, THEY BOTH ARE IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF SC ELECTION/ETHICS LAWS.

During Latrell’s interview, Councilman Jackson EXCUSED & RECUSED himself from the interview process & voting procedures. The vote of 3-1 was taken & it favored Latrell Jackson

as the new Town Magistrate. The lone “no” vote was former councilman Kell Compton, who became irate & belligerent because he wanted to continue to give the other candidate a 3rd opportunity, but the council said no & they had their chance & the State Judicial Court System had already warned the town to go ahead & appoint a new judge since Mayesville was late by several months and could face penalties if the town didn’t appoint a judge. Latrell’s qualifications and resume are impeccable to demonstrate her knowledge to apply & interview for the judge’s position, which the town council had taken into consideration and voted.

Allegation #2:

“There are no records on file Councilman Erickson Jackson or Judge Latrell Jackson had signed the conflict-of-interest policy, when presented in the March 2022 meeting it was dismissed by all parties.

Answer: NO...there was no such conflict of interest policy presented to council in March 2022 for anyone’s signature. Councilman Wilson presented a motion in March 2022 council meeting pertaining to recording town council meeting, but it was dismissed by all parties because council already records the monthly council meeting. There were no motions presented to council concerning a conflict of interest policy, since the town ordinance already had a conflict of interest policy already in place which allows family members of council members to become employed with the Town of Mayesville. (see letter about Councilman Wilson past family employment with Mayesville, therefore his conflict of interest grievance should also be directed to his family members).

Allegation #3: Mayor Miller paid \$495 to SC Bar for classes for Judge Jackson without consultation or approval from council members.

Answer: YES, because the Town of Mayesville has a “strong mayor, weak council” form of government, in which the mayor can authorize payments up to \$5000 of discretionary funds to use for the town’s needs. It lies into her executive power to make such authorizations, including paying poll workers during election season as required by SC State Law. Therefore, does the mayor have to inform council members when she purchased: fuel for town’s equipment, parts for the town’s equipment, subscription renewals, fee renewals, town’s utilities bills, alarm service, toilet paper, paper towel, disinfectants, gloves etc etc etc and the list goes on & on. EVERYDAY or when warranted?? This would be a direct insult to her intelligence & a disobey of government policies for her to call a meeting every single time she needs to authorize required purchases for the town. Furthermore, Councilman Wilson’s claim for an unauthorized fee(\$495) for continuing education fee for Judge Jackson as required by the SC State Supreme Court/SC Court Administration is quite frivolous & holds no merit, and is within the mayor’s power to authorize without council consent, along with other miscellaneous incidentals as needed to run town government.

My concerns with Councilman Terence “Reggie” Wilson:

Councilman "Reggie" Wilson has displayed dangerously & fearfully erratic behavior and criminal activities towards Mayesville Town Council members since being elected as a councilman in November 2021. Elected officials have the responsibility to serve the needs of their constituents, and they are duly sworn into office to fulfill the needs of the citizens. Town council members have no role in staff personnel matters; insomuch that the Town of Mayesville operates under a strong mayor system of government.

Examples of Councilman Wilson's behavior, I have witnessed Councilman Terance "Reggie" Wilson display some of the following, erratic, dangerous, criminal-like, unprofessional behavior during "live" meetings, on videos & recordings:

1. Dangerously aggressive anger directed towards town's officials, especially with the mayor with verbal threats, racial slurs, and other questionable behavior; I have witnessed him making threatening remarks towards Mayor Jerileen Hollimon-Miller and her husband a number of times. At one point he entered her personal space at a meeting as if he was going to strike her with his hand/fist.
2. Attempted to enforce town ordinance codes on a town citizen, in which that citizen's property had some questionable concerns, and that citizen & Councilman Wilson engaged in a verbal altercation, and that citizen stated that he had the right to exercise his 2nd amendment rights should Councilman Wilson ever come onto his property again.
3. I have heard Councilman Wilson during one of our executive session meeting, calling some of the Mayesville town's citizens "crackers", using a phrase during a heated exchange with other council members: "screw those crackers".
4. He has threatened myself and my wife numerous of times via text meetings, at council meetings & even showed up at my house, claiming he going to file a lawsuit stating that we are breaking ethics policy, and stated "I'll make sure they come & get y'all(meaning SC State Ethics Commission), it's only business...business is business".
5. Always threatening council members that he's friends with several upper management employees in the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, along with numerous Sumter County deputies, in which he states that he's untouchable and they protect him by any means necessary.
6. He has texted & called my phone on numerous occasions stating innuendos about the mayor & her husband, and later on after I stopped communicating with him, and then he turned his threats via text messages & in-person directed towards me & my wife, because I would not "side with him to oust the mayor from office"; I had to block him.

Before I bring my grievance to an end, It is becoming increasingly difficult to fulfill the town's obligation for the community and my coworkers without disclosing Councilman Terance "Reggie" Wilson's erratic, unprofessional behavior. It is imperative that some sort of State of SC Mental Health evaluation be imposed upon Councilman Wilson to determine if he is fit to remain in

office. In addition, council members and office staff of any government body need to show decorum and respect towards each other regardless of our differences.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Erickson Jackson
Mayesville Town Councilman

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2022-050)

Terence R. Wilson,)
Complainant.)

Erickson Jackson,)
Respondent.)

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on May 11, 2022. The Commission's Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On July 20, 2023, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Erickson Jackson (Respondent) with violating the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act). For the reasons stated herein, the Commission finds probable cause exists, but waives further proceedings on the matter.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Respondent was elected to the Mayesville Town Council (Council) in November 2019.
2. When Respondent took office, Council was in the process of hiring two (2) municipal judges.
3. Latrell Jackson (Latrell), Respondent's wife, applied for one of the positions and interviews were held on approximately December 10, 2019. Respondent did not participate in Latrell's interview. Respondent removed himself from the interview/meeting and remained in the lobby until Latrell's interview concluded.
4. On December 19, 2019, Council voted to hire Latrell as Chief Municipal Judge. Respondent verbally recused himself from the vote to hire Latrell, but did not submit a written recusal.
5. The Town subsequently paid \$495 to the South Carolina Bar Association for Latrell's Continuing Legal Education. According to Town Mayor Jerleen Miller, the decision to cover this expense was made by her alone and was done without any input from other Council members.

LAW

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320, the Commission is empowered to receive complaints and conduct investigations related to violations of the Ethics Act. Following the receipt of a Complaint and the completion of a corresponding investigation, the Commission must determine whether there is probable cause to believe a violation of the Ethics Act occurred. If the Commission determines that probable cause exists, it may order a hearing on the merits or it may waive further proceedings. Section 8-13-320(10)(i). The decision to waive further proceedings lies within the sound discretion of the Commission. Section 8-13-700(B) requires public officials to recuse themselves from matters in which their family member have an economic interest. Section 8-13-700(B)(4) further requires this recusal to be in writing and attached to the meeting minutes.

DECISION

Based on evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-700(B)(4) of the Ethics Act on December 19, 2019 when he failed to reduce his recusal to writing. However, it is clear that Respondent did not participate in the hiring of his spouse and that he attempted to remove himself from the matter. Therefore, based on the totality of the circumstances, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the Ethics Act.

THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 1st DAY OF September, 2023.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION


SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina