ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION MINUTES

August 2, 2023 9:30 a.m. 9th Floor, RSA Union Building Montgomery, Alabama

The Alabama Ethics Commission met on August 2, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room on the 9th Floor of the RSA Union Building.

Commission Members Present:

Commission Members Absent:

Honorable John Plunk, Chair Honorable Lyn Stuart, Ret. Chief Justice, Vice-Chair Honorable Stanton H. McDonald, Member Honorable BG (R) Edward Crowell (USAF), Member

Commission Staff Present:

Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director
Brian Paterson, Assistant General Counsel
Cynthia Raulston, Special Assistant to the Director
Byron Butler, Executive Assistant to the Director
Chris Clark, Chief Special Agent
Dustin Lansford, Senior Special Agent
Chris McCay, Senior Special Agent
Brian Baker, Special Agent
Dylan Baker, Special Agent
April Innes, Special Investigator
Kayla Pfeil, Lobbyist/Principal Liaison

Mr. Plunk served as chair for the meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and introduced Reverend Lucas Tribble of First United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, who gave the invocation.

Old Business:

Approval of the minutes from the June 7, 2023, meeting:

General Crowell moved to adopt the minutes as written. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

New Business:

At 9:40 a.m. Mr. McDonald moved that the Commission go into Executive Session. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

At 11:13 a.m. General Crowell moved that the Commission go back into Open Session. Chief Justice

Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0052

Kenneth Nail, Mayor, City of Hanceville

Mr. McDonald moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, probable cause exists that Kenneth Nail violated the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0145

Oliver Youngblood, Social Services Case Worker I, Macon County Department of Human Resources

Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Oliver Youngblood has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2022-0380

Keith Brumley, Supervisor of Transportation / Maintenance, Marion County Board of Education General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, probable cause exists that Keith Brumley violated the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0053

Victor Sims, (Former) Police Officer, City of Homewood Police Department

General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Victor Sims has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2022-0381

Ganus Parker, Truck Driver Training Specialist, Shelton State Community College

General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Ganus Parker has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2022-0466

Dr. Nathan Winkles, Employee, Shelton State Community College

Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Dr. Nathan Winkles has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act,

and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0094

Nicholas Blackmon, Utility Worker II, Birmingham Water Works

General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, probable cause exists that Nicholas Blackmon violated the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2022-0365

Kevin Naman, Police Officer, City of Mobile

Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Kevin Naman has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2022-0395

Pilar Bell, CRS Social Work Specialist, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Pilar Bell has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0038

Dontae Bailey, (Former) Corrections Officer, City of Foley

Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Dontae Bailey has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Cases Recommended for Dismissal

The following cases were presented to the Commission by Executive Director Albritton, with the recommendation that they be dismissed: Case No. 2022-0389; Case No. 2022-0409; Case No. 2023-0009; Case No. 2023-0022; Case No. 2023-0055; Case No. 2023-0073; Case No. 2023-0075 and Case No. 2023-0093. General Crowell moved that the Commission dismiss the cases as recommended. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2018-0280

Christy Rooks, Property Appraiser II, Mobile County Revenue Department

Chief Justice Stuart moved that on <u>April 5, 2023</u>, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Christy Rooks, Property Appraiser II, Mobile County Revenue Department, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 13th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before July 11, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) There is no administrative penalty ordered by the Commission for this minor violation; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2022-0393

Jacob Brown, Facility Manager, Alabama Department of Finance

Chief Justice Stuart moved that on <u>June 7, 2023</u>, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Jacob Brown, Facility Manager, Alabama Department of Finance, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 15th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before July 11, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) There is no administrative penalty ordered by the Commission for this minor violation; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0031

Cody Willingham, Teacher, Fort Payne City Schools

Chief Justice Stuart moved that on <u>June 7, 2023</u>, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Cody Willingham, Teacher, Fort Payne City Schools, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 9th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before June 20, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) There is no administrative penalty ordered by the Commission for this minor violation; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0032

Terry Kisor, Teacher, Fort Payne City Schools

Chief Justice Stuart moved that on <u>June 7, 2023</u>, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Terry Kisor, Teacher, Fort Payne City Schools, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 9th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before June 20, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) There is no administrative penalty ordered by the Commission for this minor violation; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0034

Carol Waites, Child Nutrition Program Manager, Fort Payne City Schools

Chief Justice Stuart moved that on <u>June 7, 2023</u>, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Carol Waites, Child Nutrition Program Manager, Fort Payne City Schools, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 9th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before June 20, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) There is no administrative penalty ordered by the Commission for this minor violation; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0068

David Eckman, Park Ranger II, City of Foley

General Crowell moved that on <u>June 7, 2023</u>, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found David Eckman, Park Ranger II, City of Foley, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 28th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before July 10, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) There is no administrative penalty ordered by the Commission for this minor violation; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Case No. 2023-0069

Tara Odom, Employee, City of Loxley

General Crowell moved that on <u>June 7, 2023</u>, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Tara Odom, Employee, City of Loxley, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 28th Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before July 10, 2023. Accordingly, I hereby move as follows: 1) There is no administrative penalty ordered by the Commission for this minor violation; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Other Matters

At 11:31 a.m. Director Albritton presented the Commission with the proposed 2024 Commission dates. Mr. McDonald moved the dates be adopted. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

Adjournment

There being no further business at 11:31 a.m., General Crowell moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is October 4, 2023.

John Plunk, Chair

Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director

Byron Butler, Recording Secretary