

Executive Order No. 2015-19

WHEREAS, the Grand Jurors of Spartanburg County indicted Rodney Dean Turner, Mayor of the Town of Lyman, on August 21, 2015, on two counts: (1) Misconduct in Office for knowingly, intentionally, and willfully engaging in acts of misconduct by engaging in acts and omissions in the form of malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance in breach of his duties to the public of good faith, honesty, and accountability in violation of the Common Law of the State of South Carolina; and (2) Crime of Wiretapping for intentionally intercepting the oral communications of employees working and persons conducting business through the use of electronic devices designed to intercept and transmit oral communication by transmitting a signal through a radio transmission, wire, cable, or other like connection that could be monitored and/or recorded remotely in violation of Section 17-30-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Dean Turner is an officer of a political subdivision of the State and Article VI, Section 8, of the South Carolina Constitution provides that “[a]ny officer of the State or its political subdivisions...who has been indicted by a grand jury for a crime involving moral turpitude...may be suspended by the Governor until he shall have been acquitted;” and

WHEREAS, South Carolina law recognizes that “moral turpitude implies something immoral itself ...,” such as “an act of baseness, vileness, or depravity in the private and social duties which a man owes to his fellow man, or to society in general,” and further that “an act in which fraud is an ingredient involves moral turpitude...,” see *State v. Horton*, 248 S.E.2d 263 (1978), and the above-referenced indictments include a crime that involves moral turpitude; and

WHEREAS, a certified true copy of the indictment against Rodney Dean Turner has been provided to me.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of South Carolina, I hereby suspend Rodney Dean Turner from the office of Mayor of the Town of Lyman until such time as he shall be formally acquitted or convicted.

This action in no manner addresses the question of the guilt or innocence of Rodney Dean Turner and should not be construed as an expression of any opinion one way or another on such question.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 24th DAY OF AUGUST,
2015.**

**NIKKI R. HALEY
Governor**