

Executive Order No. 2018-15

WHEREAS, William D. Lewis, Sheriff of Greenville County, has been indicted by a Grand Jury convened in Greenville County for Misconduct in Office and Obstruction of Justice; and

WHEREAS, William D. Lewis, as Sheriff of Greenville County, South Carolina, is an officer of the State or its political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, article VI, section 8 of the South Carolina Constitution provides, in relevant part, 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, under South Carolina law, moral turpitude “implies something immoral in itself,” *State v. Horton*, 271 S.C. 413, 414, 248 S.E.2d 263, 263 (1978), and “involves an act of baseness, vileness, or depravity in the social duties which a man owes to his fellow man or society in general, contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty between man and man,” *State v. Major*, 301 S.C. 181, 186, 391 S.E.2d 235, 238 (1990); and

WHEREAS, one or more of the crimes charged in the Indictments constitute “a crime involving moral turpitude”; and

WHEREAS, section 23-11-40(C) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, provides, in pertinent part, that “[i]f any vacancy occurs in the office at any time and is created by suspension by the Governor upon any sheriff’s indictment, the Governor shall appoint some suitable person . . . to hold the office until the suspended sheriff is acquitted, or the indictment is otherwise disposed of, or until a sheriff is elected and qualifies in the next general election for county sheriffs, whichever event occurs first”; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Mack Brown, residing at 479 North Poinsett Highway, Travelers Rest, South Carolina 29690, is a fit and proper person to serve as Sheriff of Greenville County; and

WHEREAS, as Governor of the State of South Carolina, I am mindful of the duties and responsibilities vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of this State.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby Order that William D. Lewis shall be and hereby is suspended from his office as Sheriff of Greenville County until such time as he shall be formally acquitted or convicted. Accordingly, I hereby appoint Johnny Mack Brown to serve as Sheriff of Greenville County until the suspended sheriff is acquitted, or the indictment is otherwise disposed of, or until a sheriff is elected and qualifies in the next general election for county sheriffs, whichever event occurs first.

This action in no manner addresses the guilt or innocence of William D. Lewis and shall not be construed as an expression of any opinion on such question. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 17th DAY OF APRIL,
2018.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**