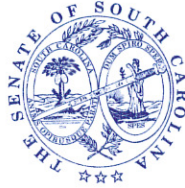


# Senate Ethics Committee

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THE SENATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
P. O. BOX 142  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

**In the Matter of the South Carolina )  
Senate Ethics Committee's Complaint )  
Against Senator Robert I. Ford )**  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

## **FINAL ORDER**

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

Pursuant to Senate Rules 44 and 44.1, the Senate Ethics Committee (the "Committee") hereby makes the following Findings of Fact with respect to each Allegation contained in the Committee's Complaint filed against Senator Robert I. Ford on January 23, 2014, and encompassing the reporting periods covered by Campaign Disclosure Reports due July 10, 2013, through October 10, 2013, (the "Periods Involved"):

1. Upon information and belief, during the Periods Involved, you converted campaign funds to personal use in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-1348 (Supp. 2013).

**Proven on one (1) count by overwhelming competent and substantial evidence contained within the record before the Committee.**

2. Upon information and belief, during the Periods Involved, you misrepresented on your Campaign Disclosure Reports the amounts of various expenditures such that they were inconsistent with the actual amount of such expenditures reflected on your campaign banking statements, each of which is a separate violation of Section 8-13-1308 (Supp. 2013).

**Proven on fourteen (14) counts by overwhelming competent and substantial evidence contained within the record before the Committee.**

Additionally, Twin City Outreach Mission Black Community Developers Program is not an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Notwithstanding the fact that Senator Ford converted to personal use all or a substantial portion of the \$14,758.17 of campaign funds donated to Twin City Outreach Mission Black Community Developers Program, the Committee further finds the donation itself was not a proper final disbursement of campaign funds as directed by S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-1370 (Supp. 2013).

## ORDER OF PUNISHMENT

Pursuant to Senate Rule 44.1(B), the Committee hereby issues the following Order of Punishment:

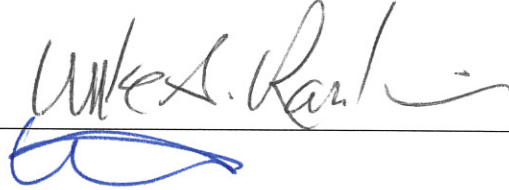
1. The Committee directs that Senator Ford pay \$14,758.17 to the Children's Trust of South Carolina, 1634 Main Street, #100, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, to account for the improper donation of campaign funds that he made to Twin City Outreach Mission Black Community Developers Program on June 8, 2013.
2. The Committee hereby imposes civil fines in the amount of \$30,000 payable to the Senate Ethics Committee. The fines are broken down as follows:
  - (a) With regards to Allegation 1, the Committee imposes the maximum civil fine in the amount of \$2,000 for one (1) count of converting campaign funds to personal use;
  - (b) With regards to Allegation 2, the Committee imposes the maximum civil fine in the amount of \$2,000 for each of the fourteen (14) counts (\$28,000) of misrepresenting expenditures on Campaign Disclosure Reports.
3. The Committee affirmatively concludes that these violations of South Carolina's Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act warrant the immediate referral herewith to the Attorney General's Office of all unredacted documents entered into these proceedings, including but not limited to exhibits, transcripts, and audio/video recordings, along with all other documents that were obtained during the Committee's investigation but not offered into evidence.
4. The Committee hereby directs that this Final Order and all exhibits introduced into evidence at the public hearing (subject to redaction of personal information) shall, as soon as practicable hereafter, be placed on the South Carolina Senate Ethics Committee's website.

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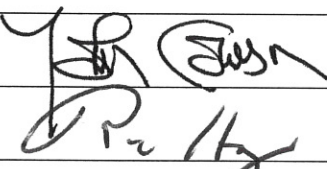
State of South Carolina  
County of Richland

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED**, this 14th day of May, 2014, by the following Members of the Senate Ethics Committee:

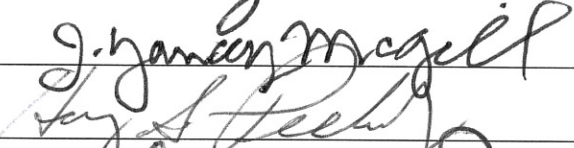
Senator Luke A. Rankin, Chairman



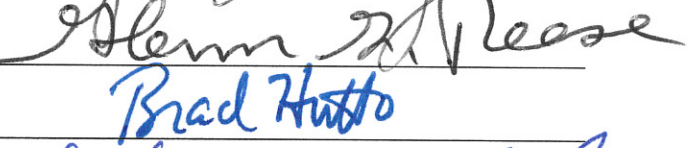
Senator Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.



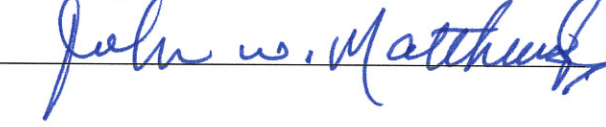
Senator John E. Courson



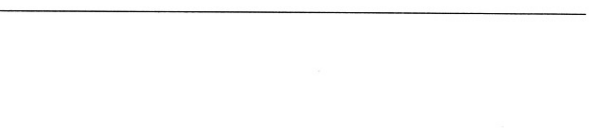
Senator Robert W. Hayes, Jr.



Senator J. Yancey McGill



Senator Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.



Senator Glenn G. Reese



Senator C. Bradley Hutto



Senator John W. Matthews, Jr.



Senator Darrell Jackson

