

Executive Order No. 2019-20

WHEREAS, a Grand Jury convened in Dillon County has returned eleven separate indictments charging John Corey Jackson with Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, First Degree, in violation of section 16-15-395(A) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended; and

WHEREAS, John Corey Jackson was recently elected to the office of Mayor of the City of Dillon, and he is anticipated to take and subscribe the requisite oath for such office on or about May 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Dillon 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 “[i]n case of conviction the office shall be declared vacant and the vacancy filled as may be provided by law”; 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, as a general rule, “[s]exual offenses of virtually every kind and variety are deemed crimes of moral turpitude,” 1994 S.C. Op. Att’y Gen. 64, 1994 WL 199758 (1994); and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned indictments charge John Corey Jackson with one or more “crime[s] involving moral turpitude” for purposes of article VI, section 8 of the South Carolina Constitution.

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 suspend John Corey Jackson from the office of Mayor of the City of Dillon, effective immediately upon him taking and subscribing the oath of office or otherwise attempting to exercise any authority as Mayor of the City of Dillon, whichever event occurs first, and such suspension shall remain in effect until such time as he shall be formally acquitted or convicted. This action in no manner addresses the guilt or innocence of John Corey Jackson and shall not be construed as an expression of any opinion on such question.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 29th DAY OF MAY, 2019.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**