800 Bradbury Dr. SE Suite 215 Albuquerque, NM 87106 (505) 827 7800 www.sec.state.nm.us



Hon. William F. Lang (*Chair*) Jeffrey L. Baker Stuart M. Bluestone Hon. Celia Castillo Hon. Dr. Terry McMillan Ronald Solimon Dr. Judy Villanueva

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONTACT:

For Immediate Release:

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Jane.Kirkpatrick@sec.nm.gov (505) 554 7706

PRESS RELEASE

State Ethics Commission settles with Lordsburg Mayor Glenda Greene for violations of the Governmental Conduct Act

Albuquerque, NM, November 28, 2023 – Today, the State Ethics Commission announces it has entered into a settlement agreement with Lordsburg Mayor Glenda Greene. The settlement follows a demand letter and <u>civil action</u> alleging that Mayor Greene violated the Governmental Conduct Act by using her mayoral powers and resources in an attempt to avoid a DWI investigation and to retaliate against the then Chief of Police after he refused to interfere.

In exchange for the Commission's dismissal of claims, Mayor Greene admitted to three violations of Subsection 10-16-3(A) of the Governmental Conduct Act, which prohibits public officers from using the powers and resources of public office to pursue private interest by: (i) using her authority as mayor to attempt to interfere with a DWI investigation; (ii) deciding not to reappoint the then-Chief of Police for his refusal to interfere in the DWI investigation; and (iii) creating a Lieutenant position for the then-Chief of Police to demote into. Mayor Greene also paid the corresponding \$750 for three violations of the Governmental Conduct Act.

Deputy General Counsel Jessica Randall, who investigated the matter commented, "the Governmental Conduct Act prohibits elected officials from using their powers and resources of elected office for personal gain or private interests. By attempting to avoid criminal liability, and subsequent retaliation against police staff, Mayor Greene did just that. The Commission's investigation thoroughly explored these violations and the settlement announced today is a testament to the Commission's continued work to enforce ethics laws across the state."

Read the settlement agreement here.

About the State Ethics Commission

The State Ethics Commission is an independent, constitutional state agency with the authority to enforce civil violations of New Mexico's governmental ethics and disclosure statutes. The Commission is comprised of three Democratic Commissioners, three Republican Commissioners, and one independent Commissioner who is registered as "decline to state."

For more information about the State Ethics Commission, visit www.sec.nm.gov.