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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

State Ethics Commission settles with former Capitan Mayor Ron Lowrance for Governmental Conduct Act violation.

Albuquerque, NM, February 29, 2024 – Today, the State Ethics Commission announces it has entered into a settlement agreement with former Capitan Mayor Ron Lowrance. The settlement follows a pre-litigation demand letter alleging that Mr. Lowrance violated the Governmental Conduct Act by using the Village of Capitan’s official letterhead and resources to advocate for the election of specific candidates for municipal office.

In exchange for the Commission’s forbearing from filing a civil action, Mr. Lowrance admitted to one violations of Subsection 10-16-3.1(C) of the Governmental Conduct Act, which targets prohibited political activities by public officers and prohibits them from using property belonging to the local government entity for “other than authorized purposes.” Mr. Lowrance signed the pre-litigation settlement and paid the corresponding \$250 civil penalty for a violation of the Governmental Conduct Act.

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.