

NEW MEXICO STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Hon. William F. Lang, Chair Jeff Baker, Member Stuart M. Bluestone, Member Hon. Celia Foy Castillo, Member Dr. Terry McMillan, Member Ronald Solimon, Member Dr. Judy Villanueva, Member

[DRAFT] RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02 Authorizing a demand and civil action to enforce the Governmental Conduct Act

WHEREAS, THE NEW MEXICO STATE ETHICS COMMISSION ("Commission") met virtually on February 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.;

WHEREAS, the Commission has the power to investigate violations and bring a civil action to enforce the Governmental Conduct Act;

WHEREAS, the Commission has reason to believe that Ron Lowrence violated NMSA 1978, Subsections 10-16-3(A) and 10-16-3.1 of the Governmental Conduct Act;

WHEREAS, Mr. Lowrence is a member of the Village of Capitan ("VTSV") Board of Trustees and was until recently its mayor;

WHEREAS, the Executive Director has sought the approval of the commission to initiate a civil action under NMSA 1978, Sections 10-16-14(E), 10-16-18(B), and 10-16G-9(F) against Lowrence, and has explained the proposed civil action and remedies to be sought;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the New Mexico State Ethics Commission

- 1. The Commission's staff are authorized to demand that Lowrence comply with the Governmental Conduct Act and to prepare and file a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction seeking to enforce the civil compliance provision of the Government Conduct Act and any other relief that the court deems just and proper.
- 2. If Commission staff file a lawsuit against Lowrence, the Executive Director is instructed to provide regular updates on the status of the suit at the Commission's meetings during closed session. Commission staff shall communicate with the Chair as necessary between Commission meetings.
- 3. The Executive Director is authorized to enter an agreement to settle or dismiss claims brought against Lowrence or any other person, upon having conferred with the Chair or his designee.

Adopted by the New Mexico State Ethics Commission this 2nd day of February, 2024.

The Hon. William F. Lang New Mexico State Ethics Commission Chair