

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:

04/09/2024

[Jane.Kirkpatrick@sec.nm.gov](mailto:Jane.Kirkpatrick@sec.nm.gov)  
(505) 554 7706

### PRESS RELEASE

*State Ethics Commission Reaches Settlement with Village of Ruidoso Manager, Ron Sena, for Governmental Conduct Act violations.*

*Albuquerque, NM, April 9, 2024* – Today, the State Ethics Commission announces it has entered into a settlement agreement with the Village of Ruidoso Manager, Ron Sena concerning violations of the Governmental Conduct Act (“GCA”). The agreement comes after Mr. Sena’s self-reported actions that potentially breached state ethics laws. These actions involved unsolicited text messages to fellow Village employees, urging them to support the Ruidoso Mayor’s bid for state senate, and the unauthorized use of a Village-owned vehicle to distribute nomination petitions related to that campaign.

The GCA prohibits public officers and employees from certain political activity, including coercing others for political contributions and misusing government property for other than authorized purposes. The GCA carries a civil penalty of two-hundred-fifty (\$250) per violation not to exceed five-thousand dollars (\$5,000).

On April 5, 2024, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission approved a settlement with Mr. Sena. In the settlement, the Commission agreed not to pursue a civil enforcement action in exchange for Mr. Sena’s agreement to provide an apology to each affected Village employee that clarifies the inappropriate nature of his actions, the GCA’s restrictions on usage of public resources, and reaffirms employees’ rights to political participation outside of work hours. Considering that

Mr. Sena in good faith voluntarily reported his actions, the Commission waived pursuing applicable civil penalties.

Meeting records and minutes can be found on the commission's meetings page at: [Meetings | New Mexico State Ethics Commission \(nm.gov\)](#)

### **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](http://www.sec.nm.gov).