

Executive Order No. 2017-05

WHEREAS, Mohsen A. Baddourah, a member of the City Council of the City of Columbia, has been indicted by a Grand Jury convened in Richland County for Domestic Violence, Second Degree, in violation of section 16-25-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws; and

WHEREAS, Mohsen A. Baddourah, as a member of the City Council of the City of Columbia, 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

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, Domestic Violence, Second Degree, is a crime of moral turpitude; and

WHEREAS, as Governor of the State of South Carolina, I am mindful of the duties and responsibilities vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of this State.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the aforementioned authority, and pursuant to Article VI, Section 8 of the South Carolina Constitution and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby Order that Mohsen A. Baddourah shall be and hereby is suspended from his office as a member of the City Council of the City of Columbia until such time as the above-referenced charge is resolved, at which time further appropriate action will be taken by the undersigned. This action in no manner addresses the guilt or innocence of Mohsen A. Baddourah and shall not be construed as an expression of any opinion on such question. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS THIRTEENTH DAY OF
MARCH, 2017.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**