

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.**

**2022-33**

**WHEREAS**, on October 6, 2022, a Grand Jury convened in Sumter County returned an Indictment charging Terence R. Wilson, a member of the Town Council of the Town of Mayesville, with Threatening the Life of a Public Official, in violation of section 16-3-1040(A) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, and on October 17, 2022, the undersigned was notified of the aforementioned Indictment; 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 “[i]n case of conviction the office shall be declared vacant and the vacancy filled as may be provided by law”; and

**WHEREAS**, Terence R. Wilson, as a member of the Town Council of the Town of Mayesville, is an officer of the State or its political subdivisions; and

**WHEREAS**, under South Carolina law, moral turpitude “implies something immoral in itself, regardless of whether it is punishable by law as a crime,” involves “an act of baseness, vileness, or depravity in the private and social duties which a man owes to his fellow man, or to society in general, contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty between man and man,” or otherwise includes conduct “contrary to justice, honesty[,] and good morals,” *State v. Horton*, 271 S.C. 413, 414–15, 248 S.E.2d 263, 263–64 (1978); *see also Baddourah v. McMaster*, 433 S.C. 89, 112, 856 S.E.2d 561, 573 (2021) (“Under South Carolina’s moral turpitude framework, we focus ‘primarily on the duty to society and fellow man [that] is breached by the commission of the crime.’”); and

**WHEREAS**, upon consideration of the circumstances presented, to include the particularized facts alleged in the Indictment and classification of the offense, the undersigned has determined that the aforementioned Indictment charges Terence R. Wilson with “a crime involving moral turpitude” for purposes of article VI, section 8 of the South Carolina Constitution, *cf. Febrez v. United States*, No. 4:08-CR-01165-RBH-1, 2017 WL 4764810, at \*2–4 (D.S.C. Oct. 20, 2017); *In re Lee*, 313 S.C. 142, 143–44, 437 S.E.2d 85, 86 (1993); *State v. Bailey*, 275 S.C. 444, 446, 272

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S.E.2d 439, 440 (1980); *Op. Att'y Gen.*, 2016 WL 7425912, at \*1–2 (S.C.A.G. Dec. 2, 2016); *Op. Att'y Gen.*, 1994 WL 199758, at \*1 (S.C.A.G. Apr. 19, 1994); and

**WHEREAS**, for the foregoing reasons, and in accordance with article VI, section 8 of the South Carolina Constitution, the undersigned is authorized to suspend Terence R. Wilson from office as a member of the Town Council of the Town of Mayesville until such time as he shall be acquitted or convicted or until a successor is elected and qualifies as provided by law, whichever event occurs first.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby suspend Terence R. Wilson from office as a member of the Town Council of the Town of Mayesville until such time as he shall be formally acquitted or convicted or until a successor is elected and qualifies as provided by law, whichever event occurs first. This action in no manner addresses the guilt or innocence of Terence R. Wilson 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 17th DAY OF  
OCTOBER, 2022.**

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**HENRY MCMASTER**  
Governor

ATTEST:

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**MARK HAMMOND**  
Secretary of State