BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION

In Re:

MATTHEW "SCOTTY" ADAMS,

COMPLAINT NO. VCRB 2024-05

Former Chief Deputy, Brooke County Sheriff's Department, Respondent

PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER

The Probable Cause Review Board, having investigated and considered the allegations set forth in VCRB 2024-05, unanimously finds that there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent, Matthew "Scotty" Adams ("Adams" or "Respondent"), violated the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act, in his public position as Chief Deputy Sheriff of Brooke County, as follows:

<u>Count One</u> In 2021, Adams violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b) by utilizing ammunition and weapons belonging to the Brooke County Sheriff's Department at the 2021 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy. The Respondent's act constituted the use of public office for the private gain of his spouse.

<u>Count Two</u> In 2021, Adams violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b) by directing or permitting Brooke County Deputy Sheriffs to work and be paid for overtime for assisting at the 2021 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy. The Respondent's act constituted the use of public office for the private gain of his spouse.

Count Three In 2021, Adams violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b) by the unauthorized use of documentation purporting to indicate coverage of the 2021 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy under liability insurance of the Brooke County

Sheriff's Department and/or the Brooke County Commission when in fact neither the Sheriff's Department nor the Brooke County Commission had authorized said insurance coverage. The Respondent's act constituted the use of public office for the private gain of his spouse.

<u>Count Four</u> In 2022, Adams violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b) by utilizing ammunition and weapons belonging to the Brooke County Sheriff's Department at the 2022 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy. The Respondent's act constituted the use of public office for the private gain of his spouse.

<u>Count Five</u> In 2022, Adams violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b) by directing or permitting Brooke County Deputy Sheriffs to work and be paid for overtime for assisting at the 2022 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy. The Respondent's act constituted the use of public office for the private gain of his spouse.

<u>Count Six</u> In 2022, Adams violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b) by the unauthorized use of documentation purporting to indicate coverage of the 2022 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy under liability insurance of the Brooke County Sheriff's Department and/or the Brooke County Commission when in fact neither the Sheriff's Department nor the Brooke County Commission had authorized said insurance coverage. The Respondent's act constituted the use of public office for the private gain of his spouse.

<u>Count Seven</u> In 2023, Adams violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b) by utilizing ammunition and weapons belonging to the Brooke County Sheriff's Department at the 2023 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy. The Respondent's act constituted the use of public office for the private gain of his spouse.

Count Eight In 2023, Adams violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b) by directing or

permitting Brooke County Deputy Sheriffs to work and be paid for overtime for assisting

at the 2023 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy. The Respondent's act constituted the

use of public office for the private gain of his spouse.

In accordance with W. Va. Code § 6B-2-4(g), the Commission staff is hereby

Ordered to prepare a Statement of Charges and to schedule this matter for a public

hearing to determine the truth or falsity of the charges set forth in Counts One through

Eight.

The Probable Cause Review Board finds that there is not probable cause to

believe that the Respondent violated the Ethics Act regarding the allegation in the

Complaint that the Respondent used public resources for the private benefit of New Day

Christian Center's members and staff and therefore, in accordance with W. Va. Code §

6B-2-4(g), dismisses that claim.

ENTERED: April 16, 2025

Michael A. Kawash, Chairperson

Probable Cause Review Board

Daniel J. Guida, Member

Probable Cause Review Board