

BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION

In Re:

RICHARD MARTIN,

COMPLAINT NO. VCRB 2024-116

Former Mayor of Reedy, Respondent

PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER

The Probable Cause Review Board, having investigated and considered the allegations set forth in VCRB 2024-116, unanimously finds that there is probable cause to believe that the Respondent, Richard Martin, ("Martin" or "Respondent"), violated the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act, in his public position as Mayor of Reedy, as follows:


Count One On or about July 25, 2024 the Respondent violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b) and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-5.2 (2022), by utilizing funds from the Reedy maintenance account to pay his personal electric bill. The Respondent's act constituted the use of public office for his own private gain..

Count Two In May and/or June of 2024, the Respondent violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(4) and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3 (2022) by favoring a relative, his father, by rehiring him only one month after he had been given vacation and sick time that was unearned as a retirement gift by city council. The Respondent's act constituted the use of public office for the private gain of a relative.

Count Three In 2024, the Respondent took thousands of dollars in bingo/raffle cash proceeds that belonged to the city. The Respondent's act constituted the use of public office for his own private gain.

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 three.

ENTERED: July 16, 2025



Michael A. Kawash, Chairperson
Probable Cause Review Board



Daniel J. Guida, Member
Probable Cause Review Board

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kimberly B. Weber, Executive Director of the West Virginia Ethics Commission, hereby certify that I mailed a true and complete copy of the foregoing **PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER, STATEMENT OF CHARGES, and NOTICE OF HEARING** on July 18, 2025, to:

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested:

Richard Martin
130 Locust Street
Reedy, WV 25270
Respondent

Via Email and Hand Delivery:

John N. Ellem, Esquire
Deputy General Counsel
West Virginia Ethics Commission
210 Brooks Street, Suite 300
Charleston, WV 25301
john.n.ellem@wv.gov
Counsel for Complainant



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