

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:

Count One 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.

Count Two 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.

Count Four 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.

Count Five 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.

Count Six 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.

Count Seven 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