

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**

Conciliation Agreement

The West Virginia Ethics Commission and Matthew "Scotty" Adams freely and voluntarily enter into the following Conciliation Agreement pursuant to W. Va. Code § 6B-2-4(t) to resolve all the potential charges arising from allegations of violations of the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act based upon the facts set forth below.

Findings of Fact

1. Matthew "Scotty" Adams ("Respondent" or "Adams") was the Chief Deputy of the Brooke County Sheriff's Department at all times pertinent herein.
2. Adams was a "public official" as defined in the Ethics Act, at W. Va. Code § 6B-1-3(k).
3. The Ethics Commission has jurisdiction over alleged violations of the West Virginia Ethics Act committed by public employees or officials, such as Adams. W. Va. Code §§ 6B-1-1 through 6B-3-11.
4. Adams served honorably in law enforcement for approximately thirty years, serving as Chief Deputy Sheriff of Brooke County during calendar years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

5. Angel Adams, spouse of Respondent, is the pastor of a religious organization known as the New Day Christian Center. Annually, an event is held in Brooke County known as the Wellsburg Junior Police Academy. The New Day Christian Center was the main sponsor of the event with members of the congregation volunteering at the event. Other local organizations were also involved in sponsoring and promoting the event.

6. Respondent was the driving force behind the [Wellsburg Junior Police Academy](#), helping to organize and promote the event. He was present at the event and was generally in charge of the activities, though not in charge of every aspect of the event.

7. The Wellsburg Junior Police Academy used Brooke County Sheriff's Department's weapons and ammunition in the firearms training of participants at the event. Additionally, deputy sheriffs other than Respondent attended the event at Respondent's direction. The Respondent and the other deputies were on the clock for the Sheriff's Department.

8. Richard Beatty, Sheriff of Brooke County, did not authorize the use of the Sheriff's Department's weapons and ammunition that were used in the training. Though he consented to the deputy sheriffs participating in the event on their regular work shifts, he did not authorize these deputies working over their regular shifts and being paid overtime for participation in the event.

9. The Brooke County Board of Education allowed the Wellsburg Junior Police Academy to use school property as a venue for the event in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The Board of Education requires sponsors of such events held on its property to

provide documentation indicating a rider with liability insurance covering the event. The New Day Christian Center provided the required insurance for the event each year.

10. The Brooke County Sheriff's Department paid \$1,108.97 in overtime to deputies for assisting at the 2021 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy, including \$307.60 to the Respondent. The participants at the 2021 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy used ammunition belonging to the Brooke County Sheriff's Department worth \$273.20.

11. The Brooke County Sheriff's Department paid \$1,747.68 in overtime to deputies for assisting at the 2022 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy, including \$269.15 to the Respondent. The participants at the 2022 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy used ammunition belonging to the Brooke County Sheriff's Department worth \$273.20.

12. The Brooke County Sheriff's Department paid \$3,563.63 in overtime to deputies for assisting at the 2023 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy, including \$730.55 to the Respondent. The participants at the 2023 Wellsburg Junior Police Academy used ammunition belonging to the Brooke County Sheriff's Department worth \$273.20.

Relevant Legal Provisions

W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1) states that a public official or public employee may not knowingly and intentionally use his or her office for his or her own private gain or that of another person. The related legislative rule, W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-5.2 (2022), states, "Improper Use - Public officials and public employees may not use government property for personal projects or activities that result in private gain."

Conciliation of Violations

I, Matthew Adams, admit that I violated W. Va. Code §§ 6B-2-5(b)(1) and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-5.2 (2022) of the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act and related legislative rules. I assert that the Brooke County Sheriff's department benefited greatly by the improved community relations and positive publicity resulting from the Wellsburg Junior Police Academy. It was never my intention to violate the Ethics Act.

In order to resolve this matter, I am entering into this Conciliation Agreement. I understand that for this Agreement to be finalized, the Ethics Commission must approve it.

In consideration of the settlement of this matter, I agree to the Commission's imposition of the following sanctions:

- 1.. A fine in the amount of \$500.00 to be paid to the West Virginia Ethics Commission;
- 2.. Restitution to the Brooke County Sheriff's Department of \$819.20 within 30 days of the entrance of the Order approving the Conciliation Agreement for ammunition utilized in the Wellsburg Junior Police Academy in 2021, 2022, and 2023, and
3. To undergo training on the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act, either in person, virtually, or by viewing the training provided on the Ethics Commission's website, at [West Virginia Ethics Commission](#), within 30 days of the entrance of the Order approving the Conciliation Agreement. I shall provide written confirmation of the completion of this training to the Ethics Commission within five business days of completing it.

I understand and agree that if the Ethics Commission fails to approve this Conciliation Agreement, then this Conciliation Agreement is null and void and the Complaint against me will proceed before the Hearing Examiner, where it will be

processed in accordance with the West Virginia Code and the Ethics Commission's Legislative Rules.

If the Ethics Commission approves the Agreement, it will enter an Order in which it approves the Agreement and sets forth the sanctions listed above. Both parties understand that, pursuant to W. Va. Code § 6B-2-4(t), this Conciliation Agreement and Commission Order must be made available to the public.

I hereby certify that I have read, understood, and agree to be bound by this agreement.

December 23, 2025
Date

/s/ Matthew Scotty Adams
Matthew "Scotty" Adams, Respondent

Approved by the West Virginia Ethics Commission:

January 8, 2026
Date

/s/ Robert J. Wolfe
Robert J. Wolfe, Chairperson
West Virginia Ethics Commission

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COMPLAINT NO. VCRB 2024-05

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Sheriff's Department, Respondent**

COMMISSION'S ORDER

After considering the Findings of Fact, Relevant Legal Provisions, and Conciliation of Violations in the Conciliation Agreement, the West Virginia Ethics Commission finds that the Conciliation Agreement is in the best interests of the State and Matthew "Scotty" Adams as required by W. Va. Code § 6B-2-4(t). In accordance with W. Va. Code § 6B-2-4(s), the Commission imposes the following sanctions:

1. A fine in the amount of \$500.00 to be paid to the West Virginia Ethics Commission;
2. Restitution to the Brooke County Sheriff's Department of \$819.20 within 30 days of the entrance of the Order approving the Conciliation Agreement for ammunition utilized in the Wellsburg Junior Police Academy in 2021, 2022, and 2023, and
3. To undergo training on the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act, either in person, virtually, or by viewing the training provided on the Ethics Commission's website, at West Virginia Ethics Commission, within 30 days of the entrance of the Order approving the Conciliation Agreement. I shall provide written confirmation of the completion of this training to the Ethics Commission within five business days of completing it.

January 8, 2026
Date

/s/ Robert J. Wolfe
Robert J. Wolfe, Chairperson
West Virginia Ethics Commission