



**SPECIAL MEETING OF FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023 – 11:00AM
CITY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
324 WEST EVANS STREET
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor Pro Tempore George Jebaily, Councilwoman Lethonia Barnes, Councilman Chaquez T. McCall, Councilman Bryan A. Braddock, Councilwoman LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson, and Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Randall S. Osterman, City Manager; Mr. Scotty Davis, Deputy City Manager; Mr. James W. Peterson, Jr., City Attorney; and Mrs. Amanda Pope, Director of Marketing, Communications and Municipal Services; Mrs. Linda Becote, Defendant; and Mr. John Bledsoe, Attorney for the Defendant

MEDIA PRESENT

Ms. Natasha Laguerre with WMBF News, Mrs. Tonya Brown with WPDE, Ms. Taylor Ford with WBTW and Mr. Christian Smith with the Florence Morning News were present for the meeting.

Notices of this special meeting of City Council were provided to the media and individuals requesting a copy of the agenda informing them of the date, location and time of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ervin called the April 20, 2023 special meeting of Florence City Council to order at 11:06 a.m.

INVOCATION

Mayor Ervin gave the invocation for the meeting. The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag followed the invocation.

HEARING FOR REMOVAL OF HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMISSIONER

Mayor Ervin said a hearing will be held to determine whether Linda Becote shall be removed as a Commissioner of the Housing Authority for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office and declared the hearing open.

Mr. Jim Peterson, City Attorney, said as the public body which appoints commissioners to the Housing Authority of Florence, South Carolina statutes gives City Council the authority to remove a commissioner upon a finding of inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office. However, a commissioner may only be removed only after he has been given a copy of the charges at least ten days before the hearing on it and had an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel. Mrs. Linda Becote and her attorney, Mr. John Bledsoe, were provided with the required notice and they are present at today's hearing to participate.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – APRIL 20, 2023**

Mr. Peterson submitted to Council Exhibit 1, a copy of the notice of hearing for removal. A copy of the notice is attached to and made part of the minutes. Mr. Bledsoe has also been provided a copy of the Exhibit. Mr. Peterson noted that the notice has the original scheduled date for the hearing of March 31, 2023 at 10:00am; however, the hearing was postponed on several occasions, once being at the request of Mr. Bledsoe.

Mr. Peterson said Council conducted an investigation before determining this hearing was appropriate. From the investigation, three exhibits will be submitted as evidence for Council to consider. Mr. Peterson reminded the attendees that Council does not have subpoena power to force witness testimony; therefore, two of the exhibits are affidavits that were submitted. Mr. Peterson noted for the record that he received a written objection from Mr. Bledsoe on the inclusion of any affidavits. The objection is based on the inability to cross examine a witness due to submission of affidavits as opposed to witness testimony.

Mr. Peterson submitted to Council Exhibit 2, Exhibit 3, and Exhibit 4 which are being submitted in subject to Mr. Bledsoe's objection. With Mr. Bledsoe's permission, Mr. Peterson also submitted to Council his written objection. The written objection is attached to and made part of these minutes.

Mr. Peterson published Exhibit 2. Exhibit 2 is the affidavit of Mr. Esperone Huggins, Director of Facility Management, Housing Authority of Florence. A copy of this affidavit is attached to and made part of these minutes.

Mr. Peterson published Exhibit 3. Exhibit 3 is the affidavit of Ms. Monica White, Director of Finance, Housing Authority of Florence. A copy of this affidavit is attached to and made part of these minutes.

Mr. Peterson published Exhibit 4. Exhibit 4 is a Resolution passed by the Florence Housing Authority Board of Commissioners authorizing the submission of petition to the Mayor of the City of Florence requesting removal of Commissioner Linda Becote. A copy of this Resolution is attached to and made part of these minutes.

Mr. Peterson turned the podium over to Mr. Bledsoe to present matters on behalf of Mrs. Becote. Mr. Bledsoe stated that the affidavit of Mr. Esperone Huggins (Exhibit 2) is full of false accusations, hearsay, and lies. Mr. Bledsoe called attention to several accusations within the affidavit of Mr. Huggins, beginning with the statement that Ms. Becote created a largely dysfunctional board. Mr. Bledsoe stated this statement is hearsay. Mr. Huggins never attended a single board meeting and, therefore, has no personal knowledge of how Mrs. Becote conducted herself as Chairperson at meetings.

Mr. Bledsoe then called attention to the statement within the affidavit that Mrs. Becote purchased appliances and had them installed by the Housing Authority maintenance crew. Mr. Bledsoe said this statement is a lie; the appliances were purchased and installed by Home Depot. Mr. Bledsoe submitted to Council service invoices from Home Depot. These invoices are attached to and made part of these minutes.

Mr. Bledsoe called attention to the statement within the affidavit that Mrs. Becote used special influence to repaint the inside of her house and said this statement is false. Mr. Bledsoe said Mrs. Becote approached Ms. Clamentine Elmore, who was the Executive Director of the Housing Authority at the time and asked her if she was able to paint the inside of her house different colors, to which Ms. Elmore replied she could but only if she paid for it. Mr. Bledsoe said Mrs. Becote purchased the paint and did the painting; the maintenance crew was not involved in the paint job at all.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – APRIL 20, 2023**

Mr. Bledsoe called attention to the statement within the affidavit that Mrs. Becote did not allow certain Housing Authority employees to her house to make repairs or turned them away. Within the affidavit, Mr. Huggins claims other tenants were not allowed to do this, but Mr. Bledsoe said this statement is not true; any tenant had the ability to tell maintenance that the time was inconvenient.

Mr. Bledsoe called attention to the catering bill submitted as an attachment to the affidavit. The catering check is attached to and made part of these minutes. Mr. Bledsoe said Mrs. Becote was a member of the board for 18 years and this was the only check found made out to the catering service. Mr. Bledsoe said there is a good explanation. Upon the hire of Ms. Elmore as Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Ms. Elmore decided to have a party. Having heard Mrs. Becote had a catering business, Ms. Elmore approached Mrs. Becote and asked if she would cater the event. Mrs. Becote said she would, however, she will not be able to charge a fee and she will only be able to charge for expenses because of her position on the board. Mr. Bledsoe said the check written to the catering service was solely for expenses related to the catering with no profit at all charged.

Mr. Bledsoe called attention to the statement regarding the fencing, stating this is another falsehood in the affidavit of Mr. Huggins. Mr. Bledsoe said at that time, the Becotes wished to place a fence in their yard and they asked Ms. Elmore if Palmetto Housing Corporation, who was in control of the Becote's house, would pay for the fence. Ms. Elmore then directed Mr. Huggins to go to the home to measure for the fence to see if Palmetto Housing Corporation would pay for the fence. Palmetto Housing Corporation would not pay for the fence, so the Becotes did nothing at that time about the fence. It was not until a later time that the Becotes purchased fencing material and hired Mr. Wilbur Johnson to install the fence with the maintenance crew having nothing to do with the fence.

Mr. Bledsoe called Mr. Thurmond Becote as a witness and Mr. Becote was sworn in by Mr. Peterson. Mr. Becote stated his full name and said he is married to the defendant, Mrs. Becote. Mr. Bledsoe asked Mr. Becote if he was aware that Mrs. Becote had been a Commissioner of the Housing Authority for many years, to which Mr. Becote replied his wife was placed on the Housing Authority board right after his tenure on the school board from 2006-2010. Mr. Bledsoe said there were allegations from Mr. Huggins that they purchased appliances and had the maintenance crews install them and asked if this were true. Mr. Becote said this is not true. Mr. Bledsoe asked what exactly took place. Mr. Becote said they purchased new appliances in their home in 2021. He said his wife spoke with Ms. Elmore about replacing the appliances and were told they could do so. They went to Home Depot and purchased a refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, and stove. Mr. Bledsoe asked where the appliances were purchased to which Mr. Becote replied Home Depot. Mr. Bledsoe asked who installed the appliances, to which Mr. Becote responded Home Depot. Mr. Bledsoe called attention to the Home Depot service invoice that was submitted to Council and asked Mr. Becote to read what was highlighted in yellow. Mr. Becote said highlighted in yellow on the invoice is "install." Mr. Bledsoe asked if this was on an invoice from Home Depot to which Mr. Becote replied yes. Mr. Bledsoe asked if any maintenance crew member of the Housing Authority was involved in the installation of these appliances, to which Mr. Becote replied no, the installation was done by Home Depot and their people. Mr. Bledsoe said Mr. Huggins made allegations that Mrs. Becote interfered with the Housing Authority maintenance crews and asked Mr. Becote who in fact dealt with the maintenance crews, to which Mr. Becote replied he always dealt with the maintenance crews when they came to the home and his wife was normally upstairs. Whenever the crews came to the home, Mr. Becote said he would open the door and direct them to the problem or concern at that time and leave them to do their job. Mr. Bledsoe asked if Mrs. Becote ever had direct involvement with the maintenance crews at any time, to which Mr. Becote replied no. Mr. Bledsoe asked if Mrs. Becote ever turned any maintenance crews away to which Mr. Becote replied no one was ever turned away because normally whenever there was a concern or something to be done at the home, they would give a date and a time for them to approve to come to the house and they would be sure to be at the



FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – APRIL 20, 2023

house at that time. Mr. Becote said he can't remember a time they ever turned a crew away. Mr. Bledsoe spoke of the fencing and asked Mr. Becote to tell Council about the fencing situation. Mr. Becote said they were raising their granddaughter and, due to safety concerns with the openness of the yard, they wanted to have the back yard enclosed by a fence. Mr. Bledsoe asked who they initially contacted about the fence, to which Mr. Becote replied his wife spoke with Ms. Elmore about the fence and Ms. Elmore sent Mr. Huggins to the home. Mr. Becote said he saw Mr. Huggins in the yard and walked outside to speak with him and Mr. Huggins told him he was there to do some measuring. Mr. Bledsoe asked if he or Mrs. Becote requested Mr. Huggins to come take measurements, to which Mr. Becote replied no. Mr. Bledsoe asked if they ultimately put up fencing, to which Mr. Becote replied yes, sometime later they did put up fencing and most modifications done to the home was in 2021. Mr. Becote spoke of the appliances again, saying on the particular day the appliances were picked up was the day their daughter passed away. He said Mr. Woods with the Housing Authority came to the house to pick up the old appliances when they received a phone call from their son-in-law that their daughter passed out and they needed to come over as soon as possible. He said they picked up the kids and took them back to the house they had no appliances because the old ones had been picked up by Mr. Woods, but the new ones had not been installed yet by Home Depot. Mr. Bledsoe asked again if they ultimately put up fencing, to which Mr. Becote replied they did put up fencing about six month after their daughter passed away. He said they got Mr. Wilbur Johnson to install the fence. Mr. Bledsoe then presented a proposal from Mr. Johnson and asked if this proposal was from Mr. Johnson to install the fence, to which Mr. Becote said it is. Mr. Bledsoe asked who measured the fence, to which Mr. Becote replied Mr. Johnson. Mr. Bledsoe asked who put the fencing in, to which Mr. Becote replied Mr. Johnson. Mr. Bledsoe asked if any member of the maintenance crews with the Housing Authority had anything to do with the fencing being measured or installed, to which Mr. Becote replied no. Mr. Becote further stated that after the fencing was up, Mr. Woods asked him who put up their fence, as he was interested in having a fence installed at his home, and Mr. Becote told him Mr. Johnson installed it. Mr. Bledsoe asked Mr. Becote if he personally knew anything about the catering job that was done for Ms. Elmore, to which Mr. Becote replied yes. He said they only received the cost of the food and the decorations for the event and received no profit. Mr. Bledsoe asked if they made a profit at all, to which Mr. Becote replied they didn't try to. Mr. Bledsoe asked if they charged a fee, to which Mr. Becote replied they didn't try to.

Mr. Bledsoe called Mrs. Linda Becote as a witness and Mrs. Becote was sworn in by Mr. Peterson. Mr. Bledsoe asked Mrs. Becote if it is correct that she's been on the Housing Authority board for approximately 18 years, to which Mrs. Becote said yes. Mr. Bledsoe asked if it is correct that she's served as the Chair of the board for last six years, up until January of this year, to which Mrs. Becote replied yes. Mr. Bledsoe asked if it was correct that she decided not to run for chairperson again due to health reasons, to which Mrs. Becote replied yes. Mr. Bledsoe asked if, while she was on the board and elected as chairperson of the board, how she would describe the functioning of the board under her guidance, to which Mrs. Becote replied it was great and meetings went very well and it was a very good board. Mr. Bledsoe asked when she decided not to run for chair again, did the board do anything for her, to which Mrs. Becote replied they held a reception for her at Victor's and gave her a plaque. Mr. Bledsoe published the plaque, which states "The Housing Authority of Florence Growing Strong Communities. We the Housing Authority Board of Directors present to Linda Becote this award of recognition. We would like to recognize your six years of outstanding service, loyalty and dedication in your job as board chairman for the Housing Authority of Florence 2016-2022." Mr. Bledsoe referenced the catering job and asked did she charge a fee or profit in any way from the catering job for Ms. Elmore, to which Mrs. Becote replied she did not, it actually cost her more than \$1400 to cater that event. Mr. Bledsoe asked did she solicit for the catering job, to which Mrs. Becote replied no. Mr. Bledsoe asked how it was she came about the catering job, to which Mrs. Becote replied Ms. Elmore approached her about the catering and she agreed, but only at cost and she could receive no profit. Mr. Bledsoe asked her why she felt she could charge no fee, to which Mrs. Becote replied due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Bledsoe asked if she ever



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – APRIL 20, 2023**

had any direct dealings with the maintenance crews from the Housing Authority, to which Mrs. Becote replied no. Mr. Bledsoe asked how maintenance was acquired if it needed to be done, to which Mrs. Becote replied she would call Ms. Stevens, who is the Assistant Director. Mr. Bledsoe asked if she had ever called or dealt with Mr. Huggins, to which Mrs. Becote replied no. Mr. Bledsoe asked if she ever turned any maintenance crews away, to which Mrs. Becote replied no. Mr. Bledsoe asked if she ever had any direct dealings with any maintenance crews when they came to her house, to which Mrs. Becote replied no. Mr. Bledsoe stated he had no further questions for Mrs. Becote.

Mr. Peterson approached the podium and notified Council that Mr. Jerrod Moultrie is attending the meeting and has requested the opportunity to testify. He said it is Council's decision as to whether they would like to hear Mr. Moultrie's testimony as a witness. Mr. Bledsoe objected, saying he had no prior knowledge of this witness or his testimony. Mayor Ervin asked Council to vote on if they will hear Mr. Moultrie. Councilman Smith recused himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest. A copy of the recusal statement is attached to and made part of these minutes. Council voted 5-1 against hearing Mr. Moultrie, with Councilwoman NeSmith-Jackson voting yes and Councilman Smith having recused himself.

In closing, Mr. Peterson asked Council to focus on the reasons for removal set out in the notice and said it is up to Council to decide whether or not there is evidence to support these findings of inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office and therefore determine whether or not to remove Mrs. Becote as a commissioner of the Housing Authority of Florence.

Councilman Braddock spoke, saying Council is not here today to determine guilt or innocence. They are here to determine whether a commissioner is removed because of either inefficiency, neglect of duty or misconduct in office. Councilman Braddock acknowledged Mrs. Becote's service to the Housing Authority and said it is greatly appreciated. He addressed Mrs. Becote, saying service on this Board is of great privilege and an honor and service is at the will of and representative of Council. Councilman Braddock defined misconduct as unacceptable or improper behavior and he further defined unacceptable as not satisfactory and not pleasing or welcome. Councilman Braddock said is not pleased with the situation that has brought everyone here today or the request for removal from the Housing Authority Board. The Housing Authority exists to help people with housing and there's many people in need. The situation on the current Board takes away from that and the Board needs to be focused on other things. Councilman Braddock made a motion to remove Linda Becote as a Commissioner of the Housing Authority, effective today, based on misconduct in office and Councilman McCall seconded the motion.

Mr. Peterson reminded Council that Councilman Smith has recused himself from the vote and has recused himself for every vote involving this matter, due to having served on the Housing Authority board prior to being elected to Council.

Councilman McCall spoke in favor of the removal of Mrs. Becote. He addressed Mrs. Becote, saying she was the chair of the Housing Authority for six years and he is basing his decision on inefficiency of the Board.

Pro tem Jebaily also spoke in favor of the removal of Mrs. Becote saying the critical and influential piece for him was the Resolution by the Housing Authority Board.

Councilwoman Barnes spoke in favor of removal also, saying when members are appointed to boards, they are an extension of Council and Council expects them to do the bidding of the people.



**FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – APRIL 20, 2023**

Council voted 6-0 in favor of the motion to remove Mrs. Linda Becote as a Commissioner of the Housing Authority of Florence, with Councilman Smith having recused himself.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the April 20, 2023 Special meeting of City Council was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Dated this 8th day of May 2023.



Casey C. Moore, Municipal Clerk



Teresa Myers Ervin, Mayor

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: J. Lawrence Smith II

Meeting Date: April 20, 2023

Agenda Item: Section _____ Number: _____

Topic: Hearing for removal of Housing Authority Commissioner.

The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37.) A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.

Justification to Recuse:

Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

Other: I was a Commissioner of the housing

authority board @ the time the investigation was launched & remained on the board for a portion of the duration of the investigation.

Date: _____

Member

Approved by Parliamentarian: _____

Exhibits and Attachments submitted by the Plaintiff – Florence City Council:

- Exhibit A – video of hearing
- Exhibit 1 – Notice of Hearing for Removal
- Exhibit 2 – Affidavit of Esperone Huggins
- Exhibit 3 – Affidavit of Custodian of Records
 - Exhibit A – Catering check
- Exhibit 4 – Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority
- Recusal Statement – Councilman J. Lawrence Smith, II

Exhibits and Attachments submitted by the Defendant – Linda Becote

- Home Depot receipt
- Wilbur Johnson receipt for fencing
- Objections to and motion to exclude affidavit of Esperone Huggins and any others

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR REMOVAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, pursuant to the provisions of §31-3-370(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, you are hereby notified that City Council of the City of Florence has decided to institute the statutory process to remove you as a commissioner of the Housing Authority of Florence for inefficiency, neglect of duty or misconduct in office based on the following charges:

1. While serving as Commissioner and Chair of the Housing Authority Board, you used your position to obtain inappropriate advantages in having maintenance and improvements completed at the home you and your family rented from the Housing Authority which is located at 3654 West Pointe Drive.

2. Inefficiency in carrying out your duties as Chair of the Board of the Housing Authority of Florence resulting in a dysfunctional board and many issues and questions regarding the overall functioning of the Housing Authority.

3. While serving as Commissioner and Chair of the Housing Authority Board, you used your position of influence to obtain inappropriate benefit to your catering business.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, in accordance with the requirements of §31-3-370(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, a hearing will be held before City Council of the City of Florence on March 31, 2023 in Council Chambers located at 324 W. Evans Street, Florence, SC, at 10:00 AM to provide you with an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel on the above referenced charges and the decision of your removal as commissioner of the Housing Authority of Florence.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT

OF

COUNTY OF FLORENCE

ESPERONE HUGGINS

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME, **Esperone Huggins**, who being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That I am over the age of eighteen (18) and competent to testify as to the matters herein. I have worked for the Housing Authority of Florence for 20 years, and I served as Director of Facility Management for the last 3 years.

2. In that capacity, I have been very familiar with, and the supervisor of the maintenance and repair efforts of the Housing Authority regarding properties it owns and/or manages.

3. One such property managed by the Housing Authority under my supervision is the property located at 3654 West Pointe Drive in Florence, SC. This location is owned by the Palmetto Housing Corporation, but is managed by the Housing Authority of Florence under a Property Management Agreement. Since this property was acquired for rental as affordable housing, it has been leased to Ms. Linda Becote and her husband.

4. For the entire term of the rental by the Becotes, Linda Becote has served as a Commissioner of the Housing Authority, and for many of the years, Ms. Becote served as Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

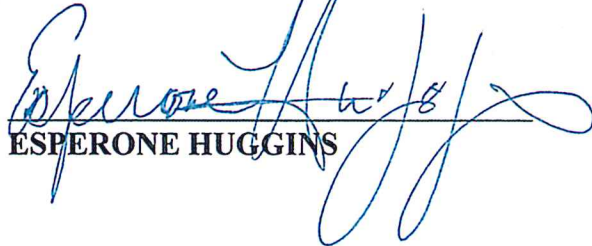
5. I am personally aware that during this rental period, Ms. Becote, on numerous occasions, used her position as a commissioner to receive special treatment in the way her home was maintained and repaired. This occurred repeatedly when, unlike other tenants, Ms. Becote required that certain employees in our maintenance department not be used at her home. In addition, Ms. Becote would dictate when our crews could come to her home to do work by telling crews they would have to come back at another time to be specified by her. Other tenants were not allowed to make such demands.

6. In addition, there was at least one occasion when Ms. Becote purchased new appliances for her home and required the personnel from our department to install those appliances for her. She also required that our personnel spend time doing measurements and assisting her in ordering fencing she was purchasing for the home. While other tenants are allowed to purchase new appliances with permission of the authority, they were required to have them installed at their expense.

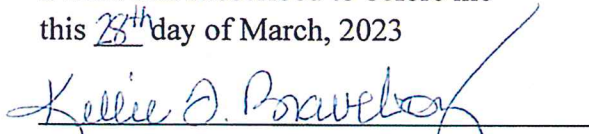
7. Finally, when our department would do maintenance, such as repainting in the Becote home, Ms. Becote would require that certain colors of paint be used in her home. Other tenants were not allowed to choose colors, and the repainting of their homes was done with paints we kept in stock.

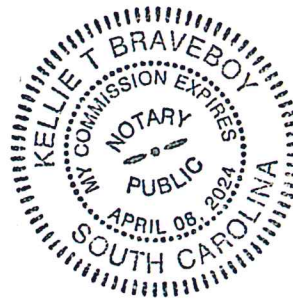
8. While Ms. Becote served as Chair of the Board of Commissioners Ms. Becote created a largely dysfunctional board that she convinced to support the Executive Director in anything the director wanted to do, and this resulted in many issues and questions regarding the operations of the Housing Authority.

9. In summary, Ms. Becote sought and received different treatment from other tenants of the Housing Authority because of her position as a commissioner and the chair of the board of commissioners.


ESPERONE HUGGINS

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 28th day of March, 2023


Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 4/8/2024



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF FLORENCE

AFFIDAVIT
OF
CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS

I, **Monica White**, of the Housing Authority of Florence (“Housing Authority”), being first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

1. I am employed with the Housing Authority, which is located in at 2311 W Palmetto St., in Florence, South Carolina. I am over the age of eighteen (18) and competent to testify as to the matters herein.

2. Since October 2021, I have served as Director of Finance for the Housing Authority.

3. In my capacity as Director of Finance for the Housing Authority, I have personal knowledge of the records included with this affidavit attached hereto as Exhibit A, including: (i) a copy of a check # 188867 of the Housing Authority of Florence dated February 13, 2017 issued by the Housing Authority of Florence to “Linda Becote B&B Catering”, and (ii) the Housing Authority of Florence Check History regarding check # 188867.

4. These records are kept in the possession of the Housing Authority in the course of regularly conducted business and is the regular practice of the Housing Authority to retain the records.

5. These records are kept under the custody or control of the Housing Authority and to the best of my knowledge are true and accurate.

Housing Authority of Florence

By: Monica White
Monica White
Director of Finance

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 30 day of March, 2023.

Janice Lee Stevens Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: 8-11-2032



ENDORSEMENT AREA: Know Your Endorser. Require Identification.

x *Randy Beato*

DO NOT WRITE, STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE

RESERVED FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION USE *

4086639696

THIS DOCUMENT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING SECURITY FEATURES EXCEEDING PSA GUIDELINES:

- COLORED SECURITY PATTERN ON FACE WITH COPIER "VOID". (VISIBLE WORD "VOID" INDICATES A PROBABLE PHOTOCOPY.)
- INVISIBLE ULTRAVIOLET FLUORESCENT FIBERS FACE AND BACK.
- ULTRAVIOLET DULL PAPER.
- ARTIFICIAL "SECURE DOCUMENT" WATERMARK VISIBLE ON BACK WHEN HELD AT AN ANGLE.
- PRIMARY INDICATOR STAINS • PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF ALTERATION.
- MICROPRINT ENDORSEMENT LINES ON BACK.
- SECURITY SCREEN ABSENCE OF "ORIGINAL DOCUMENT" VERBIAGE ON BACK OF CHECK.

ATTEMPTS TO COPY OR CHEMICALLY ALTER THIS DOCUMENT WILL ACTIVATE SECURITY FEATURES.

THIS DOCUMENT MAY INCLUDE A MICROPRINT SIGNATURE LINE.

* FEDERAL BANKING ACT 1987 - FEDERAL RESERVE REG. CC

CheckNum: 188867
 DIN: 523351856
 ReturnReasonCode:
 ReturnReasonDescription:
 Orig_DIN: 523351856
 ECEItemSeqNum: 000004086639696

Account: 4280938106
 Amount: 1,400.00
 PostDate: 20170213
 Tran ID: 523351741



Samsung Trip FABNEWS ONLINE

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF FLORENCE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF PETITION TO THE
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE REQUESTING REMOVAL OF
COMMISSIONER LINDA BECOTE

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of Florence (the "Authority") met at 10:00 a.m. on the 11th day of April, 2023 and recessed until April 12, 2023 at 11 am; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is organized and operates pursuant to the South Carolina Housing Authorities Law of the South Carolina Code, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the Authority are required to comply with the South Carolina State Ethics Law Authority ("Ethics Act") and other applicable South Carolina and Federal law; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the Authority are required to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts interest; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Authority grants the Authority the power to petition the Mayor of the City of Florence to remove a commissioner that has violated the Ethics Act; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the Authority have determined that Commissioner Linda Becote has violated the Ethics Act, and other applicable law, and the rules and regulations governing the Neighborhood Stabilization Program; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the Authority have determined that the conduct of Commissioner Becote has placed the Authority and the residents served by the Authority at substantial risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF FLORENCE:

1. The Authority hereby requests that the Mayor of the City of Florence take immediate action to remove Commissioner Becote from her position as commissioner on the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of Florence.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

* * * * *

Commissioner Thomas Porter moved the passage of the foregoing resolution and Commissioner J. Jerrod Moultrie seconded the motion and the resolution was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Williams, Commissioner Moultrie, and Commissioner Porter

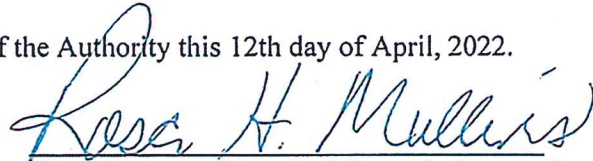
Nays: Commissioner Becote

Not Voting: Commissioner Mullins and Hawkins (Hawkins not present)

* * * * *

I, Rosa H. Mullins, Vice-Chairman of the Housing Authority of Florence, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Authority at a regular meeting duly called and held on April 11, 2023 and recessed until April 12, 2023 at 11 am, and that the proceedings of such meeting are recorded in the Minutes of the Board.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of the Authority this 12th day of April, 2022.



Vice-Chairman, Board of Commissioners of
the Housing Authority of Florence



SPECIAL SERVICES CUSTOMER INVOICE

Store 8580 FLORENCE, SC
3051 WEST RADIO DRIVE
FLORENCE, SC 29501
Phone: (843) 661-2597
Salesperson: JLL5VR1
Reviewer: SV995

VALIDATION

Date:
Transaction: 8580
Order Total: \$305.00
Amount Paid: \$0.00

SOLD TO

Name: **BECOTE THURMOND** Phone 1: **(843) 468-5966**

Address: 3654 W POINTE DR Phone 2:

City: FLORENCE State: SC Zip: 29501 County: FLORENCE

Job Description: RGA

MERCHANDISE AND SERVICE SUMMARY

VENDOR DIRECT SHIP #1

We reserve the right to limit the quantities of merchandise sold to customers

TO: CUSTOMER

| S/O - MERCHANDISE TO BE SHIPPED: | | NORTH AMERICAN | | REF # S01 | | ESTIMATED ARRIVAL DATE: 07/27/2021 | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|----|--|----|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| REF # | SKU | QTY | UM | DESCRIPTION | PI | TAX | PRICE EACH | EXTENSION |
| S0101 | 0000-590-337 | 1.00 | EA | M922 / M922-QTR INSTALL / M922-QTR INSTALL | A | N | \$89.00 | \$89.00* |
| S0102 | 0000-863-701 | 1.00 | EA | DELIVERY / APPLIANCE DELIVERY / FREIGHT | A | Y | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| S/O - MERCHANDISE TO BE SHIPPED: | | S/O L.G. APPLIANCES | | REF # S03 | | ESTIMATED ARRIVAL DATE: 07/27/2021 | | |
| REF # | SKU | QTY | UM | DESCRIPTION | PI | TAX | PRICE EACH | EXTENSION |
| S0303 | 1000-050-082 | 1.00 | EA | LMV1831ST / LMV1831ST / LMV1831ST | A | Y | \$200.00 | \$200.00* |
| VENDOR WILL SHIP MDSE TO: | | | | THURMOND BECOTE | | | | |
| ADDRESS: | | | | 3654 W POINTE DR | | | | |
| STATE: | | | | SC | | | | |
| ZIP: | | | | 29501 | | | | |
| PHONE: | | | | (843) 4685966 | | | | |
| COUNTY: | | | | FLORENCE | | | | |
| ALTERNATE PHONE: | | | | | | | | |
| CITY: | | | | FLORENCE | | | | |
| SALES TAX RATE: | | | | 8.0 | | | | |
| MERCHANDISE TOTAL: | | | | \$289.00 | | | | |
| PAGER: | | | | | | | | |
| END OF VENDOR DIRECT SHIP | | | | | | | | |

* Indicates item markdown
Customer Conv

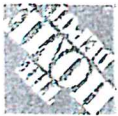
TOTAL CHARGES OF ALL MERCHANDISE & SERVICES

Policy Id (PI):
A: 90 DAYS DEFAULT POLICY;

The Home Depot reserves the right to limit / deny returns. Please see the return policy sign in stores for details.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| ORDER TOTAL | \$289.00 |
| SALES TAX | \$16.00 |
| TOTAL | \$305.00 |
| BALANCE DUE | \$305.00 |

END OF ORDER No. H8580-82525



Order #WG34474255

Placed on: Apr 14, 2021

Billing Information

Thurmond Becote
3654 W POINTE DR
FLORENCE SC 29501

Payment Method: VISA ***9104

| Item | Price/Item | Qty | Line Total |
|------|------------|-----|------------|
|------|------------|-----|------------|

Appliance Delivery (4 items)

3654 W POINTE DR, FLORENCE, SC 29501

| | | | |
|--|--|---|------------|
| LG Electronics 23.3 cu. ft. French Door Smart Refrigerator, InstaView, Dual & Craft Ice, PrintProof Stainless, Counter Depth | \$3,398.00 \$3,999.00 Saved 15% | 1 | \$3,398.00 |
|--|--|---|------------|

Parts & Services

12' Upgraded Braided Water Line

Expect it on Jun 25, 2021

\$17.28

| | | | |
|--|--|---|----------|
| LG Electronics 24 in. PrintProof Stainless Steel Top Control Built-In Tall Tub Dishwasher, QuadWash, 3rd Rack, EasyRack Plus, 46 dBA | \$698.00 \$849.00 Saved 18% | 1 | \$698.00 |
|--|--|---|----------|

Parts & Services

Dishwasher Parts Kit & Adapter

Expect it on Jun 25, 2021

\$21.98

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|------------|
| LG Electronics 7.3 cu. ft. Double Oven Electric Range with ProBake Convection, Self Clean and EasyClean in Stainless Steel | \$1,298.00 \$1,599.00 | 1 | \$1,298.00 |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|------------|

Saved 19%

Parts & Services

Range Power Cord

\$25.98

Expect it on Jun 25, 2021

LG Electronics 1.8 cu. ft. Over the Range Microwave with Sensor Cook and EasyClean in Stainless Steel

\$278.00
~~\$349.00~~
Saved 13%

1

\$278.00

Parts & Services

Otr Install

\$139.00

Expect it on Jun 25, 2021

Subtotal

\$6,035.23

Appliance Delivery

FREE

Sales Tax

\$414.40

Total

\$5,882.43

You Saved

\$1,661.20

Need help?

Online Customer Support:
1-800-430-3376

Major Appliances:
1-877-946-9843

Call 7 days a week:
9 a.m. to 2 a.m. EST

Proposal

Wilbur Johnson, II
5315 Heyward Rd
Eff, SC 29541

843-536-7784

| | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO: <i>Thurmond L. Beate</i> | JOB NAME | JOB # |
| ADDRESS <i>3654 Westminto Dr.</i> | JOB LOCATION | |
| <i>Florence, SC 29501</i> | DATE <i>6-23-21</i> | DATE OF PLANS <i>6-23-21</i> |
| PHONE # <i>(843) 468-5966</i> | FAX # | ARCHITECT |

We hereby submit specifications and estimates for: *151' of 6" privacy vinyl freedom*
with 10' Drive gate style fence poles will be in
concrete in ground professional installation
for the sum of
Material and Labor \$ 6100⁰⁰

We propose hereby to furnish material and labor – complete in accordance with the above specifications for the sum of:
 \$ *6100⁰⁰* Dollars

with payments to be made as follows: *Deposit \$4500⁰⁰*
Bal at completion of \$1600⁰⁰

Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written order, and will become an extra charge over and above the estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents, or delays beyond our control.

Respectfully submitted: *Wilbur Johnson, II* 6-23-21

Note — this proposal may be withdrawn by us if not accepted within _____ days.

Acceptance of Proposal

The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payments will be made as outlined above.

Signature: *Thurmond L. Beate*

Date of Acceptance: *6-23-21*

Signature: _____

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF FLORENCE)

Florence City Council,

Plaintiff,

-vs--

Linda Becote,

Defendant.

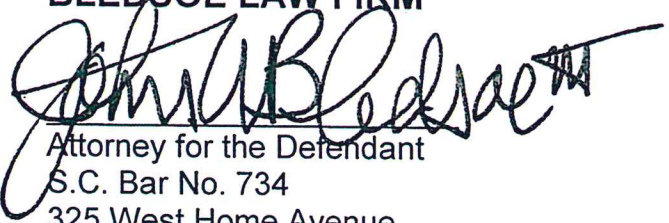
**OBJECTIONS TO AND MOTION
TO EXCLUDE AFFIDAVIT OF
ESPERONE HUGGINS AND
ANY OTHERS**

On behalf of Linda Becote, the undersigned hereby moves to exclude from evidence the above-mentioned and any other affidavit submitted by the City of Florence in this case. Affidavits are notoriously self-serving and one-sided subject to exaggeration and cannot be cross-examined.

Mr. Huggins' affidavit is full of hearsay, if not outright prevarication. We would ask that Mr. Huggins' affidavit be excluded from evidence and that he be required to testify in person. Attempting to submit his affidavit rather than in lieu of testimony is simply an attempt to avoid the truth especially since there has been no valid reason given why Mr. Huggins cannot testify in person.

I SO MOVE.

BLED SOE LAW FIRM



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843-332-2257 (Fax)
john@johnbledsoelaw.com

Hartsville, South Carolina
March 30, 2023