

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This agreement made and entered into between the Executive Branch Ethics Commission (hereinafter the “Commission”) and Ronald C. Brooks.

WHEREAS, this agreement involves the matter styled *Executive Branch Ethics Commission v. Ronald C. Brooks*, Case No. 14-011;

WHEREAS, the Commission is designated by statute as the agency responsible for enforcing the Executive Branch Code of Ethics, KRS Chapter 11A;

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2014, the Commission alleged facts in an Initiating Order that Ronald C. Brooks violated the Executive Branch Code of Ethics codified at KRS 11A.020(1)(b) and (d);

WHEREAS, Ronald C. Brooks was at all relevant times mentioned in the Initiating Order a “public servant” as defined in KRS 11A.010(9) and thus subject to the Executive Branch Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, Ronald C. Brooks indicates his desire to resolve all issues in this action by the execution of a Settlement Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in settlement of the above allegations, the Commission and Ronald C. Brooks agree, pursuant to KRS 11A.100, as follows:

1. Ronald C. Brooks admits that he committed violations of the Executive Branch Code of Ethics codified at KRS 11A.020(1)(b) and (d), as stated in Appendix A to the Commission’s Initiating Order of March 21, 2014, attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

2. Ronald C. Brooks agrees to pay the Commission a civil penalty of nine hundred dollars (\$900.00) concurrently with the execution of this Settlement Agreement.

3. Ronald C. Brooks agrees to cooperate fully with the Commission in any further investigations and will submit complete, accurate, and truthful interviews and provide complete, accurate, and truthful testimony in any Commission proceedings in which he may be called as a witness.

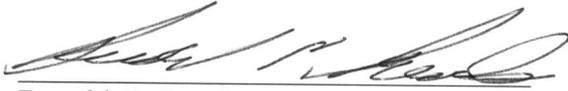
4. Ronald C. Brooks agrees that upon a Final Order being issued by the Commission that he waives all rights to any further administrative process or appeal pursuant to KRS 13B.140 thereon.

5. The parties further agree that the acceptance of this Settlement Agreement by both parties, and the fulfillment of its express terms, is in full accord and satisfaction

of the herein referenced *Executive Branch Ethics Commission v. Ronald C. Brooks*, Agency Case No. 14-011.

6. This Settlement Agreement constitutes a public reprimand to Ronald C. Brooks, a copy of which will be provided to his appointing authority pursuant to KRS 11A.100(3)(c).

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have caused this agreement to be executed:



Ronald C. Brooks

4-8-14
Date

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION:



Chair, William David Denton

5-19-14
Date



Vice Chair, William G. Francis

5-19-14
Date



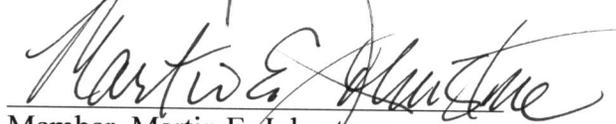
Member, Lewis G. Paisley

5-19-14
Date



Member, Richard L. Masters

5-19-14
Date



Member, Martin E. Johnstone

5-19-14
Date

**APPENDIX A
CASE NO. 14-011
INITIATING ORDER**

ALLEGATION OF VIOLATIONS

The Respondent, Ronald C. Brooks, was at all relevant times an employee of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, serving in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (“Department”), Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet. As such, the Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. KRS 11A.010(9)(h).

During the course of its preliminary investigation, the Commission found probable cause to believe that Ronald C. Brooks committed the following violation:

COUNT I

Ronald C. Brooks, during his course of employment as the Director, Fisheries Division, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, influenced a public agency in derogation of the state at large; and used his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for others in derogation of the public interest.

Specifically, in the Spring of 2013, Brooks used his position, at the request of then Commissioner Jonathan Gassett, to instruct a Department employee acquire a gallon of the controlled chemical Rotenone, that was originally purchased by the Department through a Department contract, from the Department’s stores for Gassett’s personal use. The Rotenone Gassett used could only be purchased by a certified individual. The Department did not have a law or regulation that allowed the Department to sell or provide Rotenone to the public. Gassett did not maintain the appropriate certification to purchase or use Rotenone at the time; nevertheless, Brooks ensured that Gassett received the Rotenone from the Department’s supplies.

These facts constitute violations of KRS 11A.020(1)(b) and (d).

KRS 11A.020(1)(b) and (d) provide:

- (1) No public servant, by himself or through others, shall knowingly:
 - (b) Use or attempt to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large; or
 - (d) Use or attempt to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.

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