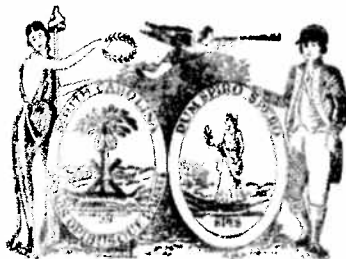


State of South Carolina
Executive Department

FILED

MAR 21 2008

Mark Hammond
SECRETARY OF STATE



Office of the Governor

2008-05

WHEREAS, the Grand Jurors of Horry County indicted Irene Evans Armstrong, Mayor of the Town of Atlantic Beach, on March 20, 2008, for three counts of bribery at elections and two counts of misconduct in office; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina law recognizes that "an act in which fraud is an ingredient involves moral turpitude..." see *State v. Horton*, 248 S.E.2d 263 (1978) and the above-referenced indictment is for crimes that involve moral turpitude, see S.C. Attorney General Opinion No. 83-48; and

WHEREAS, Irene Evans Armstrong is an officer of a political subdivision of the State and Article VI, Section 8, of the South Carolina Constitution provides that "[a]ny officer of the State or its political subdivisions...who has been indicted by a grand jury for a crime involving moral turpitude...may be suspended by the Governor until he shall have been acquitted;" and

WHEREAS, a certified true copy of the indictment against Irene Evans Armstrong has been provided to me.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of South Carolina, I hereby suspend Irene Evans Armstrong from the office of Mayor of Atlantic Beach until such time as she shall be formally acquitted or convicted.

This action in no manner addresses the question of the guilt or innocence of Irene Evans Armstrong and should not be construed as an expression of any opinion one way or another on such question.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2008.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", is written over a horizontal line.

MARK SANFORD
Governor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Hammond", is written over a horizontal line.

MARK HAMMOND
SECRETARY OF STATE