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CLERK, STATE GRAND JURY

STATE GRAND JURY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Report of the Twenty-Third State Grand Jury into the
Investigation of Lieutenant Governor James Kenneth Ard
regarding his campaign for Lt. Governor.**

March 9, 2012

INTRODUCTION

The State Grand Jury investigates public corruption pursuant to South Carolina Code Ann. Section 14-7-1630. We believe strongly that the public interest will be served in this case by the issuance of this report summarizing certain aspects of the Grand Jury investigation into this case.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

As stated in the true-billed indictment, Lt. Gov. Kenneth Ard organized and conducted two separate efforts to defraud the public with respect to his election campaign. He was aided in these efforts by various persons. However, as the candidate seeking election, Ard was the only person to benefit from these efforts. Further, as candidate, the duty rested with him to ensure that his campaign was conducted in a lawful manner.

Those persons who assisted him fall into two categories, namely: family and friends. These persons were, generally, ignorant of the illegality of Kenneth Ard's scheme. Additionally, these persons were not covered by the ethics laws and cooperated with the State Grand Jury's investigation.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS


Work on this investigation continued and an indictment has been returned. There have been 18 witnesses who have testified before this body. In addition, during the investigation SLED Agents and Investigators from the Office of the Attorney General have interviewed a great number of other persons, and statements of these additional witnesses have been summarized and made available to the State Grand Jury.

In addition, this Grand Jury has issued 46 subpoenas, resulting in 113 documents totaling approximately 7000 pages which have been available for our consideration during the course of this investigation. We have explored every lead and followed all investigative avenues. The Grand Jury

has thoroughly investigated all of the activities and events associated with Lt. Governor Ard's campaign for Lieutenant Governor.

This Grand Jury has found probable cause to believe that crimes were committed. The indictment we have issued speaks for itself as to these crimes and is incorporated by reference to this Report. We understand that this Report is within our public duty in matters of public concern. At this point, we do not believe that there are additional witnesses or documents which should be or need to be subpoenaed in this investigation. We also believe that all individuals who should be held criminally liable as part of the scheme have been indicted. However, in the event that additional information is discovered in the future, the State Grand Jury will consider that information.

We, the members of the Twenty-Third State Grand Jury, do issue this Report this 9th day of March 2012.


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STATE GRAND JURY