

1980 WL 120580 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

January 4, 1980

*1 Honorable Charles A. Ridgeway
Chief of Police
Town of Summerton
P. O. Box 161
Summerton, South Carolina 29148

Dear Chief Ridgeway:

This will confirm our recent telephone conversation and answer your opinion request.

You have asked whether you, as Chief of Police of the Town of Summerton, would have to resign in order to run for Sheriff of Clarendon County. We have researched this question to determine whether such action would violate the constitutional provision which prohibits dual office holding. We have been unable to find any authority which would require you to resign from the police force in order to run for Sheriff of the County.

However, as I indicated to you, you should check the Town ordinances to determine whether there is a local ordinance which would require your resignation. Also, if you are successful in your bid to become Sheriff, you would obviously be required to resign as Chief of Police in order to avoid violation of the dual office provision.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

James W. Johnson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

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