



U.S. Office of Special Counsel
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OSC FILES COMPLAINT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE FOR HATCH ACT VIOLATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, DC/June 14, 2011 – On June 9, 2011, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) filed a complaint for disciplinary action against Mr. Norman Jackson, an employee of the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

OSC's complaint, filed with the Merit Systems Protection Board, charges Jackson with violating the Hatch Act by being a candidate for public office in a partisan election. OSC alleges that Jackson was a candidate in primary and general elections for Richland County Council in 2010. OSC also alleges that at the time of Jackson's candidacy, he knew about the Hatch Act's restrictions on political activity.

The Hatch Act restricts the political activity of individuals principally employed by state, county or municipal executive agencies who have duties in connection with programs financed in whole or in part by federal loans or grants. An employee covered by the Act is prohibited from being a candidate for public office in a partisan election. The penalty for violating the Act is removal of the employee from his or her position with the state or local agency and debarment from employment with a state or local agency within the same state for the following 18 months.

OSC is an independent investigative and prosecutorial agency with jurisdiction to enforce the Hatch Act. OSC is authorized to provide advisory opinions on the Hatch Act and enforces the provisions of the Act by investigating allegations of violations and filing petitions for disciplinary action such as the one described above. For more information, please visit our website at www.osc.gov or call 1-800-85-HATCH.