OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

DOCKET NUMBER 2025-43	:	**165 CAPITOL AVENUE**
	:	
IN THE MATTER OF A	:	**SUITE 1200**
	:	
COMPLAINT AGAINST	:	**HARTFORD, CT 06106**
	:	
DAVID KEITH FOREN	:	**AUGUST 26, 2026**

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, General Statutes §§ 1-79, *et seq.*, Erin Ryan, a member of the public, filed a complaint ("Complaint") with the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") naming David Keith Foren as respondent ("Respondent"), alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. Based on the investigation by OSE (together with Respondent, the "Parties"), OSE finds that there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated General Statutes § 1-84 (c) of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials as further set forth herein.

The Parties have entered into this Settlement Agreement following the issuance of the Complaint, but without any adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein.

I. OSE'S POSITION

Based upon a preliminary investigation into this matter, the Ethics Enforcement Officer was prepared to establish the following at a probable cause hearing:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was employed as a Supervisory Assistant Public Defender at the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services.

2. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was a "state employee" as that term is defined in General Statutes § 1-79 (13).

3. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent had access to and used two state vehicles, a silver 2017 Honda Fit and a white 2017 Honda Fit, provided by virtue of his state employment (the "vehicles").

4. From, at the earliest, August 2020 to, at the latest, October 2023, Respondent drove the silver 2017 Honda Fit approximately 62,000 miles.

5. From, at the earliest, January 2023 to October 2024, Respondent drove the white 2017 Honda Fit approximately 29,000 miles.

6. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was subject to the Department of Administrative Services' General Letter No. 115, titled "Policy for Motor Vehicles Used for State Business," which prohibited the use of state vehicles for any purpose other than official state business.

7. Respondent's use of the vehicles as described above was primarily for personal and/or non-official activities.

8. Respondent did not reimburse the state for his use of the vehicles.

9. General Statutes §1-84 (c) states in pertinent part:

> [N]o public official or state employee shall use his public office or position . . . to obtain financial gain for himself . . . .

10. Respondent, by utilizing the vehicles for personal and/or non-official activities, used his public office or position to obtain financial gain for himself, in violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

11. Each time Respondent used the vehicles for personal and/or non-official use constitutes a separate and distinct violation of General Statutes § 1-84 (c).

12. General Statutes § 1-88 (d) states in pertinent part:

> [A]ny person who knowingly receives a financial advantage resulting from a violation of any of said sections shall be liable for damages in the amount of such advantage.

13. By engaging in the foregoing acts, Respondent knowingly received a financial advantage resulting from Respondent's violations of General Statutes § 1-84 (c), thereby violating General Statutes § 1-88 (d).

II. RESPONDENT'S POSITION

1. Respondent agrees to settle this matter in order to avoid lengthy and costly legal proceedings. Nothing herein shall constitute or be construed as an admission of liability or fault by Respondent.

III. JURISDICTION

1. The Ethics Enforcement Officer is authorized to investigate Respondent's acts as set forth herein.

2. OSE, through the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board, is authorized to enter into this Settlement Agreement.

3. The provisions of this Settlement Agreement apply to and are binding upon Respondent.

4. Respondent hereby waives all objections and defenses to the jurisdiction of the

Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board and the Ethics Enforcement Officer over matters addressed in this Settlement Agreement.

5. Respondent waives any rights he may have under General Statutes §§ 1-80, 1-82, 1-82a, 1-87, and 1-88, including the right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Ethics Enforcement Officer to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by General Statutes § 4-177 (c).

6. Respondent consents to jurisdiction and venue in the Connecticut Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, in the event that the State of Connecticut seeks to enforce this Settlement Agreement. Respondent recognizes that the Connecticut Superior Court has the authority to specifically enforce the provisions of this Settlement Agreement, including the authority to award equitable relief.

7. The terms set forth herein are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other existing or future statutory, regulatory, or other legal obligation that may be applicable to Respondent.

8. Respondent understands that he has the right to be represented by legal counsel and has been represented by counsel during OSE's investigation and in connection with this Settlement Agreement.

IV. AGREEMENT AND DISPOSITION

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 4-177 (c), the Parties agree that:

1. Respondent will comply with the Code of Ethics for Public Officials should he in the future become a state employee or public official.

2. Respondent will pay to the State the amount of twelve thousand five hundred dollars ($12,500.00) to resolve allegations of violations of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials,

as set forth in the Complaint and herein.

WHEREFORE, the Ethics Enforcement Officer and Respondent hereby execute this Settlement Agreement dated August 26, 2026.

Dated: 09/11/26

David Keith Foren
Respondent

Dated: 9.16.26

Mark Wasielewski, Esq.
Ethics Enforcement Officer
Connecticut Office of State Ethics
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