WHEREAS, Kenneth O. Ward, Horry County Magistrate, has been indicted by the Horry County Grand Jury for the following charges: seven counts of violating Section 16-17-640 of The Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, (Cum. Supp. 1990) ("Code") which deals with blackmail and extortion; one count of violating Section 16-17-410 of the Code which deals with criminal conspiracy; and

WHEREAS, I am informed that Kenneth O. Ward will be brought to trial pursuant to said indictments; and

WHEREAS, at least one or more of these counts are considered ones of moral turpitude; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 8 of the South Carolina Constitution requires the Governor to suspend any officer of the State or its political subdivisions who is indicted for a crime on a charge involving moral turpitude; and

WHEREAS, I, as Governor or the State of South Carolina, am mindful of the duties and responsibilities vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of such authority, I order that Kenneth O. Ward, Horry County Magistrate, be suspended from the Office of Magistrate of Horry County until such time he shall be formally acquitted.
This action in no manner addresses itself to the question of guilt or innocence of Kenneth O. Ward and shall not be construed as an expression of any opinion one way or another on such question.


CARROLL A. CAMPBELL, JR.
Governor

ATTEST:

JAMES M. MILES
Secretary of State