

1 A RESOLUTION directing the appointment of a committee to determine whether
2 there is sufficient cause to institute impeachment proceedings against Ronnie Lee Goldy,
3 Jr., Commonwealth's attorney for the 21st Judicial Circuit consisting of Rowan, Bath,
4 Menifee, and Montgomery Counties, and present articles of impeachment to the House of
5 Representatives.

6 WHEREAS, on July 15, 2022, the Inquiry Commission of the Kentucky Bar
7 Association filed a petition for the temporary suspension of Ronnie Lee Goldy, Jr. from
8 the practice of law pursuant to SCR 3.165(1)(b), alleging that Mr. Goldy posed a
9 substantial threat of harm to his clients or the public; and

10 WHEREAS, on August 4, 2022, Mr. Goldy filed a Verified Response to Petition for
11 Temporary Suspension and requested oral argument; and

12 WHEREAS, pursuant to Order of the Supreme Court of Kentucky, Special
13 Commissioner Jean Chenault Logue conducted an evidentiary hearing to create a record
14 from which the Supreme Court could determine whether probable cause existed to
15 believe that Ronnie Lee Goldy, Jr.'s alleged professional misconduct posed a substantial
16 threat of harm to his clients or the public; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Goldy acknowledged that he met Misty Helton in 2015 or 2016
18 while she was a defendant incarcerated in the Rowan County Detention Center and
19 communicated directly with her via Facebook Messenger, but testified that he had no
20 recollection of sending the documents presented to him at the hearing and could not tell
21 whether the documents were accurate or complete as they did not come from him; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Goldy initially denied that he had received photographs from Ms.
23 Helton, but later in his testimony acknowledged that he had received nude pictures on
24 two different occasions; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Goldy acknowledged that he had sent money to Ms. Helton; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Goldy acknowledged that Ms. Helton had called him several times
27 when she asked him to change court dates and he identified at least two occasions on

1 which he had warrants for failure to appear in court recalled on her behalf and a new
2 court date assigned, and that another occasion on which he contacted a District Court
3 judge and advised that Ms. Helton needed additional time for payment; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Goldy stated that their communications were within normal
5 procedure for the Commonwealth's attorney's office, as he would often contact the court
6 to move a court date or recall a warrant upon the request of a defendant if there was a
7 valid reason for the request and that this was "stuff he does every day"; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Goldy initially testified that he could not recall ever requesting a
9 video from Ms. Helton, but later clarified that in late April or early May of 2018, Ms.
10 Helton advised him she had a video of purported illegal activity and that he asked her to
11 send the video to him and that he would get it into the right hands; and

12 WHEREAS, Ms. Helton testified that she met Mr. Goldy in 2015 while she was an
13 inmate in jail and has had a personal relationship with him since 2015; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Helton identified the documents produced at the hearing as
15 conversations she had with Mr. Goldy on Facebook Messenger; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Helton testified that she and Mr. Goldy communicated from 2015
17 until the day before she was arrested in 2022 through various means, including Facebook
18 Messenger, texting, and phone calls, as well as personal meetings; and

19 WHEREAS, Ms. Helton testified that some of these communications included nude
20 photographs of her and further requests from Mr. Goldy for videos; and

21 WHEREAS, Ms. Helton testified that on October 28, 2018, Mr. Goldy advised her,
22 "Got your Rowan County stuff done. You are completely free of that. Still working on
23 Clark County. They are a pain"; and

24 WHEREAS, following the evidentiary hearing, the Special Commissioner issued a
25 report, including findings of fact, that concluded the evidence established "probable cause
26 to believe that Ronnie Lee Goldy, Jr., while serving as the Commonwealth Attorney for
27 the 21st Judicial Circuit, engaged in personal communications with Misty Helton, a

1 defendant in the 21st Judicial Circuit, regarding her various criminal cases. He discussed
2 Ms. Helton's criminal matters with her directly without her counsel being present and
3 clearly intervened on her behalf by having court dates moved or warrants recalled. In
4 return for this action, Mr. Goldy solicited nude pictures and videos from Ms. Helton.";
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the Special Commissioner found, "Throughout his testimony, Mr.
7 Goldy shows a complete disregard for SCR 3.130(4.2) regarding communication with a
8 person represented by counsel" and based upon his testimony the Special Commissioner
9 found, "Mr. Goldy's relationship with Ms. Helton was not in the normal course of
10 business for a Commonwealth Attorney."; and

11 WHEREAS, the Special Commissioner found Ms. Helton's testimony of the "quid
12 pro quo nature of their relationship" was supported by the Facebook Messenger
13 documents; and

14 WHEREAS, the Special Commissioner found "the evidence establishes probable
15 cause to believe that Mr. Goldy abused his power by using his official position as
16 Commonwealth Attorney to provide Ms. Helton with assistance in criminal matters for
17 her benefit while he expected and requested actions of a sexual nature from her for his
18 benefit"; and

19 WHEREAS, the Special Commissioner concluded "the Inquiry Commission has
20 established probable cause to believe that Mr. Goldy's professional misconduct poses a
21 substantial threat of harm to the public pursuant to SCR 3.165(1)(b)" and recommended
22 that Mr. Goldy be temporarily suspended from the practice of law; and

23 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Kentucky, by Order dated September 16, 2022,
24 adopted the report of the Special Commissioner in its entirety, including its findings of
25 fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations, and incorporated the report by reference
26 as part of its order; and

27 WHEREAS, on September 16, 2022, pursuant to SCR 3.165, Ronnie Lee Goldy, Jr.

1 was temporarily suspended from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky
2 by the Supreme Court of Kentucky with the further finding that disciplinary proceedings
3 against Mr. Goldy may be instituted by the Inquiry Commission pursuant to SCR 3.160
4 unless already begun or unless Mr. Goldy resigns under terms of disbarment; and

5 WHEREAS, the Court stated in its order it "makes no specific order regarding Mr.
6 Goldy's status to hold the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for the 21st Judicial
7 Circuit" referencing impeachment under Section 68 of the Kentucky Constitution; and

8 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 66 of the Kentucky Constitution and KRS 63.020,
9 the House of Representatives has the sole power of impeachment, and proceedings for
10 impeachment may be instituted in the House of Representatives; and

11 WHEREAS, given the significant and severe nature of the findings by the Special
12 Commissioner as adopted by the Kentucky Supreme Court against Ronnie Lee Goldy, Jr.,
13 and the temporary suspension of Mr. Goldy from the practice of law in this
14 Commonwealth, a committee should be formed to investigate and review the record to
15 determine whether impeachment proceedings should be instituted against Ronnie Lee
16 Goldy, Jr., Commonwealth's attorney for the 21st Judicial Circuit, and whether Ronnie
17 Lee Goldy's actions as stated by the Special Commissioner and adopted by the Kentucky
18 Supreme Court warrant articles of impeachment to be submitted to the House of
19 Representatives.

20 NOW, THEREFORE,

21 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
22 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

23 ➔Section 1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a
24 committee of the House of Representatives to investigate and review the record as to
25 whether impeachment proceedings shall be instituted against Ronnie Lee Goldy, Jr.,
26 Commonwealth's attorney for the 21st Judicial Circuit, and whether Ronnie Lee Goldy,
27 Jr.'s actions as found by the Special Commissioner and adopted by the Kentucky

- 1 Supreme Court warrant articles of impeachment to be submitted to the House of
- 2 Representatives.