STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P.O. BOX 4368
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July 14, 2020

VIA SHAREPOINT

The Division of Administrative Law
1020 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: *In the Matter of Sheldon Sheppard*
Agency Tracking No.: 2019-475

Dear Ms. Duhon:

On behalf of the Louisiana Board of Ethics, please file the attached *Charges* in the referenced matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 225-219-5619, and thank you.

Kindest regards,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Elizabeth Barrouquere
Staff Paralegal

Enclosures
cc: Mr. Sheldon Sheppard *(via certified mail no. 70180360000076690997)*
Mr. Kevin D. Thompson, counsel for respondent *(Via U.S. Mail)*

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS	*	**DOCKET NO.**
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	*	
IN THE MATTER OF	*	
	*	
	*	
SHELDON SHEPPARD	*	**AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2019-475**

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics voted on May 8, 2020, to and does hereby file the following charges:

1.

Sheldon Sheppard was employed by the Ascension Parish Public Works Department (hereinafter referred to as "Ascension Public Works") from June 23, 2008 until March 18, 2019 as a tractor operator earning an hourly wage rate of $17.55.

2.

As a tractor operator, Sheldon Sheppard was responsible for cutting grass for Ascension Public Works.

3.

Sheldon Sheppard was provided a fuel card by Ascension Public Works to purchase diesel fuel for the equipment he was responsible for operating.

4.

Sheldon Sheppard was not authorized to use the fuel card belonging to Ascension Public Works for his personal use.

5.

Between August 1, 2018 and March 11, 2019, Sheldon Sheppard in his capacity as a tractor operator, utilized the fuel card belonging to Ascension Public Works to purchase fuel for his personal vehicle which he was not authorized to do. The unauthorized purchase of unleaded fuel amounted to $450.85.

6.

Between August 1, 2018 and March 11, 2019, Sheldon Sheppard received an economic benefit in the form of unleaded fuel which he was not duly entitled to receive for the performance of his duties and responsibilities as a tractor operator for Ascension Public Works.

7.

Sheldon Sheppard was interviewed by the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office on March 14, 2019, whereby he admitted his involvement relative to the unauthorized use of the Ascension Public Works' fuel card for the purchase of fuel for his personal vehicle on 14 separate occasions.

8.

La. R.S. 42:1111A(1)(a) provides:

> No public servant shall receive anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is duly entitled, for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of his office or position.

9.

Based on the foregoing facts, Sheldon Sheppard, while employed as a tractor operator for Ascension Public Works, violated La. R.S. 42:1111A(1)(a) for receiving a thing of economic value other than compensation and benefits for the performance of the duties and responsibilities

of his office or position, when he used the fuel card belonging to Ascension Public Works for his personal use which he was not authorized.

10.

La. R.S. 42:1153B provides with respect to penalties:

> Upon finding that any public employee or other person has violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the board . . ., the Ethics Adjudicatory Board, may remove, suspend, or order a reduction in pay, or demotion of the public employee or other person, or impose a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

11.

La. R.S. 42:1155A provides with respect to penalties:

> If an investigation pursuant to R.S. 42:1141 reveals that any public servant or other person has violated any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics to his economic advantage, and after an adjudicatory hearing on the matter, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may order the payment of penalties. Recovery may include, in addition to an amount equal to such economic advantage, penalties not to exceed one half of the amount of the economic advantage.

12.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C(3)(b)(iv), the Board designates Gregory L. Thibodeaux and Tracy Barker as the Board's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (a) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charges; (b) determine that:

Sheldon Sheppard violated La. R.S. 42:1111A(1)(a); and (c) assess appropriate penalties in accordance with the recommendation of the Louisiana Board of Ethics to be submitted at the hearing.

Robert V. McAnelly
Chairman, Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Telephone: (225) 219-5600
Facsimile: (225) 381-7271

CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been forwarded to the Respondent via registered/certified mail, and to the attorney of record via electronic mail, on this 14th day of July, 2020.

RESPONDENT: Sheldon Sheppard
32330 Bowie St.
White Castle, LA 70788

Kevin D. Thompson
Attorney at Law
7921 Park Ave.
Houma, LA 70364
Attorney for Sheldon Sheppard

Gregory L. Thibodeaux
Trial Attorney