## FILED

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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

## BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re the Matter of

NO. 3713-F-105

CORRECTED
ORDER OF DISMISSAL

Toppenish and Wapato Municipal Court

Yakima County, Washington

The Respondent, the Honorable Ramon P. Reid (retired), former Judge of the Toppenish and Wapato Municipal Courts, filed with the Commission a motion, in the form of a letter dated September 15, 2003, stating that he had retired from his former municipal court positions in Toppenish and Wapato, effective September 1, 2003, and requesting that these disciplinary proceedings against him be terminated. The Respondent had previously filed with the Commission, on June 17, 2003, a Notice of Retirement wherein he stipulated that "my conduct, if established, would support a determination that I violated the Code of Judicial Conduct" and agreed that "I shall not seek or serve in any position performing judicial functions in the future without the prior approval of the Commission, except to perform marriages as allowed by law for retired judges."

By response dated September 17, 2003, Disciplinary Counsel Bruce A. Spanner supported the Respondent's September 15, 2003 motion to terminate these proceedings as in the public interest.

The Commission has considered (1) the fact the Commission has found probable cause that the Respondent violated the Code of Judicial Conduct and issued a Statement of Charges publicly filed on

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May 23, 2003, which charges are incorporated hereby by reference; (2) the Respondent's agreement not to serve in any future judicial position without the Commission's approval (except to perform marriages as allowed by law for retired judges); (3) the fact that the Respondent has in fact retired from his judicial offices; (4) the Respondent's stipulation that his conduct, if established, would support a determination that he violated the Code of Judicial Conduct; (5) the potential costs to the State for further proceedings; and (6) the fact that the Respondent has been previously admonished, on October 5, 2001, by the Commission for violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

While the Commission retains the jurisdiction and authority to proceed against a retired or former judge, the goal of the Commission to maintain confidence and integrity in the judicial system is adequately addressed by a termination of these proceedings. Therefore, the Commission hereby orders that:

- 1. The Complaint No. 3713 pending against the Respondent be dismissed in the interest of justice and, pursuant to Respondent's agreement, Respondent shall not hereafter hold any form of judicial office without prior consent of the Commission provided the Respondent shall be allowed to perform marriages as allowed by law for retired judges.
- 2. These disciplinary proceedings shall be closed and terminated subject to any Commission action necessary to enforce the Respondent's disqualification from office and closure.

**DATED** this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2003.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

HAROLD D. CLARKE III Presiding Officer