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## REPORT ON THE VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT PROTOCOL REGARDING UNAUTHORIZED GPM OATH CEREMONY

During early evening on Thursday, 8/11/16, I received a call from the Post Master General. He informed me that the General Post Master (GPM) oath ceremony for American National, Yolanda Lewis, had been performed without the required approval of the office of the Governor, violating protocol. I informed the Post Master General that I would attempt to determine the circumstances that led to violation and make a report to assembly on Monday, 8/15/16.

I spoke with the Secretary of State later that same Thursday evening (9ish-10ish PM EST). I informed the Secretary of State that my intent was to determine as best I could, what went wrong and report my findings to assembly with recommendations. During our conversation it became clear, and the Secretary of State acknowledged, that there had been a communication breakdown between the office of the Governor and the Department of State regarding which oath the Governor and the Secretary of State had discussed relative to Ms. Lewis. I asked the Secretary of State if there was any written communication issued. The Secretary of State responded that he was not aware of any written communication.

The Secretary of State also informed me it was his intent to contact Ms. Lewis to explain the situation. I offered to participate in that discussion, if requested. The call was concluded with these understandings between myself and the Secretary of State.

On Sunday, 8/14/16, the Secretary of State contacted me at approximately 8:30AM EST and reported that he had spoken to Ms. Lewis and explained to her the circumstances related to her GPM oath.

On Monday, 8/15/16, approximately 12:45PM, I spoke with the Governor regarding the sequence of events related to the GPM oath and he stated that he believed the entire incident stemmed from the fact that the office of the Governor failed to communicate its wishes in writing. I agreed with the Governor regarding the importance of written communications and I also mentioned to the Governor that I had identified other breakdowns in the process



and would report on them. After thanking the Governor for his cooperation, the call was ended.

### Conclusions:

- 1) During these discussions, I perceived no defensive posturing from any interviewee. On the contrary, I found each office-holder to be open and cooperative.
- 2) Working through the sequence of events with each individual, I was unable to identify any secret motives or malicious intent relating to any actions taken from any interviewees.
- 3) The office of the Governor should have issued its wishes via written communication.
- 4) The Department of State should have requested the office of the Governor issue its authorization to proceed with the oath directly to the GPMC, to maintain chain of authority.
- 5) The Clerk for the Court and the GPMC should have confirmed the authorization to proceed had been issued from the proper authority (the office of the Governor) and not relied upon verbal testimony of a separate office/department outside the chain of authority.
- 6) Had any of these offices relied upon written communications, it is likely this violation could have been avoided.
- 7) It is my opinion that it was human error --- in the form of administrative mistakes or bureaucratic breakdowns --- that culminated in this violation of government protocol and was not the result of malicious intent by any office-holder.

### Recommendations for Resolution:

- 1) Rescission of the GPM oath. This is not a punishment against Ms. Lewis. This serves to correct the wrong --- that of a GPM oath being performed without the approval of the office of the Governor.

The integrity of government protocol must be restored and the chain of authority established within the Government of The United States of America must be honored, for the benefit of all current and future American Nationals and General Post Masters. I believe this will also serve to confirm publicly the honor of Ms. Lewis, so as not to be perceived by others as obtaining GPM status via human error, administrative blunders or political favoritism.

- 2) Written Communication Policies: The importance of written communication between offices and departments cannot be over-emphasized. It is my opinion that this unfortunate



incident could have been avoided if all office and departments relied upon, as standard practice and procedure, written communications.

Official government communications should be issued in writing preferably on appropriate office/department letterhead (although text and emails can be viable alternatives). Additionally, verbal communications --- particularly authorizations or directives --- should be requested in writing by the receiving party from the issuing party. In hopes of avoiding administrative breakdowns and limiting human error in the future, all office-holders should implement and maintain an "in writing" policy when conducting any form of government business.

End of report.



Chief Judge  
General Post Master Council

