

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

---

In the Matter of the Proceeding  
Pursuant to Section 44, subdivision 4,  
of the Judiciary Law in Relation to

**JOSEPH THAXTON,**

**STIPULATION**

a Justice of the Spring Valley Village Court,  
Rockland County.

---

THE FOLLOWING IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission on Judicial Conduct (hereinafter "Commission"), the Honorable Joseph Thaxton, the respondent in this proceeding, and his attorney, Ariane D. Austin.

1. This Stipulation is presented to the Commission in connection with a formal proceeding pending against respondent.
2. Respondent has been a Justice of the Spring Valley Village Court, Rockland County, since 1988. He is not an attorney.
3. On October 29, 2004, respondent was served by the Commission with a Formal Written Complaint, containing seven charges of misconduct.
4. The Commission appointed Robert L. Ellis, Esq., as referee to report proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law in this matter. Mr. Ellis scheduled a hearing to commence on April 11, 2005.
5. Respondent tenders his resignation, dated April 5, 2005, effective June 6, 2005, and affirms that he will neither seek nor accept judicial office at any time in

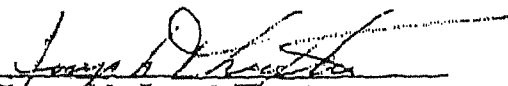
the future. A copy of respondent's letter of resignation is attached.

6. Pursuant to law, the Commission has 120 days from the date of a judge's resignation to complete the proceedings, and if the Commission determines that the judge should be removed from office, file a determination with the Court of Appeals.

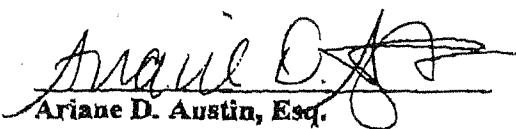
7. All parties to this Stipulation respectfully request that the Commission close the pending matter based upon this Stipulation.

8. Respondent waives confidentiality as provided by Section 45 of the Judiciary Law to the limited extent that this Stipulation will be made public if accepted by the Commission.

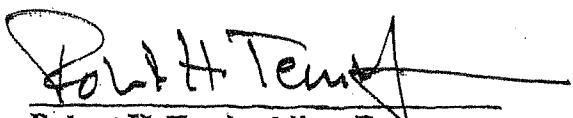
Dated: 4/06/05

  
Honorable Joseph Thaxton  
Respondent

Dated: 4/6/05

  
Ariane D. Austin, Esq.  
Attorney for Respondent

Dated: 4/4/05

  
Robert H. Tembeckjian, Esq.  
Administrator & Counsel to the Commission  
(Alan W. Friedberg Of Counsel)

April 5, 2005

5 Memorial Park Drive  
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Hon. George O. Darden  
200 N. Main Street  
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Dear Mayor Darden:

After serious consideration and advice of counsel, I am tendering my resignation as Spring Valley Village Justice effective Monday, June 6, 2005.

It has been a pleasure serving the people of the Village of Spring Valley in this capacity.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph D. Thaxton".

Joseph D. Thaxton

cc: Office of Court Administration