

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
 COMPLAINT C2013-139)
)
 Robert E. Templeton,)
 Respondent.)
)
 State Ethics Commission,)
 Complainant.)
 _____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

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This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission on June 10, 2013. The complaint against the Respondent, Robert E. Templeton, was considered by the Commission on September 18, 2013, and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to entry of the following statements of fact, conclusions of law, discussion, admission, and disposition in this matter as follows:

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. The Respondent, Robert E. Templeton, is a member of Greenwood County Council.
2. Respondent received gross pay in the amount of \$9,034.88 from Greenwood County. On June 27, 2013 staff reviewed Respondent's original 2009 Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) report filed on April 11, 2013. The report documented income from Greenwood County in the amount of \$9,034.88.
- 3, Respondent reported that he did not file the 2009 SEI report until April 11, 2013, and he received a \$100.00 late filing penalty letter from the Commission. Respondent advised that he paid the late filing penalty.

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4. A review of Respondent's 2009 wage and tax filing statement revealed that Respondent received gross pay in the amount of \$11,095.01 from Greenwood County. On June 27, 2013 staff reviewed Respondent's original 2010 SEI report filed on April 15, 2010. The SEI documented income from Greenwood County in the amount of \$11,000.00.

5. A review of Respondent's 2010 wage and tax filing statement revealed Respondent received gross pay in the amount of \$11,830.89 from Greenwood County. On June 27, 2013 staff reviewed the Respondent's original 2011 SEI report filed on April 14, 2011. The SEI documented income from Greenwood County in the amount of \$11,000.00.

6. Respondent advised that as soon as he was made aware of the complaint he immediately amended his SEI reports to document the exact amount of income he received from Greenwood County. On July 11, 2013 Staff reviewed the Respondent's 2010 and 2011 SEIs, and Respondent amended the reports to document the exact amount of income he received from Greenwood County.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Statement of Facts, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Robert E. Templeton, was a public official, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-100(27)(Supp. 2012).
2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
3. Sections 8-13-1110 and 8-13-1140 provide that certain public officials shall file a Statement of Economic Interests prior to taking the oath of office and annually thereafter prior to April 15.

4. Section 8-13-1120(A)(2) provides that a public official must disclose the source, type and amount of income received from a governmental entity.

ADMISSIONS

The Respondent, Robert E. Templeton, admits that he inadvertently violated Section 8-13-1120 and unintentionally violated Section 8-13-1140.

DISPOSITION

The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Robert E. Templeton in violation of Section 8-13-1120 and Section 8-13-1140, albeit inadvertent and unintentional, of the Ethics Reform Act and hereby adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Admissions, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission hereby issues this written warning to Robert E. Templeton for violations of Section 8-13-1120 and Section 8-13-1140 of the Ethics Reform Act,

AND, orders Respondent to pay an administrative fee of \$200.00 within 30 days of receipt of the signed order,

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 30th DAY OF OCTOBER 2013.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


Robert E. Templeton


PHILLIP FLORENCE, JR.
CHAIR