

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
))
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint 2014-014)
))
Robert T. Jones,)
Respondent.)
))
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
_____)

CONSENT ORDER

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission on August 5, 2013. The complaint against the Respondent, Robert T. Jones, was considered by the Commission on November 19, 2013 and probable cause 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, admission, discussion, and disposition in this matter as follows.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. The Respondent, Robert T. Jones, is an elected member of the Parker Sewer and Fire District in Greenville County.
2. Respondent stated that in July of 2013 he did have his personal vehicle repaired at the Parker Sewer and Fire District maintenance shop (the District). Respondent said that he met with the District mechanic at the end of the work day and asked him check on a problem with his vehicle's air conditioning. Respondent stated that he did advise the District mechanic the work should be done after the mechanic clocked out from work.

3. Respondent reported that the District mechanic used a machine to determine that his vehicle was low on freon, and the mechanic used freon owned by the District to repair the problem. Respondent said that he purchased two cans of freon to replace the Freon that the mechanic used to repair his vehicle. Respondent said that he notified the mechanic that he had two cans of freon. Respondent stated that he was going to meet with the mechanic to deliver the freon in the next few days.

4. A review of the Parker Sewer and Fire District policy manual revealed that in Section 21.15 district equipment and tools, (but not materials) may be used by District personnel or commissioners either at District facilities, or at home.

5. Staff interviewed Mr. Blake Harmon, the District maintenance shop supervisor, and Mr. Daniel Haddon, the District mechanic. They both provided written statements in regard to repair work they completed for Parker Sewer and Fire District Commission members including Respondent. Mr. Harmon advised that Respondent did contact him about replacing the freon that was used to repair Respondent's vehicle.

6. A review of Respondent's 2010 wage and tax filing statement revealed that the Respondent received gross pay in the amount of \$1,950.00 from Parker Sewer and Fire District. On October 1, 2013 staff reviewed Respondent's 2011 Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) reports filed on April 8, 2011 and August 24, 2011. The 2011 SEI reports did not document any income from the Parker Sewer and Fire District.

7. Respondent was advised that he did not disclose his income from the District on his 2011 SEI. He stated that he would amend his 2011 report, which he did on October 4, 2013.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Robert T. Jones, 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. Section 8-13-700(A) prohibits a public official from using his official position to obtain an economic interest for himself.
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. Section

ADMISSIONS

The Respondent, Robert T. Jones, admits he violated Section 8-13-700(A) and Section 8-13-1120(A)(2) of the Ethics Reform Act.

DISPOSITION

The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Robert T. Jones in violation of Section 8-13-700(A) and Section 8-13-1120(A)(2) of the Ethics Reform Act and hereby adopts the Statement of Facts, Conclusions of Law, Admissions, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission hereby issues a public reprimand to Robert T. Jones for his violation of Section 8-13-700(A) and Section 8-13-1120(A)(2) of the Ethics Reform Act,

AND, orders Respondent to pay an administrative fee of \$750.00 within 30 days

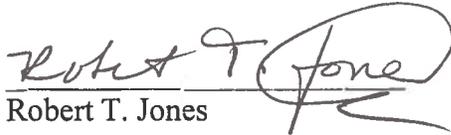
of receipt of the signed order,

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 31st DAY OF October 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



JAMES H. BURNS
CHAIR



Robert T. Jones
Respondent