STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF: COMPLAINT C2014-168	)	
James Bequette, Respondent.	)	**CONSENT ORDER**
Randy Bates, Complainant.	)	

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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Complainant, Randy Bates, on June 25, 2014. The complaint against the Respondent, James Bequette, was considered by the Commission on September 17, 2014, 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, admission, and disposition in this matter.

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. The Respondent, James Bequette, was a candidate for Beaufort County Council in the June primary and he was required to file a pre-election Campaign Disclosure form (CD) 15 days before the primary election.

2. An online check determined that Respondent did file his pre-election CD on June 1, 2014, nine days before the June 10, 2014 primary election.

3. In Respondent's statement he explained that his campaign treasurer was not available with Respondent's banks records until after the deadline. He was only five or six days late.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, James Bequette, was a candidate, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-1300(4)(Supp. 2013).

2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

3. Section 8-13-1308(D) provides that a candidate must file a pre-election campaign disclosure form 15 days before the election.

DISCUSSION

(Available to Respondent for mitigating information)

ADMISSIONS

The Respondent, James Bequette, admits that he inadvertently violated Section 8-13-1308(D).

DISPOSITION

The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Respondent James Bequette in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D), albeit inadvertent, 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 James Bequette for violation of Section 8-13-1308(D) of the Ethics Reform Act,

AND, orders Respondent to pay a late filing penalty of $100.00 and an administrative fee of $100.00 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

James Bequette

James Bequette