

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2014-094)

State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant,)

vs.)

Jackie K. Woods,)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DECISION AND ORDER

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STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission on February 10, 2014. On June 17, 2014, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2014), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint charging Respondent, Jackie K. Woods, with a violation of Section 8-13-1140 and probable cause was found.

Present at the Hearing on September 17, 2014 were Commission Members, James I. Warren, Chair, Francis E. Grimbball, and Julie S. Jeffords-Moose. Respondent was present and appeared *pro se*. Complainant was represented by Cathy L. Hazelwood, General Counsel. The following charge was considered:

COUNT ONE
FAILURE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

The Respondent, Jackie K. Woods, a member of Clio Town Council Barnwell County School District Trustee, did in Richland County, fail to timely file a 2013 annual Statement of Economic Interests form on or before April 15, 2013 in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Having carefully reviewed the evidence presented, the Commission finds as fact:

1. The Respondent, Jackie K. Woods, is a member of Clio Town Council and she is required to file a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) form annually by April 15, 2013.

2. Kristin Smith, administrative coordinator of the Commission's non-compliance office, testified that Respondent was elected to Clio Town Council in April 2012 and was required to file an annual SEI. Respondent was assessed a \$100.00 late filing penalty on November 4, 2013. The certified letter was mailed on December 17, 2013 and was delivered on December 19, 2013. On December 20, 2013 Respondent filed an amendment to her 2012 SEI and on December 27, 2013 she paid \$100.00. Penalties began accruing at \$10.00 per day for the first 10 days on December 29, 2013. On January 8, 2014 the Commission sent Respondent a letter acknowledging receipt of the late filing penalty and the amendment to her 2012 SEI. Respondent was told she still must file a 2013 SEI. Penalties begin accruing at \$100 per day on January 9, 2014. Respondent filed her 2013 SEI on February 24, 2014; however, the late filing penalty of \$4,900.00 was not paid.

3. Respondent testified that she was a first time candidate and wanted to help her town. She testified that she does not have the money to pay a \$4,900.00 late filing penalty.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Jackie K. Woods, was a public official as defined by Section 8-13-107(26).



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

3. Section 8-13-1140 provides that certain public officials shall file a Statement of Economic Interests prior to taking the oath of office and annually by April 15th in 2013.

4. Section 8-13-1510(1) provides as follows:

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, a person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late statement or report or fails to file a required statement or report must be assessed a civil penalty as follows:

(1) a fine of one hundred dollars if not filed within five days after the established deadline provided by law in this chapter;

5. Section 8-13-130 states in part:

The State Ethics Commission may levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is found in violation, or who admits to a violation, of the "Ethics, Government Accountability and Campaign Reform Act of 1991". The fee must be used to reimburse the commission for costs associated with the investigation and hearing of a violation.

DECISION

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the State Ethics Commission has determined based upon a preponderance of evidence that Respondent Jackie K. Woods is in violation of Section 8-13-1140; and therefore, Respondent Jackie K. Woods is issued a public reprimand; is hereby assessed a reduced late-filing penalty of \$500.00 to be paid within twelve (12) months of receipt of the order; and finally is assessed a \$500.00 administrative fee. If the reduced late-filing penalty and administrative fee are not timely paid then the amount owed will revert to the original late filing penalty of \$4,900.00.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Section 8-13-320, a Judgment in the



amount of \$4,900.00 is, and shall be entered against Respondent, if she fails to pay the reduced late-filing penalty within the time permitted.

FINALLY, Respondent Jackie K. Woods has ten (10) days from receipt of this order to appeal this Decision and Order to the full Commission.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 15th DAY OF October, 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



JAMES I. WARREN III
HEARING CHAIR

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

