

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
 )  
 IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 COMPLAINT C2012-046 )  
 )  
 State Ethics Commission, )  
 Complainant; )  
 )  
 vs. )  
 )  
 Anthony Brown, )  
 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 November 30, 2011. On March 21, 2012, pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. § 8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2011), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint charging the Respondent, Anthony Brown, with two violations of Section 8-13-1140 and probable cause was found.

Present at the hearing on July 18, 2012 were Commission Members Phillip Florence, Jr., Chair, Edward E. Duryea, and George Carlton Manley. Respondent was not present but was duly noticed. Complainant was represented by Cathy L. Hazelwood, General Counsel. The following charges were considered:

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

That the Respondent, Anthony Brown, a Charleston County School District #2 Trustee, did in Richland County, fail to timely file an annual Statement of Economic Interests form on or before April 15, 2010.

**COUNT TWO**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST REPORT**

**SECTION 8-13-1110, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That the Respondent, Anthony Brown, a Charleston County School District #2 Trustee, did in Richland County, fail to timely file an annual Statement of Economic Interests form on or before April 15, 2011.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. The Respondent, Anthony Brown, is a Charleston County School District #2 and he is required to file an annual Statement of Economic Interests form (SEI) prior to April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

2. Kristin Smith, administrative coordinator of the Commission's non-compliance office, testified that Charleston County School District Two returned its 2010 Statement of Economic Interests entity list on January 25, 2010 and its 2011 entity list on January 26, 2011 and each showed Respondent as a person required to file an SEI. Respondent was penalized in a August 26, 2011 letter for failure to file two SEIs. That letter was re-sent certified on September 20, 2011. It was returned as "return to sender – unclaimed" and re-mailed first class.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Anthony Brown, was a public official, as defined by Section 8-13-100(27).

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 at the time of assuming the duties of the position

and annually thereafter prior to April 15.

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;

(2) after notice has been given by certified or registered mail that a required statement or report has not been filed, a fine of ten dollars per calendar day for the first ten days after notice has been given, and one hundred dollars for each additional calendar day in which the required statement or report is not filed, not exceeding five thousand dollars.

#### **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 Anthony Brown is in violation of Section 8-13-1140; and therefore, Respondent Anthony Brown is hereby assessed a complaint fine of \$4,000.00 in addition to the late-filing penalty of \$10,000.00.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Section 8-13-320, a Judgment in the amount of \$14,000.00 is, and shall be entered against Respondent.

IT IS FURTHER THE ORDER OF THIS COMMISSION that the Clerk of Court of the County in which Respondent was last known to reside shall enter this Order in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the State Ethics Commission, in the amount of \$14,000.00 upon the Commission's filing of same with the Clerk of Court's Office.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF Sept, 2012.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Florence, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

PHILLIP FLORENCE, JR.  
CHAIRMAN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA