

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2012-049)
)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant;)
)
vs.)
)
Rebecca A. Crown,)
Respondent.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

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DECISION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission on December 7, 2011. On January 18, 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, Rebecca A. Crown, with a violation of Section 8-13-1110 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 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 8-13-1110, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That the Respondent, Rebecca A. Crown, a member of the Travelers Rest City Council, did 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, Rebecca A. Crown, was a member of Travelers Rest City Council on April 15, 2011 and she was required to file an annual Statement of Economic Interests form (SEI) prior to April 15th of each year.

2. Kristin Smith, administrative coordinator of the Commission's non-compliance office, testified that Travelers Rest returned its 2011 entity list and Respondent's name was on the list as a member of city council required to file an SEI. Respondent was penalized in a September 29, 2011 letter for failure to file her 2011 SEI. That letter was re-sent certified on November 10, 2011 and was delivered on November 12, 2011. On December 12, 2011 Respondent complied by filing her 2011 SEI. The outstanding late-filing penalty of \$1100.00 was not paid at that time.

3. Respondent testified that during this time she was divorced, but continued to care for her ill ex-husband. She nearly lost her home to foreclosure, but saved it. She managed to apply for disability for her ex-husband. Respondent did not run for re-election because of her family situation, although she hopes to in the future.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Rebecca A. Crown, 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 8-13-320(10)(i) provides in part:

(10) to conduct its investigation, inquiries, and hearings in this manner:

(i) . . . If the Commission finds probable cause to believe that a violation of this chapter has occurred, the Commission may waive further proceedings if the respondent takes action to remedy or correct the alleged violation.

DECISION

Based upon the evidence presented and the filing of the disclosure form the State Ethics Commission has determined that the Respondent, Rebecca A. Crown, has complied with the disclosure requirements of the Ethics Reform Act of 1991. THEREFORE, in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the State Ethics Commission waives further proceedings.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 15th DAY OF Aug., 2012.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



PHILLIP FLORENCE, JR.
CHAIRMAN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA