STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
COMPLAINT C2013-073	)	
	)	
Joseph K. Bowers, III,	)	
Complainant;	)	
	)	
vs.	)	**DECISION AND ORDER**
	)	
Cindy Bohn Coats,	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Complainant, Joseph K. Bowers, III, on November 19, 2012. On January 16, 2013, pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. § 8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2012), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint charging the Respondent, Cindy Bohn Coats, with a violation of Section 8-13-1140.

Present at the meeting were Commission Members Phillip Florence, Jr., Chair, E. Kay Biermann Brohl, JB Holeman, Jonathan H. Burnett and Richard H. Fitzgerald. The Commission found probable cause.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Respondent, Cindy Bohn Coats, is a member of the Charleston County School Board. School board members are required to file an annual Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) by April 15th.

2. On December 5, 2012 Respondent advised a Commission investigator that no one told her about the requirement to file an annual SEI. She stated she would comply and file the delinquent SEIs.

3. On December 6, 2012 Respondent filed SEIs for the years 2011 and 2012. A review of Respondent's online filing reveals that she previously filed an SEI on July 15, 2010 as a candidate. She would have been provided the instructions, to include annual filing requirements, at that time. In addition, she would have received an email notification prior to the annual filing deadline.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

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

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

3. Section 8-13-1140 provides that public officials must annually file an SEI by April 15th .

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 forms the State Ethics Commission has determined that the Respondent, Cindy Bohn Coats, 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 19th DAY OF February, 2013.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

PHILLIP FLORENCE, JR.
CHAIRMAN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA