

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2012-024)

State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant;)

vs.)

Dedric Bonds,)
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 State Ethics Commission on September 7, 2011. On November 16, 2011, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2011), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint charging Respondent, Dedric Bonds, with one violation of Section 8-13-1308(D) and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing.

Present at the Hearing on March 21, 2012 were Commission Members Edward E. Duryea, Chair, George Carlton Manley and JB Holeman. Respondent was not present but was duly noticed. Complainant was represented by Cathy L. Hazelwood, General Counsel. The following charge was considered:

COUNT ONE
FAILURE TO FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That the Respondent, Dedric Bonds, a candidate for Georgetown Town Council in an election on June 9, 2009, on or about May 25, 2009, did fail to timely file a pre-election Campaign Disclosure Report in violation of Section of 8-13-1308(D).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. The Respondent, Dedric Bonds, was a candidate for Georgetown Town Council in a June 9, 2009 election and he was required to file a pre-election campaign disclosure form (CD) fifteen days before the election.

2. Commission Investigator Dan Choate testified that Respondent filed a candidate Statement of Economic Interests form on March 31, 2009 stating he was a candidate for a Georgetown Town Council election. Respondent failed to file a pre-election CD and was penalized on June 10, 2011. A follow-up letter was sent certified on July 8, 2011 and by first class on August 2, 2011.

3. Investigator Choate testified that that the listed telephone number for Respondent had been disconnected. Respondent formerly worked for the Georgetown Times newspaper but is no longer there. Respondent did not leave a forwarding address or telephone number.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Dedric Bonds, was a candidate as defined by Section 8-13-1300(4).

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

3. Section 8-13-1308(D) provides in part:

At least fifteen days before an election, a certified campaign report must be filed showing contributions of more than one hundred dollars and expenditures to or by the candidate or committee for the period ending twenty days before the election. The candidate or committee must maintain a current list during the period before the election commencing at the beginning of the calendar quarter of the election of all contri-

butions of more than one hundred dollars. The list must be open to public inspection upon request.

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.

5. Section 8-13-320(10)(l)

(i) requiring the public official, public member, or public employee to pay a civil penalty of not more than two thousand dollars for each 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 Dedric Bonds is in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D); and therefore, Respondent Dedric Bonds is hereby PUBLICLY REPRIMANDED and he is assessed a \$2000.00 fine in addition to the late-filing penalty of \$5,000.00.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Section 8-13-320, a Judgment in the amount of \$7,000.00 is, and shall be entered against Respondent for failure to file the per-election campaign disclosure form.

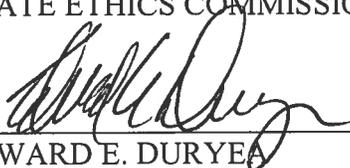
IT IS FURTHER THE ORDER OF THIS COMMISSION that the Clerk of Court

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 \$7,000.00 upon the Commission's filing of same with the Clerk of Court's Office.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 29th DAY OF April, 2012.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



EDWARD E. DURYEA
HEARING CHAIR

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA