

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
)
 In the Matter of:)
 COMPLAINT C2012-079)
)
 Christine S. Jarman,)
 Respondent,)
)
 State Ethics Commission,)
 Complainant.)
 _____)

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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 February 23, 2012. On May 16, 2012, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2010), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint charging Respondent, Christine S. Jarman, with three violations of Section 8-13-1140.

Present at the meeting were Commission Members Phillip Florence, Jr., Chairman, E. Kay Biermann-Brohl, Vice-Chair, Edward E. Duryea, JB Holeman, Priscilla L. Tanner, Jonathan H. Burnett, Richard H. Fitzgerald and George Carlton Manley. Also present were the Commission's Executive Director, Herbert R. Hayden, Jr., and his immediate staff.

The following allegation was considered:

On January 11, 2012 the State Ethics Commission filed a complaint against Christine S. Jarman, Finance Director for Dorchester County Alcohol and Drug Commission. The complaint alleged that the Respondent failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests form in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

1. According to the records of the State Ethics Commission, the Respondent was employed as Finance Director for Dorchester County Alcohol and Drug Commission (DCADC) having been first employed in September 1993.

2. On March 5, 2008 the Respondent filed a Statement of Economic Interests with the State Ethics Commission indicating her position as Finance Director for DCADC.

3. On January 23, 2009 DCADC sent the State Ethics Commission a list of their employees required to file a Statement of Economic Interests which included the Respondent's name as the Chief Administrative Official.

4. On January 23, 2009 the Respondent filed an amendment to her 2008 Statement of Economic Interest changing her title from Chief Financial Official to Chief Administrative Official.

5. By first class mail dated November 8, 2011 and certified mail dated December 15, 2011, to the address of record, the Respondent was advised that her Statement of Economic Interests forms (SEI) for 2009, 2010 and 2011 had not been received and penalties were accruing.

6. The December letter was returned unclaimed and was re-mailed first class.

7. After no response from the Respondent, a complaint was filed on February 23, 2012. The complaint was also mailed to the address of record.

8. On March 7, 2012 the Respondent advised the Commission by email that she was not employed with DCADC in 2009 or 2010 as indicated in the Commission complaint. She further advised that her duties do not require her to file a Statement of Economic Interests.

9. On March 13, 2012 a Commission investigator confirmed the Respondent's statements.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

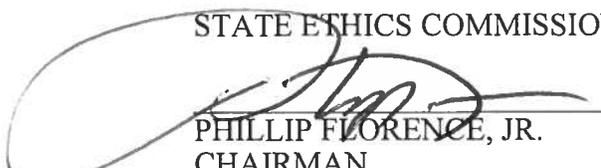
1. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-1110 requires public employees designated as either Chief Administrative Official or Chief Financial Official to file a Statement of Economic Interest.
3. Section 8-13-1140 requires public employees required to file a Statement of Economic Interests to file an annual report on or before April 15 of each year.
4. The Respondent, Christine S. Jarman, was required to file a Statement of Economic interest through 2008; however, was not so required during 2009, 2010 or 2011.

DECISION

Based upon the evidence presented, the State Ethics Commission has determined that there is not probable cause to indicate that the Respondent, Christine S. Jarman, violated Section 8-13-1140. The Commission has therefore dismissed the charges in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 22ND DAY OF JUNE, 2012.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


PHILLIP FLORENCE, JR.
CHAIRMAN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA