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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

2021 DEC -1 AM 11:54

STATE ETHICS  
COMMISSION

COMPLAINT FORM

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2021-119

COMPLAINANT: State Ethics Commission  
ADDRESS: 201 Executive Center Drive  
Suite 150  
Columbia, SC 29210  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 253-4192

RESPONDENT: Cecil C. Sumpter  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]  
TITLE: Board Member – Orangeburg County  
Registration and Elections

Section 8-13-1120, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires disclosure of the source, type, and amount of income from a governmental entity and a listing of the private source and type of any income received by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family during the reporting period. Respondent was required to report government income received from Orangeburg County Registration and Elections on his 2019 and 2021 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters mailed on March 29, 2021 and April 22, 2021 as described in the attached. To date, no properly completed 2019 or 2021 Statement of Economic Interests has been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

All investigations, inquiries, hearings, and accompanying documents must remain confidential unless respondent waives the right to confidentiality. If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record. The willful release of confidential information is a misdemeanor, and any person releasing such confidential information, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned not more than one year. Section 8-13-320(10)(g).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF Richland

Personally appeared before me Meghan L. Walker who, first being duly sworn, says that she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2021

[REDACTED]  
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

[REDACTED]  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires 01/22/2021

SEC-7 (Revised 8/2019)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192  
FAXED COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaints C2021-119	)	
	)	
Cecil C. Sumpter	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Respondent.	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	
Complainant.	)	
_____	)	

The State Ethics Commission has determined that there is probable cause pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, to support the allegations made in the above-captioned complaint. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal hearing into the matter, in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) & (j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.) on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

**COUNT ONE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1120 S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Cecil C. Sumpter, an Orangeburg County Registration and Elections Commission Board Member, did in Richland County, fail to report income from a governmental entity on his 2019 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1120.

**COUNT TWO**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1120 S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Cecil C. Sumpter, an Orangeburg County Registration and Elections Commission Board Member, did in Richland County, fail to report income from a governmental entity on his 2021 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1120.

You have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses. This hearing will be open to the public as required by Section 8-13-320(10)(j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The procedures to be followed are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1-23-10, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976 as amended the State Ethics Act, Section 8-13-100, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.).

A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any questions concerning the above notice or hearing times, please contact the State Ethics Commission.



Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director  
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day,  
of June, 2022.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on Cecil C. Sumpter, P.O. Box 461, Ellore, SC 29047 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2022, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



**Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant**

Columbia, South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2021-119 )  
State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant, )  
Cecil C. Sumpter, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on December 1, 2021. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Cecil C. Sumpter (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing on two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1120 for failing to report government income on his 2019 and 2021 Statements of Economic Interests (SEI). Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to entry of the following:

**STATEMENTS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant, Respondent served on Orangeburg County Registration and Elections Commission Board.
2. On March 28, 2019, Respondent timely filed his 2019 SEI, but failed to disclose the amount of government income he received in 2018.
3. On March 11, 2021, Respondent timely filed his 2021 SEI, but failed to disclose the amount of government income he received in 2020.
4. In a March 21, 2021 first-class letter, the Commission notified Respondent that he failed to disclose government income on his 2019 SEI. The Respondent sent back the original letter with "My wife and I is separate" written on it.

5. In an April 22, 2021 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent that he failed to disclose government income on his 2019 and 2021 SEI.
6. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on May 1, 2021 at 9:02 a.m.
7. Receiving no response, the Complaint was filed on December 1, 2021.
8. On January 10, 2022, the Commission received a letter from Respondent stating "It was brought to my attention again that I did not disclose my Income and Benefits from Orangeburg County for the years 2017 and 2019 . . . I honestly regret the oversight." Enclosed along with the letter were tax documents from Orangeburg County for the years 2016-2020.
9. On September 23, 2022, following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent disclosed receiving government income in the amount of \$2,342.86 on his 2019 SEI and \$2,623.54 on his 2021 SEI.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a "public official" pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27).  
Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-1120(A)(2) of the Act requires public officials to disclose:  
  
the source, type, and amount or value of income, not to include tax refunds, of substantial monetary value received from a governmental entity by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family during the reporting period.
3. Section 8-13-320(10)(1) allows the Commission to require a public official to pay a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 for each violation of the Ethics Act.
4. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to "levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation" of the Ethics Act.

**DISCUSSION**

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1120 for failing to report government income received on his 2019 and 2021 SEIs. Through this Consent Order, Respondent acknowledges he violated the Ethics Act when he failed to disclose his government income in 2019 and 2021. As mitigation, Respondent states he misunderstood the Commission's April 22, 2021 letter and believed it was inquiring as to the income of any immediate family members. Respondent did not understand the letter was advising him to amend his SEIs to report his government income. Respondent further thought that when he submitted the tax documents to the Commission that he was in compliance. Respondent did not understand that he had to disclose the information in the Commission's electronic filing system. Respondent is now in compliance.

**DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of two (2) count of Section 8-13-1120(A)(2).
2. The Commission adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues a written warning to the Respondent. The Commission declines to assess a civil penalty or an administrative fee as permitted by Section 8-13-130 and Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November 2022.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIRMAN

  
CECIL C. SUMPTER, RESPONDENT