



APR 19 2022

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

COMPLAINT FORM

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2022-041

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

RESPONDENT: Phillip O. Gunter
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Mayor – Town of Eastover

Section 8-13-1308, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires candidates to file Campaign Disclosures within ten (10) days of receiving or expending \$500; fifteen (15) days prior to each election; within ten (10) days of the end of each quarter; and a final report when the campaign account is closed. In addition, certified campaign reports detailing campaign contributions and expenditures must contain the total of contributions accepted, the name and address of each person making a contribution, the total expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate or committee, and the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made from campaign funds. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1362 and Regulation 52-504 (C), the Pre-Election and quarterly report are required even when there have been no contributions or expenditures.

Records of the State Ethics Commission indicate that a Campaign Disclosure was due no later July 10, 2018, October 10, 2018, January 10, 2019, April 10, 2019, July 10, 2019, October 10, 2019, January 10, 2020, April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, April 10, 2021, July 10, 2021, October 10, 2021, January 10, 2022, and April 10, 2022 under the April 5, 2016 election cycle. In addition, a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between June 24, 2020 and June 29, 2020 for the July 14, 2020 election cycle. Respondent has created a City Council account for the July 14, 2020 election; however, he was not running for that position. An email reminder was sent thirty days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline.

Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires the filing of an updated Statement of Economic Interests for the previous calendar year annually thereafter prior to March 30. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2022 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated April 9, 2020 and March 29, 2021 as described in the attached. To date, no properly completed Quarter 2 2018, Quarter 3, 2018, Quarter 4 2018, Quarter 1 2019, Quarter 2 2019, Quarter 3 2019, Quarter 4 2019, Quarter 1 2020, Quarter 2 2020, Quarter 3 2020, Quarter 4 2020, Quarter 1 2021, Quarter 2 2021, Quarter 3 2021, Quarter 4 2021, Quarter 1, 2022, and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure has been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, Section 8-13-1308(A), Section 8-13-1308(B), Section 8-13-1308 (D)(1), and Section 8-13-1308 (F), S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

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.

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 19th day of April, 2022

[REDACTED]
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 01/22/26

[REDACTED]
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192
ELECTRONIC 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:)	
)	
Complaint C2022-041)	
)	
Phillip O. Gunter)	NOTICE OF HEARING
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 Commission will 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, April 20, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the 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 FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

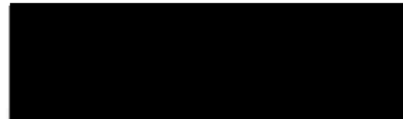
That Phillip O. Gunter, Mayor of the Town of Eastover, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Phillip O. Gunter, Mayor of the Town of Eastover, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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 17th day,
of January 2023.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Phillip O. Gunter by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, 717 Henry Street, Box 7, Eastover, South Carolina 29044 on this 20th day of January 2023, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Columbia, South Carolina

Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant
State Ethics Commission (803) 253-4192




COUNTY OF: Richland)
)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
 COMPLAINT C2022-041)
)
 State Ethics Commission, Complainant.)
)
 vs.)
)
 Phillip O. Gunter, Respondent.)
 _____)


BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

AFFIDAVIT OF PERSONAL SERVICE

PERSONALLY comes the undersigned, who says on oath that on the 5th day of February 2024, he served the Second Amended Notice of Appellate Hearing and Cover letter on Camille Nicole Jenkins, aka Camille Gunter, by delivering unto Camille Jenkins personally copies thereof and leaving the same with her while at 717 Henry Street, Eastover, South Carolina, 29044 and that the deponent is not a party to this action. Respondent confirmed by telephone at 2:15 pm that he was not at the residence to personally receive the Notice of Appellate Hearing and Cover Letter but was in Sumter SC. Respondent authorized the undersigned to effect service by delivering the Notice of Appellate Hearing to Camille Jenkins.


 Reginald J. Gaymon, Investigator
 State Ethics Commission

SWORN to before me this 5th
 day of February, 2024


 _____ (LS)
 Notary Public for South Carolina
 My Commission Expires 01/22/26

State of South Carolina
State Ethics Commission

SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIRMAN
F. XAVIER STARKES, VICE CHAIRMAN
BRYANT S. CALDWELL
AJ HOLLOWAY



BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON
MARY HUNTER B. TOMLINSON
NEAL D. TRUSLOW
MATTHEW N. TYLER

201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 150
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN WALKER DAYSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 25, 2024

Mr. Phillip O. Gunter
Hand Delivered

RE: Complaint C2022-041

In the Matter of Phillip O. Gunter

Dear Mr. Gunter:

Please find attached a Second Amended Notice of Appellate Hearing for the above referenced cases which are scheduled for oral arguments on March 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

Regulation 52-804 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations provides the following guidelines for Oral Arguments:

52-804 Oral Argument

A. Oral argument will be granted unless waived in writing prior to the scheduling of same.

B. The appellant shall open and close the argument. The opening argument shall include a statement of the relevant facts. Unless otherwise permitted by the Commission, counsel will not be permitted to read from books, briefs, records, or authorities cited. If any party fails to appear, the Commission will hear argument on behalf of the parties present. If no party appears, the case will be decided on the briefs unless the Commission shall otherwise order.

C. The length of time allotted for oral argument shall be determined by the Commission. The Commission shall notify all parties of the time allotted at the call of the case.

The length of time for the appeal hearing will be limited to 30 minutes. This time will be allocated as follows:

- 10 minutes for Appellant Argument
- 10 minutes for Appellate Argument
- 5 minutes for Appellant Rebuttal
- 5 minutes for Appellate Rebuttal

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact General Counsel Courtney Laster at claster@ethics.sc.gov or (803) 253-4192.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Meghan L. Walker.

Meghan L. Walker
Executive Director

MLW:ro
Enclosure: Notice of Appellate Hearing

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2022-041)
State Ethics Commission,)
APPELLATE.)
Phillip O. Gunter,)
APPELLANT.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**SECOND AMENDED
NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING**

Phillip O. Gunter served a Motion for an Appeal on the State Ethics Commission on May 22, 2023. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal appellate hearing into the matter, in accordance with State Ethics Commission Regulations, 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 802 (2013 Cum. Supp.) on March 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

Pursuant to 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 803, the Appellant shall file any additional briefs within ten (10) days of the date of service of this notice. In the event the Appellant fails to appear, he will have waived his hearing and judgment will stand.



Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

Dated this 19th day,
of October 2023.

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING

C2022-041 Phillip O. Gunter

Page 2 of 2

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** was duly served on the Respondent Phillip O. Gunter, 717 Henry Street, Box 7, Eastover, SC 29044 by depositing said **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 21st day of October 2023, 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 C2022-041)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Phillip O. Gunter,)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a complaint filed on April 19, 2022. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991 (Ethics Act), the Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint against Phillip O. Gunter (Respondent) and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Present at the hearing on April 20, 2023, were Commissioners Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, and Neal D. Truslow, Hearing Chair. Respondent appeared *pro se*. Complainant was represented by Courtney M. Laster. The following charges were considered:

COUNT ONE
FAILURE TO FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Phillip O. Gunter, Mayor of the Town of Eastover, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Phillip O. Gunter, Mayor of the Town of Eastover, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Respondent was a successful candidate in a July 14, 2020 election for Mayor of Eastover.
2. Respondent failed to file a 2020 Pre-Election CDR fifteen (15) to twenty (20) days prior to the July 14, 2020 election.
3. In a March 29, 2021 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file a 2020 Pre-Election CDR. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record April 2, 2021 at 9:17 a.m.
4. On April 12, 2021, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$10 per day.
5. On April 22, 2021, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$100 per day.
6. Respondent did not file a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) on or before March 30, 2022.
7. Receiving no response, the Complaint was filed on April 19, 2022.
8. Following his receipt of the Complaint, Respondent filed his 2020 Pre-Election CDR on April 28, 2022. Respondent disclosed no contributions or expenditures therein.
9. On July 19, 2022, a Commission Investigator contacted Respondent to discuss the Complaint. The Investigator informed Respondent that he still had not filed the 2022 SEI. Respondent promptly filed his 2022 SEI the same day.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a "candidate" pursuant to Section 8-13-1300(4) and a "public official" pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27). Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-1140 provides, in relevant part:

A person required to file a [SEI] under this chapter annually shall file, pursuant to Section 8-13-365, an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March thirtieth of each calendar year . . .

3. Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) provides, in relevant 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...

4. Section 8-13-1510(A) provides:

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 the statement or report is not filed within five days after the established deadline provided by law in this chapter; and (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 8-13-130 of the Ethics Act allows the Commission to “levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation” of the Ethics Act.

DECISION

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Panel has determined, based on a preponderance of evidence, that Respondent Phillip O. Gunter is in violation of one (1) count of 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file a 2022 SEI and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308 for failing to timely file a 2020 Pre-Election CDR.

THEREFORE, Respondent is hereby Publicly Reprimanded and assessed a reduced late-filing penalty of \$500.00 for his failure to timely file a 2020 Pre-Election CDR, a reduced late-filing penalty of \$10.00 for his failure to timely file a 2022 SEI, and an administrative fee of \$650.00, for a total of \$1,160.00.

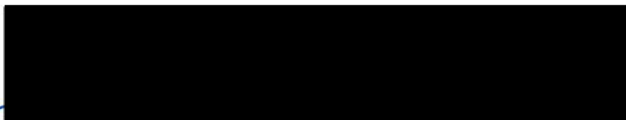
AND, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$1,160.00 is not paid within

ten (10) months from Respondent's receipt of this Order, a judgment in the full penalty amount of \$5,750.00, less any money paid, shall be entered against Respondent. In the event of a failure to pay, upon the Commission's filing of said Judgment with the Clerk of Court's Office in the County of Respondent's last known residence, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$5,750.00, less any money paid, in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, Respondent Phillip O. Gunter, has ten (10) days from receipt of this Order to appeal this Decision and Order to the full Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 5TH DAY OF JUNE 2023.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



NEAL D. TRUSLOW, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina

June 15, 2023

Courtney M. Laster
General Counsel
The State Ethics Commission

Re: Complaint C2022-041

Dear Ms. Laster

I, Mr. Phillip O. Gunter, am writing this appeal because of the amount stating, it is rigorous for me to pay the \$1,160.00 at this time. I did try to fix the problems myself instead of calling them to help me, I totally understand now if I need assistance to call for help, please I am trying to beg for a little mercy, so I don't have to pay it or get some type of reduction. Please help me, if possible, I'm really going to not try to make this mistake again. Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

Phillip O. Gunter

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED JUN22'23 AM 10:35

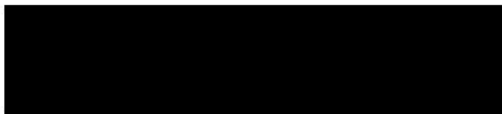
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2022-041)
State Ethics Commission,)
APPELLATE.)
Phillip O. Gunter,)
APPELLANT.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING

Phillip O. Gunter served a Motion for an Appeal on the State Ethics Commission on May 22, 2023. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal appellate hearing into the matter, in accordance with State Ethics Commission Regulations, 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 802 (2013 Cum. Supp.) on September 21, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

Pursuant to 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 803, the Appellant shall file any additional briefs within ten (10) days of the date of service of this notice. In the event the Appellant fails to appear, he will have waived his hearing and judgment will stand.



Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

Dated this 15th day,
of August 2023.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** was duly served on the Respondent Phillip O. Gunter, 717 Henry Street, Box 7, Eastover, SC 29044 by depositing said **NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 2nd day of August 2023, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
))
IN THE MATTER OF:))
))
Complaint C2022-041))
))
State Ethics Commission,) **AMENDED**
APPELLATE.) **NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING**
))
Phillip O. Gunter,))
APPELLANT.))
_____))

Phillip O. Gunter served a Motion for an Appeal on the State Ethics Commission on May 22, 2023. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal appellate hearing into the matter, in accordance with State Ethics Commission Regulations, 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 802 (2013 Cum. Supp.) on November 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

Pursuant to 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 803, the Appellant shall file any additional briefs within ten (10) days of the date of service of this notice. In the event the Appellant fails to appear, he will have waived his hearing and judgment will stand.



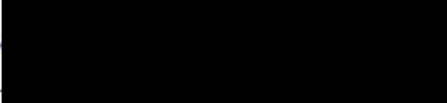
Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

Dated this 20th day,
of September 2023.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **AMENDED NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** was duly served on the Respondent Phillip O. Gunter, 717 Henry Street, Box 7, Eastover, SC 29044 by depositing said **AMENDED NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 11th day of October 2023, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.

Columbia, South Carolina


Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant
State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2022-041)
State Ethics Commission,)
Respondent.)
Phillip O. Gunter,)
Appellant.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

APPEAL ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Request for an Appeal filed by Phillip O. Gunter (Appellant) to appeal the Decision and Order (Decision) of the Commission Hearing Panel (Hearing Panel). Present at the Appeal Hearing held on March 21, 2024, were Commissioners AJ Holloway, F. Xavier Starkes, Bryant S. Caldwell, Matthew N. Tyler, and Scott E. Frick, Appellate Panel Chair.¹ Appellant accepted service of the Notice of Appellate Hearing on February 5, 2024, but failed to appear at the call of the case. The Commission was represented by Courtney M. Laster, Esq.

FACTS

On April 20, 2023, pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (the Act), the Hearing Panel received testimony in the above-captioned complaint charging Appellant with the following: (1) failure to file a 2020 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1); and (2) failure to file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) in violation of Section 8-13-1140. Ultimately, the Hearing Panel found Appellant in violation of the two (2) counts and assessed a reduced late-filing penalty of \$510.00 (\$500.00 for the Pre-Election CDR

¹ Pursuant to S.C. Code Regs. Ann. 52-805, Commissioners Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, and Neal D. Truslow did not participate because they served on the original Hearing Panel.

and \$10.00 for the SEI), and an administrative fee of \$650.00, for a total of \$1,160.00. The Hearing Panel ordered that this amount be paid to the Commission within ten (10) months or the amount owed would revert to \$5,750.00, the maximum penalty permitted under the Act. Appellant timely filed a request for an appeal, but failed to appear at the Appellate Hearing.

DECISION

NOW, given Appellant's failure to appear at the Appellate Hearing, the Appellate Panel affirms the Hearing Panel's Decision and Order and orders Respondent to pay a reduced late-filing penalty of \$510.00 and an administrative fee of \$650.00, for a total of \$1,160.00.

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Act, if the amount of \$1,160.00 is not paid within ten (10) months from Respondent's receipt of this Order, a judgment in the maximum amount of \$5,750.00 shall be entered against Respondent. In the event of a failure to pay, upon the Commission's filing of said Judgment with the Clerk of Court in Respondent's last known County of residence, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$5,750.00 in its Judgment Rolls, less any monies paid, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(m), this review is the final disposition of this matter before the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 17th DAY OF May 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



SCOTT E. FRICK, APPELLATE PANEL
CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina