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STATE ETHICS  
COMMISSION

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

COMPLAINT FORM

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2022-047

**COMPLAINANT:** Dennis Scott Biering  
**ADDRESS:** 255 Bittersweet Ln, Cottageville, SC  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 843-898-6161 29435  
**TITLE:** Candidate for County Council

**RESPONDENT:** Arthur L. Williams  
**ADDRESS:** 41 Chandelier Dr., Walterboro, SC 29488  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 843-908-3557  
**TITLE:** Councilman and Candidate for Council Colleton

Set forth in detail specific facts upon which you based your complaint against above-named respondent (only detailed, clear factual allegations will be considered. If additional space is needed, attach supplemental sheets).

I have been unable to find any Campaign Report for Candidate Arthur L. Williams.  
It is my belief he he is obligated to file one and is in violation of the SC Ethics Commission.

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 Colleton

Personally appeared before me Dennis Scott Biering who, first being duly sworn, says that he/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 his/her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4 day of May, 2022

Complainant Signature

Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires 12/23/25

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 )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
Complaint C2022-047 )  
Arthur L. Williams )  
Respondent. )  
Dennis Scott Biering )  
Complainant. )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

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 AN INITIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Arthur L. Williams, candidate for Colleton County Council, did in Richland County, fail to file an Initial Campaign Disclosure report within ten days of spending an aggregate of \$500, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

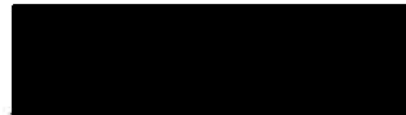
**COUNT TWO**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF INACTIVITY**  
**SECTION 8-13-1362, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Arthur L. Williams, candidate for Colleton County Council, did in Richland County,

fail to file a 2022 Quarter 1/Statement of Inactivity, in violation of Section 8-13-1362.

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.

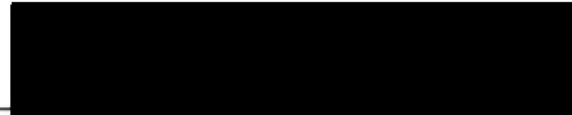


Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director  
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Arthur L. Williams, 41 Chandelier Drive, Walterboro, SC 29488 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 23rd day of January 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 ) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
) )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2022-047 )  
) )  
Dennis Scott Biering, ) **CONSENT ORDER**  
Complainant, )  
) )  
Arthur L. Williams, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on May 6, 2022. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Arthur L. Williams (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing on one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file an Initial Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) on or before March 27, 2022.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to the following:

**STATEMENTS OF FACT**

1. Respondent was a candidate for Colleton County Council in a November 8, 2022 general election.
2. Respondent raised and/or spent an accumulated aggregate of \$500 on March 11, 2022 when he paid for the filing fee of \$550.89.
3. Respondent did not file an Initial CDR within ten (10) days of March 27, 2022.
4. On June 23, 2022, prior to contact from Commission staff, Respondent filed his Initial CDR.
5. On December 22, 2022, Respondent submitted \$100 to the Commission as payment for the \$100 late-filing penalty assessed pursuant to Section 8-13-1510 for his failure to timely file the 2022

<sup>1</sup> Respondent was also charged with violating Section 8-13-1362 for failing to file a Quarter 1, 2022 CDR/Statement of Inactivity. However, given that Respondent’s Initial CDR reflected a zero balance, the Quarter 1, 2022 CDR would not have been required. Accordingly, the Commission hereby dismisses Count Two in the Notice of Hearing.

Initial CDR.

### **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 “candidate” pursuant to Section 8-13-1300(4). Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-1308(A) provides, in relevant part:
  - (A) Upon the receipt or expenditure of campaign contributions or the making of independent expenditures totaling an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars or more, a candidate or committee required to file a statement of organization pursuant to Section 8-13-1304(A) must file an initial certified campaign report within ten days of these initial receipts or expenditures  
...
3. 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.

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 one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file an Initial CDR. The Commission notes that Respondent filed this CDR prior to any contact from the Commission staff and that he has already paid the \$100 late-filing penalty that must be imposed pursuant to Section 8-13-1510.

### **DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A).


2. The Commission hereby 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 and advises Respondent to be diligent in his filing efforts in the future.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 31<sup>st</sup> DAY OF March 2023.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR

  
ARTHUR L. WILLIAMS  
RESPONDENT