

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2022- 121

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Lisa W. Price
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (843) 544-7711
TITLE: Former Council Member – City of McColl

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 2019 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated March 30, 2022, April 15, 2022, and July 12, 2022 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the deadline. To date, a 2019 Statement of Economic Interests has not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, SC 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
6th day of October 2022

[REDACTED]
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

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

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 C2022-121)	
)	
Lisa W. Price)	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, June 15, 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 allegation will be heard:


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

That Lisa W. Price, Former Councilwoman for the City of McColl, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2019 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 19th 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 Lisa W. Price, 105 Carlisle Court, Bennettsville, SC 29512 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)
)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
 COMPLAINT C2022-121)
)
 State Ethics Commission,)
 Complainant,)
)
 Lisa W. Price,)
 Respondent.)
 _____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on October 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 Lisa W. Price (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing on one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file a 2019 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI). Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to the following:

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. At all relevant times, Respondent served on the McColl Town Council. Respondent’s term ended in November 2019.
2. Respondent failed to file a 2019 SEI on or before March 30, 2019.
3. In a March 30, 2022 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of her failure to file a 2019 SEI and assessed a \$100 late-filing penalty.
4. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the certified letter was delivered to Respondent’s address of record on April 5, 2022 at 9:35 a.m. Respondent subsequently telephoned the Commission.
5. On April 8, 2022, a Commission staff member contacted Respondent and left a voicemail.
6. On April 25, 2022, Respondent appealed the late-filing penalty in writing to the Commission, but

still did not file her 2019 SEI.

7. In a July 12, 2022 certified letter, Respondent was advised that she had still not filed her 2019 SEI and that additional late-filing penalties would accrue if she remained non-compliant.
8. According to the USPS, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on July 13, 2022 at 10:39 a.m.
9. On July 21, 2022, Respondent submitted a check for the late-filing penalty, but did not file her 2019 SEI.
10. During the investigation, Respondent informed a Commission investigator that she suffered from cognitive issues due to a medical condition. Respondent stated her medical condition often required her to receive assistance from her sister in certain circumstances.
11. On October 21, 2022, Respondent filed her 2019 SEI with assistance from her sister.
12. Respondent provided documentation of her medical issues to the Commission on February 3, 2023, following the issuance of the Notice of Hearing.

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 8-13-1140 provides, in relevant part:

A person required to file a [SEI] under this chapter annually shall file . . . an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March 30 . . .

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 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file a 2019 SEI. During the investigation, Respondent informed a Commission investigator that she suffered from cognitive issues due to a medical condition. The Commission investigator thereafter contacted Respondent’s sister, who assisted Respondent with filing her 2019 SEI. Since the finding of probable cause in this matter, Respondent has provided documentation of her medical condition. After reviewing this documentation, the Commission finds it appropriate to resolve this Complaint with a written warning and no additional monetary penalty.

DISPOSITION

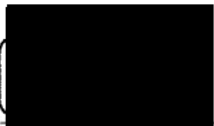
1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1140.
2. The Commission hereby adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues a written warning and declines to issue any additional monetary penalty.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 31st DAY OF March 2023.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR


LISA W. PRICE
RESPONDENT