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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

c 2021-054

COMPLAINT FORM

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

COMPLAINANT: Arthur Caswell

RESPONDENT: Ronald McInnis

ADDRESS: [Redacted]

ADDRESS: [Redacted]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [Redacted]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [Redacted]

TITLE: Georgetown County Citizen

TITLE: Georgetown City Council Candidate

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).

Ronald McInnis was a candidate in the April 13, 2021 City of Georgetown Special City Council General Election.

According to the S.C. Ethics Commission Public Reporting webpage, McInnis failed to file a pre-election campaign disclosure report for the election. An "April 10th" report was filed on May 7th.

During the April 13th election cycle, McInnis' campaign held a "Fish Fry" with a disc jockey for voters on April 3rd. I've attached screenshots of two Facebook posts promoting the campaign event. The expenses associated with this event have not been included in a campaign disclosure report as required by law.

Also, during the April 13th election cycle, McInnis' campaign held a "Meet and Eat" event on April 10th. I've attached a screenshot of a Facebook post promoting the event. The expenses associated with this event have not been included in a campaign disclosure report as required by law.

Additionally, the Facebook graphics promoting the April 3rd and 10th campaign events appear to be professionally done. The expenses associated with these graphic designs have not been included in a campaign disclosure report as required by law.

Ronald McInnis was also a candidate in the June 8, 2021 City of Georgetown City Council Democratic Party Primary. According to the S.C. Ethics Commission Public Reporting webpage, McInnis has failed to file any campaign disclosure reports for the election cycle.

On April 28th, McInnis' campaign posted a news release on Facebook announcing his candidacy for the June 8th election and that Donald Gillard has been "hired" as McInnis' campaign manager. I've attached a screen shot of the Facebook post. The campaign expenses paid to Gillard or his company have not been reported in a campaign disclosure report as required by law.

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 Georgetown

Personally appeared before me Arthur Caswell 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

8th day of July, 2021

[Redacted Signature]

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires 12-06-2023

Lynn B. Carmon
Notary Public, State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires December 6, 2023

[Redacted Signature]

Complainant Signature

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

C102form



**Ronald McInnis for City Council**



April 2 · 🌐

Join us tomorrow as we eat and support Ronald McInnis as he runs for City Council. We are starting at 12PM and ending when all the meals are gone. Don't forget to Vote Now!!!

#RMvotetnow #ronaldmcinnisforcitycouncil #RMforcitycouncil #RMgovote #RMvote2021 #RMealyvoting



# FISH FRY



**DJ  
BIG CLEVE**

**SATURDAY APRIL 3RD  
MUSIC AND FUN**

12PM UNTIL | OPEN LOT BETHEL PROJECTS  
(CORNER OF MERRIMAM AND GILBERT) |

👍 2

4 Comments 1 Share



**Ronald McInnis for City Council**

April 3 · 🌐



Join us today over a meal as we support Ronald McInnis for City Council. We will start at noon today. Don't forget to Vote Now!!!

#RMvotetow #ronaldmcinnisforcitycouncil #RMforcitycouncil #RMgovote #RMvote2021 #RMearlyvoting

**FISH FRY**

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021, 12NOON UNTIL

**DJ Big Cleve**

CORNER OF MERRIMAN & GILBERT;  
OPEN LOT @ BETHEL PROJECTS

**Ronald  
MCINNIS**

Georgetown City Council

**VOTE NOW  
OR APRIL 13TH!**

**CALL**

**(843) 630-1824**

**FOR A RIDE TO THE POLLS!**

👍❤️ 7

1 Share



**Ronald McInnis for City Council**

April 10 · 🌐



You still have time. Come meet Ronald McInnis!!!

**MEET  
AND  
EAT**

*Ben Cooper Park*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021**  
**4:00 PM**

MEET THE  
CANDIDATE!

*Ronald McInnis  
for City Council*

**VOTE!**

Tuesday, April 13th!

1 Share

Like

Comment

Share



## Ronald McInnis for City Council

April 28 · 🌐

...

Ronald McInnis for Georgetown, SC City Council  
843-630-1824; [campaign2021rbm@gmail.com](mailto:campaign2021rbm@gmail.com)

### MCINNIS ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN TO SEEK SEAT ON GEORGETOWN CITY COUNCIL

#### *-Special Election lesson leads to renewed desire to make a difference in city*

GEORGETOWN, SC –Ronald McInnis, Georgetown native, announces his campaign for City Council in the Georgetown County Democratic Party, June 8<sup>th</sup> Primary.

"I am not a politician but have the best economic and community interests at heart for the citizens of Georgetown," says McInnis, a candidate in the recent City Council Special Election to fill the seat of the late Rudolph Bradley, "I am in it to win it. During the most recent election I learned a lot about the concerns of our fellow citizens simply by listening. I'm ready to get to work as a candidate and council member."



A pastor, former business owner, Intervention Specialist and Career Coach, McInnis has the relationships and understanding to move the City of Georgetown to a prosperous future involves economic, youth and community development.

His vision includes:

- Mentoring our youth through sports and character development
- Placing our youth on a productive path in the military, higher education, sustainable careers and business opportunities in our hometown
- As a retired business owner, an understanding regarding grassroots economic development with investment in local, small businesses, helping former felons develop marketable skills and showcasing the our city to local, state, national and global markets.

To achieve these goals as a City Council candidate, McInnis has hired seasoned campaign consultant, Donald Gilliard as his campaign Manager. Gilliard brings a wealth of local, state and national campaign experience.

"I am excited to offer my years of experience and extensive network to Ronald McInnis," stated Donald Gilliard, owner of Sweet Gilliard Productions, "and ultimately to the benefit of the City of Georgetown."

Gilliard believes McInnis has the heart for all city residents and thoughtful, intelligent demeanor to be an asset on City Council.

McInnis encourages registered voters to vote in the Tuesday, June 8, 2021 Primary. Interested in volunteering or hearing from the campaign, contact Ronald McInnis at 843-630-1824; [campaign2021rbm@gmail.com](mailto:campaign2021rbm@gmail.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/ronaldmcinniscitycouncil>

**MEDIA** – Contact Ronald McInnis at 843-630-1824



2

1 Comment

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND ) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
) )  
IN THE MATTER OF: ) )  
) )  
Complaint C2021-054 ) )  
) )  
Ronald McInnis ) **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Respondent. ) )  
) )  
Arthur Caswell ) )  
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, 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, August 17, 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 A CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(D), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) for an April 13, 2021 election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D).

**COUNT TWO**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County,

fail to file an April 10, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a Pre-Election CDR for a June 8, 2021 primary election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D).

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

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a Pre-Election CDR for a January 10, 2022/Final CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

**COUNT FIVE**  
**USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1348, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, use campaign funds on January 6, 2021 and June 17, 2021 at KFC, in violation of Section 8-13-1348.

**COUNT SIX**  
**FAILURE TO MAKE EXPENDITURE FROM CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to pay the filing fee on December 18, 2020 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

**COUNT SEVEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRUBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(2), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a contribution of \$250.00 from Stephanie R. Gardner, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(2).

**COUNT EIGHT**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRUBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(2), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a contribution of \$500.00 from Thomas Huggins, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(2).

**COUNT NINE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRUBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(2), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a contribution of \$200.00 from Mal Hyman, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(2).

**COUNT TEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRUBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(2), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a contribution of \$150.00 from Frank Lawrence, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(2).

**COUNT ELEVEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRUBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(2), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a contribution of \$500.00 from Glen and Libby Isley, in violation of Section 8-13-

1308(F)(2).

**COUNT TWELVE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRUBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(2), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a contribution of \$200.00 from Jurmie Watkins, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(2).

**COUNT THIRTEEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT IN-KIND CONTRUBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an in-kind contribution of consulting services from Donald Gillard, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

**COUNT FOURTEEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRUBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report total contributions of \$100.00 or less on his Initial CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(1).

**COUNT FIFTEEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRUBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report total contributions of \$100.00 or less on his April 10, 2021 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(1).

**COUNT SIXTEEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CONTRUBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report total contributions of \$100.00 or less on his January 10, 2022/Final CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(1).

**COUNT SEVENTEEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report \$150.00 in expenditures made to Sign Shark on January 29, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT EIGHTEEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$150.00 made to Tony Ford/Tony C Entertainment on January 30, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT NINETEEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$39.48 made to Straighttalk Airtime on February 2, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT TWENTY**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County,

fail to report an expenditure of \$55.00 made to Teon Singletary/SP Serves LLC on February 8, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT TWENTY-ONE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$100.00 made to Barbara Faison on February 10, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT TWENTY-TWO**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$90.00 made to Marilyn Hemingway on February 11, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT TWENTY-THREE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of 100.00 made to Doris Simmons on February 16, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT TWENTY-FOUR**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$454.08 made to Victory Companies on February 15, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT TWENTY-FIVE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$39.48 made to Straighttalk Airtime on March 18, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT TWENTY-SIX**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$109.50 made to Costco on March 19, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT TWENTY-SEVEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$119.89 made to Fedex on March 19, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT TWENTY-EIGHT**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$200.00 made to Theotis Davis on March 23, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT TWENTY-NINE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County,

fail to report an expenditure of \$12.00 made to Georgetown Seafood Co. on April 1, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT THIRTY**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$34.75 made to Costco on April 1, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT THIRTY-ONE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$196.22 made to Sam's Club on April 1, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT THIRTY-TWO**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$119.89 made to Fedex on April 1, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT THIRTY-THREE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$44.64 made to Georgetown Seafood Co. on April 3, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT THIRTY-FOUR**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$118.79 made to Fedex on April 7, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT THIRTY-FIVE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$100.00 made to Sp Serves Publishing on April 8, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT THIRTY-SIX**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$211.20 made to Georgetown County Registration and Election Office on April 12, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT THIRTY-SEVEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$100.00 made to Sp Serves Publishing on April 13, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT THIRTY-EIGHT**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County,

fail to report an expenditure of \$513.00 made to Velvetex on April 30, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT THIRTY-NINE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$250.00 made to Doris Simmons on May 18, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT FORTY**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$38.38 made to Straighttalk Airtime on May 18, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT FORTY-ONE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$250.00 made to Barbara Faison on May 21, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT FORTY-TWO**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$38.38 made to Walmart on October 15, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT FORTY-THREE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$400.00 made to Holland & Associates on November 2, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT FORTY-FOUR**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$38.31 made to Wal Mart on November 15, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT FORTY-FIVE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$500.00 made to Ernestine Chisolm on November 18, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

**COUNT FORTY-SIX**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an expenditure of \$35.34 made to Costco on January 29, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).


**COUNT FORTY-SEVEN**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT EXPENDITURES**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(4), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Ronald McInnis, candidate for Georgetown City Council, did in Richland County,

fail to report an expenditure of \$38.38 made to Straighttalk Services on April 18, 2021, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(4).

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 Walker Dayson, Executive Director  
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day,  
of ~~March~~ April 2023.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Ronald McInnis, 1630 Front Street, Georgetown, SC 29440 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 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

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
RECEIVED SEP 19 '23 PM 1:15:5

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2021-054 )  
Arthur Caswell, )  
Complainant, )  
Ronald McInnis, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on July 9, 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 Ronald McInnis (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing on four (4) counts of failing to file Campaign Disclosure Reports (CDRs) in violation of Section 8-13-1308, one (1) count of using campaign funds for personal use in violation of Section 8-13-1348, and one (1) count of failing to use a campaign bank account in violation of Section 8-13-1312.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to the following:

**STATEMENTS OF FACT**

1. Respondent was a candidate for Georgetown City Council in an April 13, 2021 special election and a June 8, 2021 primary election.
2. Respondent opened his campaign bank account on December 11, 2020 and maintained a balance of contributions until the bank account was closed on December 9, 2021.
3. On December 18, 2020, Respondent paid a \$200.00 filing fee to the Georgetown County Board

<sup>1</sup> Respondent was also charged with forty-one (41) counts of failing to disclose contributions and expenditures in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F). Because Respondent is now in compliance and because he is also charged with failing to file the corresponding CDRs, the Commission declines to proceed on these counts.

of Voter Registration and Elections. Respondent did not use his campaign bank account to pay for the filing fee.

4. Respondent filed his Initial CDR on January 29, 2021. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election CDR prior to either election. Respondent also failed to file an April 10, 2021 CDR and January 10, 2022/Final CDR.
5. There were two expenditures found in Respondent's campaign bank account records that appeared personal in nature: (1) \$5.40 to Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) on January 6, 2021; and (2) \$5.40 to KFC on June 17, 2021. On January 29, 2021, Respondent reimbursed one (1) of these expenditures to his campaign bank account. According to Respondent, both of these expenditures were accidental.
6. On August 16, 2023 and August 21, 2023, Respondent filed all required CDRs.

#### 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 provides, in relevant part:

...

(B) Following the filing of an initial certified campaign report, additional certified campaign reports must be filed within ten days following the end of each calendar quarter in which contributions are received or expenditures are made, whether before or after an election until the campaign account undergoes final disbursement pursuant to the provisions of Section 8-13-1370.

...

(D)(1) 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 ...

3. Section 8-13-1312 provides, in relevant part:

. . . expenses paid on behalf of a candidate or committee must be drawn from the campaign account and issued on a check signed by the candidate or a duly authorized officer of a committee . . .

4. Section 8-13-1348(A) provides, in relevant part:

No candidate . . . may use campaign funds to defray personal expenses which are unrelated to the campaign or the office if the candidate is an officeholder nor may these funds be converted to personal use . . .

5. 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 . . .

6. Section 8-13-320(10)(l) allows the Commission to require the payment of up to \$2,000 for each violation of the Ethics Act.

7. 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 four (4) counts of failing to file CDRs in violation of Section 8-13-1308, one (1) count of using campaign funds for personal use in violation of Section 8-13-1348, and one (1) count of failing to use a campaign bank account in violation of Section 8-13-1312. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act in each of these instances. In mitigation, Respondent states the 2021 election was his first run for public office and states it was particularly confusing given the overlapping election cycles that occurred with the special and general elections. As to the personal use of campaign funds, Respondent states when he made the purchases at KFC he inadvertently used his campaign

debit card instead of his personal debit card. Respondent states he rectified the first purchase as soon as he realized what had occurred, but did not realize he had done it a second time until the Commission brought it to his attention. Respondent fully intends to pay the amounts used to the Children's Trust Fund. Respondent is currently in compliance.

### **DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of four (4) counts of failing to file CDRs in violation of Section 8-13-1308, one (1) count of using campaign funds for personal use in violation of Section 8-13-1348, and one (1) count of failing to use a campaign bank account in violation of Section 8-13-1312.
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 Public Reprimand and orders the Respondent to pay the Commission, within one (1) year from receipt of this Order, a late-filing penalty of \$400.00 (\$100.00 for each CDR);<sup>2</sup> a reduced civil penalty of \$200.00, and an administrative fee of \$200.00, for a total of \$800.00. Respondent is further ordered to pay \$5.40 to the Children's Trust Fund and to provide proof of payment to the Commission within one (1) year from receipt of this Order.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is not only admitting to violations of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$800.00 (less any money paid to

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission notes that no late-filing penalties accrued with respect to the four (4) CDRs because Respondent did not receive certified notice from the Commission prior to coming into compliance. See Section 8-13-1510 (limiting late-filing penalties to \$100 per late-filed CDR unless certified notice is received).

the Commission) in the event he does not make full and timely payment as provided for in this Order. In that event, the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent in the Clerk of Court's Office in the County of Respondent's last known residence. Upon said filing, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$800.00 (less any money paid to the Commission) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF September 2023.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR

  
RONALD MCINNIS  
RESPONDENT