

RECEIVED

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

2021 NOV -9 AM 11:36

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

COMPLAINT FORM

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

c. 2021-107

COMPLAINANT: Brandon Stymiest

RESPONDENT: TINA GOODGAME

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TITLE:

TITLE: CLOVER TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER

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).

Upon review of the South Carolina Ethics Commission Public Reporting, I found Councilwoman Tina Goodgame failed to file Pre-Election and Post-Election Campaign Disclosure Reports for the Clover Special Election on 7/6/2021.

I also found Councilwoman Tina Goodgame failed to file Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Reports for the General Election held on 11/2/2021.

Additionally, upon review of Councilwoman Tina Goodgame's Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), Councilwoman Goodgame failed to report her association with and income received from 4TheKidsSC, a 501(c)3 charitable organization registered to Councilwoman Goodgame with the South Carolina Secretary of State.

In addition to the public reporting failures, Councilwoman Goodgame restricts the ability of her constituents and opponents from commenting on her public page on Facebook (Councilwoman Tina Goodgame). If Councilwoman Goodgame disagrees with your comments she removes them or removes her announcement/post and has recently restricted ones ability to comment without her approval.

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~~ York

Personally appeared before me Brandon Stymiest 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 November, 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Complainant Signature

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 2-8-2031

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

LOGGED

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Complaint C2021-107)	
)	
Brandon Stymiest)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Complainant.)	
)	
Tina R. Goodgame)	
Respondent.)	
)	

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, June 20, 2024 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(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Tina Goodgame, Candidate for Clover Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) for a July 6, 2021 special election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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

That Tina Goodgame, Candidate for Clover Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to

file a Pre-Election CDR for a November 2, 2021 general election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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 16th day,
of November 2023.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Tina Goodgame, 1037 Wiley Spring Circle, Apt. 206, Clover, SC 29710 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 27th day of November 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 C2021-107)
)
 Brandon Stymiest,)
 Complainant,)
)
 Tina R. Goodgame,)
 Respondent.)
 _____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on November 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 Tina R. Goodgame (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to the following:

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. Respondent was a candidate for Clover Town Council in a July 6, 2021 special election and a November 2, 2021 general election.
2. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to either election.
3. On November 9, 2021, the Commission received the Complaint. The Commission notified Respondent of the Complaint in a November 10, 2021 certified letter.
4. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the certified letter was delivered on November 15, 2021 at 11:31 a.m. The return receipt does not contain Respondent’s signature.
5. On November 15, 2021, Respondent filed a Pre-Election CDR for the July 6, 2021 election disclosing no contributions or expenditures. Respondent also filed a Quarter 2 2021 CDR

- showing a personal contribution of \$45.00 and a corresponding expenditure for the filing fee.
6. On September 18, 2023, Respondent accepted service of the Complaint via email after speaking with Commission staff. According to Respondent, she never received the Complaint via U.S. mail.
 7. On January 5, 2024, Respondent amended her Pre-Election CDR for the July 6, 2021 election to include the \$45.00 filing fee and filed her Pre-Election CDR for the November 2, 2021 election. She also filed a Quarter 3/Final 2021 CDR showing a zero dollar balance in on-hand contributions.

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.

Section 8-13-1308(A) provides, in relevant part:

. . . a candidate who does not receive or expend campaign contributions totaling an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars or more must file an initial certified campaign report fifteen days before an election.

2. 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 . . .

3. 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 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the July 6, 2021 special election and the November 2, 2021 general election.¹ Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits she violated the Ethics Act. In mitigation, Respondent states she was going through a divorce in November 2021, she was not living at the address in the Commission's filing system, and she did not receive the Complaint until Commission staff sent it to her via email. The Commission acknowledges the return receipt does not contain Respondent's signature. Additionally, Respondent asserts this was her first time running for office and that she was not aware of the filing requirements.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of two (2) counts 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 Public Reprimand and orders the Respondent to pay the Commission, within one (1) year from receipt of this Order, a reduced late-filing penalty of \$200.00 and an administrative fee of \$450.00, for a total of \$650.00.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that she is not only admitting to violations of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$650.00 (less any money paid to the Commission) in the event she 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

¹ The Complaint also alleged Respondent restricted the public's access to comment on her public Facebook page. However, this is not within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Act.

Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$650.00 (less any money paid to the Commission) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 30th DAY OF March 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR


TINA R. GOODGAME
RESPONDENT