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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 2021-109

COMPLAINANT: Brandon Stymiest

RESPONDENT: KITISA MCDOWELL

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

TITLE:

TITLE: CLOVER TOWN 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).  
Page 1 of 2

Upon review of the South Carolina Ethics Commission Public Reporting, I found that Town Council Candidate Kitisa McDowell failed to file Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Reports for the upcoming General Election to be held on 11/2/2021. Additionally, no Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) was found for Candidate McDowell.

Furthermore, It does not appear Candidate McDowell ever registered with the SC Ethics Commission as no profile was found.

Although the Board of Elections show Candidate McDowell as residing at 106 Pickney St, Clover, SC 29710; however, public records and comments made in public by Candidate McDowell suggests she is residing at 201 Sumter St, Clover, SC 29710. These comments were made prior to the 11/2/2021 election.

On Monday, 11/1/2021, Candidate McDowell began to personally attack me and commit slander by posting on her personal Facebook page, a photo of me and my minor child, with a caption stating "This is the RACIST that is harassing me! This is why your vote matters Clover!!!" Following the election on 11/2/2021 Candidate McDowell contacted

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

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

[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

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER

C \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: Brandon Stymiest

RESPONDENT: KITISA MCDOWELL

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 9 [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

TITLE:

TITLE: CLOVER TOWN 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).  
Page 2 of 2

the Clover Police Dept and filed a false report indicating I was stalking and harassing her. At approximately 10:00 PM on 11/2/2021 I was approached by Officer Melton after stopping at the Circle K gas station at the corner of Hwy 321 and Bethel St in Clover, SC. Officer Melton advised me that Candidate McDowell stated I drove by the Legacy Lounge located at 702 Kings Mountain St, Clover, SC around 8 PM. I informed Officer Melton that I indeed had driven by the Legacy Lounge at around 8 PM to find the location of a trailer located in the Roosevelt community which was discussed by the candidates during the candidate forums, while on the way to pick up my son from football practice. Officer Melton advised me that he informed Candidate McDowell that the items I posted online, pertaining to her criminal history, were public information and not in violation of any laws.

Attached to this complaint are screenshots of the items posted online (Facebook) as well as her posts from Facebook. Please feel free to contact me directly if additional information is needed.

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]

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

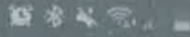
C102form



Kitisa McDowell  
1h

This is the RACIST that is Harrasing me!!!  
This is why your vote matters Clovert!  
Vote 🌸 Vote 🌸 Vote 🌸

2:42





**Kitisa McDowell for Clover Town Council**

15h ·

The Opps: spent the day riding around town in golf carts and holding oyster roasts for their campaign.

Me: spent the day hosting a 2 day event for the kids of Clover for my campaign!!

We Are Not The Same!!!

Kitisa McDowell for Clover Town Council

Like Comment Share

5

2 Shares

All Comments

Write a comment...

**State of South Carolina vs Kitisa Monique Mcdowell**

Case Number: K096812	Court Agency: General Sessions	Filed Date: 08/20/2009
Case Type: Criminal-Clerk	Case Sub Type:	
Status: Dismissed	Assigned Judge: Pickens Central Traffic Court	Disposition Judge: Solicitor
Disposition: Dismissed Insuff Evidence/Legal Issue		
Disposition Date: 12/17/2009	Date Received: 08/20/2009	Arrest Date: 08/12/2009
Law Enf. Case:	True Bill Date:	No Bill Date:
Prosecutor Case:	Indictment Number: 00006539	Waiver Date:
Probation Case:		

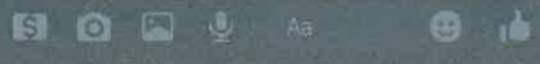
Case Parties		Charges	Sentencing	Associated Cases	Actions	Financials	Bonds
Name	Charge Code - Charge Description	Original Charge Code - Original Charge	Disposition Date				
Mcdowell, Kitisa Monique	0057-Traffic / Habitual Traffic Offenders, DUS as per Habitual Traffic Offender status	0057-Traffic / Habitual Traffic Offenders, DUS as per Habitual Traffic Offender status	12/17/2009				

5 Kitisa McDowell for Clover Town...



### Kitisa McDowell for Clover Town Council

You do realize deleting comments from posts is in violation of the ethics rules in SC right? As a public official/candidate you are prohibited from deleting comments you don't you don't agree with from your public figure profile





### Comment

community. Have a blessed day sir.

4h Like Reply



**Brandon Stymiest**

The State of Florida - 2019-2020 Budget Request			
Agency	Item	Amount	Notes
Department of Transportation	...	...	...
...	...	...	...

Just now Like Reply



**Brandon Stymiest**

The State of Florida - 2019-2020 Budget Request			
Agency	Item	Amount	Notes
Department of Transportation	...	...	...
...	...	...	...

Just now Like Reply



**Brandon Stymiest**

The State of Florida - 2019-2020 Budget Request			
Agency	Item	Amount	Notes
Department of Transportation	...	...	...
...	...	...	...

Just now Like Reply



**Brandon Stymiest**



Write a reply...



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Mcdowell, Kitisa M	Plaintiff	<u>2019CP4602380</u>	07/15/2019	Dismissed	03/30/2021	Common Pleas	MOTOR Veh Accid 320	
Mcdowell, Kitisa Monique	Defendant	<u>20193090017372</u>	10/21/2019	Disposed	04/22/2021	Traffic		
Mcdowell, Kitisa Monique	Defendant	<u>20193090054754</u>	04/22/2021	Disposed	04/22/2021	Traffic	DUI	
Mcdowell, Kitisa Monique	Defendant	<u>2019A4610201795</u>	10/23/2019	Disposed	04/19/2021	Criminal- Clerk	180 Day Track	
Mcdowell, Kitisa Monique	Defendant	<u>C486012</u>	01/03/2006	Disposed	02/08/2006	Traffic		
Mcdowell, Kitisa Monique	Defendant	<u>C486013</u>	01/03/2006	Disposed	02/08/2006	Traffic		
Mcdowell,								

### The State of South Carolina Vs Kitisa Monique Mcdowell

<b>Case Number:</b>	20193090017372	<b>Court Agency:</b>	D.U.I. Court	<b>Filed Date:</b>	10/21/2019
<b>Case Type:</b>	Traffic	<b>Case Sub Type:</b>			
<b>Status:</b>	Disposed	<b>Assigned Judge:</b>	Barnette, Clayburn Smith Jr.	<b>Disposition Judge:</b>	Barnette, Clayburn Smith Jr.
<b>Disposition:</b>	Pled Guilty Jail Time Served				
<b>Disposition Date:</b>	04/22/2021	<b>Date Received:</b>		<b>Arrest Date:</b>	10/18/2019
<b>Law Enf. Case:</b>		<b>True Bill Date:</b>		<b>No Bill Date:</b>	
<b>Prosecutor Case:</b>		<b>Indictment Number:</b>		<b>Waiver Date:</b>	
<b>Probation Case:</b>					

Case Parties    Charges    Sentencing    Associated Cases    Actions    Financials    Bonds			
Name	Charge Code - Charge Description	Original Charge Code - Original Charge	Disposition Date
Mcdowell, Kitisa Monique	0624-DUS / Driving under suspension, license not suspended for DUI - 1st offense	0624-DUS / Driving under suspension, license not suspended for DUI - 1st offense	04/22/2021

**The State of South Carolina vs Kitisa Monique McDowell**

<b>Case Number:</b>	<b>20193090054754</b>	<b>Court Agency:</b>	<b>D.U.I. Court</b>	<b>Filed Date:</b>	<b>04/22/2021</b>
<b>Case Type:</b>	<b>Traffic</b>	<b>Case Sub Type:</b>	<b>DUI</b>		
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Disposed</b>	<b>Assigned Judge:</b>	<b>Bomar-Howze (Magistrate), Tracy L.</b>	<b>Disposition Judge:</b>	<b>Bomar-Howze (Magistrate), Tracy L.</b>
<b>Disposition:</b>	<b>Pled Guilty Jail Time Served</b>				
<b>Disposition Date:</b>	<b>04/22/2021</b>	<b>Date Received:</b>		<b>Arrest Date:</b>	<b>10/18/2019</b>
<b>Law Enf. Case:</b>		<b>True Bill Date:</b>		<b>No Bill Date:</b>	
<b>Prosecutor Case:</b>		<b>Indictment Number:</b>		<b>Waiver Date:</b>	
<b>Probation Case:</b>					

Case Parties				Charges	Sentencing	Associated Case	Actions	Financials	Bonds
<b>Name</b>	<b>Charge Code - Charge Description</b>		<b>Original Charge Code - Original Charge</b>		<b>Disposition Date</b>				
<b>Mcdowell, Kitisa Monique</b>	<b>0657-Traffic / Reckless Driving</b>		<b>0657-Traffic / Reckless Driving</b>		<b>04/22/2021</b>				

### The State of South Carolina VS Kitisa Monique Mcdowell

<b>Case Number:</b>	2019A4610201795	<b>Court Agency:</b>	York County General Sessions	<b>Filed Date:</b>	10/23/2019
<b>Case Type:</b>	Criminal-Clerk	<b>Case Sub Type:</b>	180 Day Track		
<b>Status:</b>	Disposed	<b>Assigned Judge:</b>	Clerk Of Court C P, G S, And Family Court	<b>Disposition Judge:</b>	Solicitor
<b>Disposition:</b>	Nolle Prosequi				
<b>Disposition Date:</b>	04/19/2021	<b>Date Received:</b>	10/23/2019	<b>Arrest Date:</b>	10/19/2019
<b>Law Enf. Case:</b>	2019-47095	<b>True Bill Date:</b>	01/23/2020	<b>No Bill Date:</b>	
<b>Prosecutor Case:</b>		<b>Indictment Number:</b>	2019GS4607100	<b>Waiver Date:</b>	
<b>Probation Case:</b>					

Case Parties				Charges	Sentencing	Associated Cases	Actions	Financials	Bonds
<b>Name</b>	<b>Charge Code - Charge Description</b>		<b>Original Charge Code - Original Charge</b>		<b>Disposition Date</b>				
Mcdowell, Kitisa Monique	0182-Drugs / Poss. of 28g (1 oz) or less of marijuana or 10g - 2nd or sub. Offense		0182-Drugs / Poss. of 28g (1 oz) or less of marijuana or 10g - 2nd or sub. Offense		04/19/2021				



### Comment

issues. For instance these...  
maybe you will provide a  
response here

1m Like Reply



Author

**Kitisa McDowell for Clover Town Council**

Brandon Stymiest let's talk about the issues, can you have a conversation about that? What contributions does your candidate make to Clover currently? Is your candidate familiar with individuals in the Roosevelt community? Does your candidate understand the economic make up of Clover? What is your candidate proposing to do to increase the average income of Clover? Talk to me about things that matter. Until then sir, may all of God's grace find you.

1h Like Reply



**Brandon Stymiest**

Kitisa McDowell for Clover Town Council You're not supposed to brag when doing things for other people as all alorv should



Write a reply...



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# Comment

Disposition:	Fine GUILTY Jail Term	Arrested:	
Disposition Date:	04/22/2021	Date Received:	
Law Off.:		True Bill Date:	
Prosecutor Case:		Indictment Number:	
Probation Case:		Waiver Date:	

Name	Charge Code - Charge Description	Original Charge Code - Original Charge	Disposition Date
McDowell, Kitisa Monique	0657-Traffic / Reckless Driving	0657-Traffic / Reckless Driving	04/22/2021

Just now Like Reply



## Brandon Stymiest

The State of South Carolina Vs Kitisa Monique McDowell				
Case Number	Case Agency	Case Sub Type	Case Status	Disposition Date
2019078912372	W. J. L. Court		Disposed	10/21/2019
Disposition:	Assigned Judge:	Disposition Judge:		
Disposition Date:	04/22/2021	Date Received:	Arrest Date:	10/18/2019
Law Off.:		True Bill Date:	Waiver Date:	
Prosecutor Case:		Indictment Number:		
Probation Case:				

Name	Charge Code - Charge Description	Original Charge Code - Original Charge	Disposition Date
McDowell, Kitisa Monique	0624-DUI / Driving under suspension, license not suspended for DUI - 1st offense	0624-DUI / Driving under suspension, license not suspended for DUI - 1st offense	04/22/2021

Just now Like Reply



## Brandon Stymiest

Name	Charge Code - Charge Description	Original Charge Code - Original Charge	Disposition Date	Disposition	Disposition Date	Disposition
McDowell, Kitisa Monique	0615CP-4602390	07/15/2019	Dismissed	03/30/2021	Common Pleas	min or Veh Accid 230
McDowell, Kitisa Monique	Defendant 2019090017372	10/21/2019	Disposed	04/22/2021	Traffic	
McDowell, Kitisa Monique	Defendant 2019090054754	04/22/2021	Disposed	04/22/2021	Traffic	DUI
McDowell, Kitisa Monique	Defendant 20190410201795	10/23/2019	Disposed	04/19/2021	Criminal Clerk	180 Day Track
McDowell, Kitisa Monique	Defendant 1485012	01/03/2006	Dismissed	02/08/2006	Traffic	
McDowell, Kitisa Monique	Defendant C485013	01/03/2006	Dismissed	02/08/2006	Traffic	

Just now Like Reply



## Brandon Stymiest

Kitisa McDowell for Clover Town Council let's talk about the issues. For instance these... maybe you will provide a response here

1m Like Reply



Write a reply...



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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
)  
)  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
)  
Complaint C2021-109 )  
)  
Brandon Stymiest )  
Complainant. )  
)  
Kitisa McDowell )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

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, in the above-captioned complaint. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal hearing into the matters, 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 June 20, 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.

The following allegation 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 Kitisa McDowell, candidate for Clover Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report, 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 28<sup>th</sup> day,  
of March 2024.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Kitisa McDowell, 106 Pinkney Street, Clover, SC 29710 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2024, 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 OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
)  
)  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
)  
Complaint C2021-109 )  
)  
Brandon Stymiest )  
Complainant. )  
)  
Kitisa McDowell )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**AMENDED  
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, in the above-captioned complaint. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal hearing into the matters, 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 August 15, 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.

The following allegation 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 Kitisa McDowell, candidate for Clover Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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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 16<sup>th</sup> day,  
of May 2024.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Kitisa McDowell, 106 Pinkney Street, Clover, SC 29710 by depositing said **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 1<sup>7<sup>th</sup></sup> day of May 2024, 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 C2021-109 )

Brandon Stymiest )  
Complainant. )

Kitisa McDowell )  
Respondent. )

**SECOND AMENDED  
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, in the above-captioned complaint. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal hearing into the matters, 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 February 20, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics 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 PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(A) S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Kitisa McDowell, candidate for Clover Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report, 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

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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 27<sup>th</sup> day,  
of August 2024.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Kitisa McDowell, 106 Pinkney Street, Clover, SC 29710 by depositing said **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this <sup>GM</sup> day of September 2024, 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 OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2021-109 )

Brandon Stymiest, )  
Complainant. )

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Kitisa McDowell, )  
Respondent. )

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 Kitisa McDowell (Respondent), and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Present at the hearing on February 20, 2025, were Commissioners Brandolyn T. Pinkston, AJ Holloway, and Scott E. Frick, Hearing Chair. Respondent was duly notified, but did not appear. The Commission was represented by Renique K. Brabham. The following charge was considered: one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR).

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Respondent was a candidate for Clover Town Council in a November 2, 2021 election.
2. Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 2, 2021 election.
3. After failed attempts to verify Respondent's receipt of the Complaint, Commission staff hand-delivered the Complaint to Respondent on October 30, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to her failure to file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR, the Complaint alleged the following: Respondent failed to file a 2021 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI); Respondent filed a false police report against Complainant; and Respondent maintained a residence different from what she reported to the Board of Elections. However, Respondent was not required to file a 2021 SEI because she was in a nonpartisan election. Further, the other allegations are not within the jurisdiction of the Commission and therefore are not discussed herein.

4. As of the date of the hearing, Respondent had not filed her 2021 Pre-Election CDR.

### **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).

Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

2. 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.

3. Section 8-13-1510(A) provides, in relevant part:

. . . a person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late 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.

### **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 Kitisa McDowell is in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR.

THEREFORE, Respondent is hereby Publicly Reprimanded and assessed a reduced late-

THEREFORE, Respondent is hereby Publicly Reprimanded and assessed a reduced late-filing penalty of \$2,500.00<sup>3</sup> and an administrative fee of \$700.00, for a total of \$3,200.00.

AND, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$3,200.00 is not paid in full and the 2021 Pre-Election CDR is not filed within ninety (90) days from Respondent's receipt of this Order, the late-filing penalty shall revert to the maximum possible assessment of \$5,700.00 and the Commission shall enter a judgment against Respondent in the amount of \$5,700.00 with the Clerk of Court's Office in the County of Respondent's last known residence. In that event, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$5,700.00 in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, Respondent Kitisa McDowell 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 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF March 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
SCOTTE E. FRICK, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Section 8-13-1510, late-filing penalties begin to accrue following the receipt of certified notice of Respondent's failure to file. The Panel hereby declares October 30, 2022 as the date Respondent received certified notice of her failure to file the 2021 Pre-Election CDR. Accordingly, Respondent has accrued the maximum late-filing penalty of \$5,000.00 with regard to the 2021 Pre-Election CDR.