

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

RECEIVED
2021 NOV 24 PM 12:44
STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2021-116

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Donnie W. Jeanes
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Former Councilman – City of West Pelzer

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 2018 and 2019 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by letters dated June 18, 2020 and March 10, 2021 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the deadline. To date, no properly completed 2018 or 2019 Statement of Economic Interests has been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

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

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 24th day of November 2021

[REDACTED]
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

[REDACTED]
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 01/27/2026

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

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Complaint C2021-116)	
)	
State Ethics Commission)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Complainant.)	
)	
Donnie W. Jeanes)	
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, October 19, 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 STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Donnie W. Jeanes, Former City of West Pelzer Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2018 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Donnie W. Jeanes, Former City of West Pelzer Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to file a 2019 SEL, 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 Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 22nd day,
of May 2023.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Donnie W. Jeanes, 35 Main Street, Pelzer, SC 29669 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 5th day of June 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

(803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2021-116

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Donnie W. Jeanes
ADDRESS: [Redacted]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [Redacted]
TITLE: Former Councilman - City of West Pelzer

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Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by letters dated June 18, 2020 and March 10, 2021 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the deadline. To date, no properly completed 2018 or 2019 Statement of Economic Interests has been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

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

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 24th day of November 2021

[Redacted Signature]
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

[Redacted Notary Signature]
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 01/27/2026

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

Donnie W. Jeanes

June 18, 2020: \$200.00 penalty is assessed for failure to file a 2018 and 2019 Statement of Economic Interests

March 10, 2021: The penalty letter is sent certified.

March 25, 2021: The certified letter is delivered at 3:38 p.m. according to the United States Postal Service.

April 4, 2021: Penalties begin accruing at \$20 per day for the first ten days

April 14, 2021: Penalties begin accruing at \$200 per day

November 19, 2021: At no point did Mr. Jeanes have a "Saved Not Filed" Statement of Economic Interests. After no response, complaint is filed.

Previous or Current Non-Compliance

C2017-007

GEAR



Date Produced: 03/29/2021

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISS:

The following is the delivery information for Certified Mail™/RRE item number 9214 8969 0099 9790 1419 1460 58. Our records indicate that this item was delivered on 03/25/2021 at 03:38 p.m. in PELZER, SC 29669. The scanned image of the recipient information is provided below.

Signature of Recipient :



Address of Recipient :

35 MAIN ST
PELZER, SC 29669-1148

Thank you for selecting the Postal Service for your mailing needs. If you require additional assistance, please contact your local post office or Postal Service representative.

Sincerely,
United States Postal Service

The customer reference number shown below is not validated or endorsed by the United States Postal Service. It is solely for customer use.

4/4- \$20/day begins
4/14- \$200/day begins

Customer Reference Number: Donnie W. Jeanes 35 Main Stre

3-3e

State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

CHILDS C. THRASHER, CHAIR
DONALD GIST, VICE CHAIR
BRIAN M. BARNWELL



AJ HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 150
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 10, 2021

Delivered 03-25-2021

Mr. Donnie W. Jeanes

CERTIFIED MAIL #: 9214 8969 0099 9790 1419 1460 58



SECOND NOTICE

Dear Mr. Jeanes:

As a former West Pelzer Councilmember, the Ethics Reform Act requires you to file certain reports with the State Ethics Commission. An audit of your account indicates the following:

- The 2018 Statement of Economic Interests, which was due on March 30, 2018, has not been filed.
- The 2019 Statement of Economic Interests, which was due on March 30, 2019, has not been filed.

In accordance with Section 8-13-1510, South Carolina Code Ann., 1976, as amended, a late filing penalty of \$200.00 is hereby levied. If the required Statement of Economic Interests are not filed electronically within ten calendar days of receipt of this letter, additional penalties will be levied at \$10 per day per report for the first ten days and \$100 per day per report for each additional day until the penalty reaches \$5,000 per report, and a complaint will be filed against you. If extenuating circumstances prevented you from filing the reports as required, you may file a written appeal of this late filing penalty. To file an appeal, you must do the following within ten (10) days of the date you receive this letter:

- Send a personal check or money order made payable to the State Ethics Commission
- File all missing reports online at <http://ethics.sc.gov>
- Provide a written statement describing any extenuating circumstances. If you have closed your campaign account, please provide a copy of your last bank statement to consider a reduction in the late filing penalty.

Please be advised that all appeals must be in writing and must follow the above directions. NO phone or e-mail appeals will be accepted. Failure to file is a misdemeanor. After the maximum civil penalty has been levied, this matter will be referred to Magistrate's Court for criminal prosecution. This matter will also be referred to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for collection, and the penalty amount and your name, address (city) and position will be posted on the State Ethics Commission's website. Please contact this office if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,



Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:kns

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State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

CHILDS C. THRASHER, CHAIR
DONALD GIST, VICE CHAIR



BRIAN M. BARNWELL
DON JACKSON

201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 150
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 18, 2020

Mr. Donnie W. Jeanes
35 Main Street
Pelzer, SC 29669-1148

Dear Mr. Jeanes:

As a former West Pelzer Councilmember, the Ethics Reform Act requires you to file certain reports with the State Ethics Commission. An audit of your account indicates the following:

The 2018 Statement of Economic Interests, which was due on March 30, 2018, has not been filed.
The 2019 Statement of Economic Interests, which was due on March 30, 2019, has not been filed.

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Sincerely,



Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:ksn

com100

Election: 11/5/2019 Town of West Pelzer General Election

Filing Level	Office	Associated Counties	Name on Ballot	Running Mate	Party	Candidate Status
	Mayor, West Pelzer	ANDERSON	Blake Sanders		Nonpartisan	Elected
	Town Council	ANDERSON	James R Riddle Sr		Nonpartisan	Elected
	Town Council	ANDERSON	Patricia Alexander		Nonpartisan	Elected

Donnie W. Jeanes didnt run for re-election

SC.GOV The Official Web Site of the State of South Carolina

SOUTH CAROLINA
State Ethics Commission

Public Disclosure and Accountability Reporting System

Individual Reports
Statement of Economic Interests

Statement of Economic Interests Report

Name: DONNIE W JEANES

No 2018 or 2019 SEI

Year: 2014

Filing Date: 11/13/2014

Demographic Information

Name	Address	Phone	County
DONNIE W JEANES	35 MAIN ST WEST PELZER, SC 29669	864.617.9906	Anderson

Positions

Position/Title	Entity	Type	Term of Office	Date Filed
City Council	West Pelzer	Candidate	1/2015 - 1/2016	11/2014

Income and Benefits

*** Filer does not have any personal income and benefit items to disclose. ***

Family Income and Benefits

*** Filer does not have any family income and benefit items to disclose. ***

Regulated Business Associations

*** Filer does not have any regulated business items to disclose. ***

Real or Personal Property Interests

*** Filer does not have any property interest items to disclose. ***

Real or Personal Property Interests II

*** Filer does not have any sold, leased, or rented property interest items to disclose. ***

Business Interests

*** Filer does not have any business interest items to disclose. ***

West Columbia (City of)

Street Address: 200 N 12th St
 West Columbia, SC 29169-6458
 Mailing Address: PO Box 4044
 West Columbia, SC 29171-4044
 Phone: 803.791.1880
 Fax: 803.939.8634
 Website: www.westcolumbiasc.gov

Population: 14,988
 County: Lexington County
 Planning District: Central Midlands Council of
 Governments
 Council Meets: 1st Tue, 6 p.m.
 Form of Government: Council
 Election Date: 1st Tuesday after 1st Monday in
 November of odd years
 Election Method: Nonpartisan
 Method of Representation: Single member
 City Hall Hours: M-F 8:30-5
 Full-Time Employees: 210
 Fiscal Year Start: July

SC Senator: Richard A. "Dick" Harpootlian,
 Nikki G. Setzler, Katrina Frye Shealy
 SC Representative: Micah P. Caskey IV, Seth C. Rose,
 Chris S. Wooten

Elected Officials:

Mayor: Bobby E. Horton
 Councilmember: R. Trevor Bedell*
 Councilmember: Jimmy Brooks
 Councilmember: Mike Green
 Councilmember: Casey Jordan Hallman*
 Councilmember: Temus C. Miles Jr.
 Councilmember: Erin Parnell Porter
 Councilmember: Mickey Pringle
 Councilmember: Teddy D. Wingard*

Key Municipal Personnel:

Manager/Administrator: Brian Carter
 Asst. Manager/Administrator: Justin Black
 Asst. Manager/Administrator: Michelle Dickerson
 Building Official: Stuart Jones
 Chief Judge: Kenneth Ebener
 Clerk/Treasurer: Crystal R. Bouknight
 Comm/Econ Dir: William J. Unthank
 Fire Chief: Chris Smith
 Human Resource Dir: Marta M. Valentino
 Information Technology Dir: Anna M. Huffman
 Planning Dir: Wayne Shuler
 Police Chief: Dennis K. Tyndall
 Public Information Dir: Anna M. Huffman
 Public Works Dir: James Hook
 Treasurer: Justin Black
 Lead Attorney: Nikki G. Setzler
 PO Box 4024
 West Columbia, SC 29171-4024

West Pelzer (Town of)

Mailing Address: 30 Main St
 Pelzer, SC 29669-1514
 Phone: 864.947.6297
 Fax: 864.947.6266
 Website: www.westpelzer.com

Population: 880
 County: Anderson County
 Planning District: Appalachian Council of Governments
 Council Meets: 1st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
 Form of Government: Mayor-Council
 Election Date: 1st Tuesday in November of odd years
 Election Method: Nonpartisan
 Method of Representation: At large
 Town Hall Hours: M-Th 8-5/F 8-12
 Full-Time Employees: 5
 Fiscal Year Start: July

SC Senator: Mike Gambrell
 SC Representative: Westley P. "West" Cox,
 Anne J. Thayer

Elected Officials:

Mayor: Blake Sanders
 Councilmember: Vicky Farmer
 Councilmember: Donnie Jeanes
 Councilmember: James Riddle
 Councilmember: Johnny Rogers Sr.

Key Municipal Personnel:

Chief Judge: Mary Frances Cole
 Clerk/Treasurer: Paula Payton
 Fire Chief: Lee Blackwell
 Police Chief: Christopher Brewer
 Public Works Dir: Jeff Pearson
 Lead Attorney: Carey B. Murphy
 PO Box 809
 Anderson, SC 29622-0809

Kristin Nabors

MASC Municipal Association
of South CarolinaSM



2019

**Municipal Officials and
Legislative Directory**



COUNTY OF: Richland)
)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
 COMPLAINT C2021-116)
)
State Ethics Commission, Complainant,)
)
 vs.)
)
Donnie Jeanes, Respondent.)
)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

AFFIDAVIT OF PERSONAL SERVICE

PERSONALLY comes the undersigned, who says on oath that on the 11th day of December 2023, he served the Notice of Hearing on Donnie Jeanes, by delivering unto Donnie Jeanes personally copies thereof and leaving the same with him while at 1645 Easley Hwy (7-Eleven), Pelzer, South Carolina, 29669 and that the deponent is not a party to this action.



Thomas C. Yeager, Investigator
 State Ethics Commission

SWORN to before me this 14/12
 day of December, 2023



Notary Public for South Carolina
 My Commission Expires March 27, 2025



State of South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIRMAN
F. XAVIER STARKES, VICE CHAIRMAN
BRYANT S. CALDWELL
AJ HOLLOWAY



BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON
MARY HUNTER B. TOMLINSON
NEAL D. TRUSLOW
MATTHEW N. TYLER

201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 150
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN WALKER DAYSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 1, 2023

Mr. Donnie W. Jeanes
35 Main Street
Pelzer, SC 29669

Certified Mail: 92148969009997901424299770

RE: Complaint C2021-116

In the Matter of Donnie W. Jeanes

Dear Mr. Jeanes:

The State Ethics Commission has considered the above captioned complaint and has determined that probable cause exists to support the alleged violation. As a result of the Commission's determination, you are hereby provided with the Amended Notice of Hearing. In accordance with 8-13-320 (10)(g), South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, all complaint matters are now public upon the issuance of the Notice of Hearing.


Please be aware that under recent General Assembly amendments to the Ethics Reform Act in 2016 Act. No. 282, effective April 1, 2017, this and all other Ethics Commission hearings are now open to the public. The Ethics Commission will provide timely notice of Commission hearings to the public pursuant to the requirement of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. Section 1-23-320(F), in lieu of a hearing, the Commission may be agreeable to resolve this matter through an informal disposition by Consent Order. Please contact Courtney M. Laster, Esq., General Counsel, at 803-253-4192 or claster@ethics.sc.gov as soon as possible to:

- Confirm receipt of this Amended Notice of Hearing and notify the Commission whether you will or will not attend the scheduled hearing at **9:30am, Thursday, February 15, 2024 at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150 Columbia, SC 29210**
- Confirm address, telephone number and email address
- Notify the Commission if an attorney will be representing you
- Discuss the option of a Consent Order

If you do not attend the hearing, a judgment by default will be rendered.

Sincerely,


Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

MWD:ro
Enclosure: Amended Notice of Hearing

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2021-116)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
Donnie W. Jeanes)
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 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, February 15, 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 STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Donnie W. Jeanes, Former City of West Pelzer Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2018 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

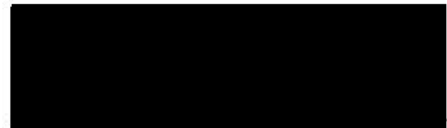
That Donnie W. Jeanes, Former City of West Pelzer Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to file a 2019 SEI, 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.

Dated this 17th day,
of October 2023.


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the **RESPONDENT Donnie W. Jeanes**, 35 Main Street, Pelzer, SC 29669 by depositing said **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 11th day of October 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 OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2021-116)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Donnie W. Jeanes,)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a complaint filed on November 24, 2021. 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 Donnie W. Jeanes (Respondent) and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Present at the hearing on February 15, 2024, were Commissioners Matthew N. Tyler, Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, and Neal D. Truslow, Hearing Chair. Respondent was duly notified but did not appear. Complainant was represented by Courtney Laster. The following charges were considered:

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

That Donnie W. Jeanes, former City of West Pelzer Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2018 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Donnie W. Jeanes, former City of West Pelzer Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2019 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

NDT

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. At all times relevant, Respondent served on West Pelzer Town Council
2. Respondent did not file an SEI on or before March 30 in 2018 or 2019.
3. In a June 18, 2020 first-class letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file a 2018 SEI and a 2019 SEI.
4. In a March 10, 2021 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file a 2018 SEI and a 2019 SEI.
5. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on March 25, 2021 at 3:38 p.m.
6. On April 4, 2021, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$20.00 per day (\$10.00 per report).
7. On April 14, 2021, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$200.00 per day (\$100.00 per report).
8. As of the date of the Panel hearing, Respondent had not filed his 2018 or 2019 SEI.

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 public official pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27) of the Ethics Act. 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, pursuant to Section 8-13-365, an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March thirtieth of each calendar year . . .

3. Section 8-13-1510(A) of the Ethics Act provides, in part:

. . . 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;

NDS

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 calendar day in which the required statement or report is not filed, not exceeding five thousand dollars.

6. Section 8-13-130 of the Ethics Act allows the Commission to levy an administrative fee on any person who is found 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, Donnie E. Jeanes, is in violation of two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file SEIs in 2018 and 2019.


THEREFORE, Respondent is hereby Publicly Reprimanded and assessed a late-filing penalty of \$10,000.00 and an administrative fee of \$1,100.00, for a total of \$11,100.00.

FURTHER, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$11,100.00 is not paid within ninety (90) days from Respondent's receipt of this Order, a judgment in the amount of \$11,100.00 shall be entered against Respondent. In the event of a failure to pay, upon the Commission's filing of said Judgment with the Clerk of Court in the County of Respondent's last known residence, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$11,100.00, less any money paid, in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, Respondent Donnie W. Jeanes 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 27 DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


NEAL D. TRUSLOW, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina

NDT