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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS  
COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2022-033

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: James H. Kennedy  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]  
TITLE: Candidate -Mauldin City Council

Section 8-13-1308, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires candidates to file Campaign Disclosures within ten (10) days of receiving or expending \$500; fifteen (15) days prior to each election; within ten (10) days of the end of each quarter; and a final report when the campaign account is closed. In addition, certified campaign reports detailing campaign contributions and expenditures must contain the total of contributions accepted, the name and address of each person making a contribution, the total expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate or committee, and the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made from campaign funds. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1362 and Regulation 52-504 (C), the Pre-Election and quarterly report are required even when there have been no contributions or expenditures.

Records of the State Ethics Commission indicate that a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between June 24, 2020 and June 29, 2020. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before the Campaign Disclosure deadline.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated September 27, 2021 as described in the attached. To date, no properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure has been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308 (A), Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) and Section 8-13-1308 (F), S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

**If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF Richland

Personally appeared before me Meghan L. Walker who, first being duly sworn, says that she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of April, 2022

[REDACTED]  
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

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

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192  
ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND ) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
) )  
IN THE MATTER OF: ) )  
) )  
Complaint C2022-033 ) )  
) )  
State Ethics Commission ) **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Complainant. ) )  
) )  
James H. Kennedy ) )  
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 AN INITIAL CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 Initial Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308.

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308.

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308.

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 Final CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308.

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a February 18, 2020 personal campaign contributions in the amount of \$422.95, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a March 23, 2020 personal campaign contributions in the amount of \$159.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 10, 2020 personal campaign contributions in the amount of \$103.35, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 16, 2020 personal campaign contributions in the amount of \$119.25, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a July 15, 2020 personal campaign contributions in the amount of \$377.63, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a July 15, 2020 personal campaign contributions in the amount of \$438.84, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$100.00 expenditure to City of Mauldin on February 3, 2020, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$422.95 expenditure to Custom Signs & Graphics, Inc. on February 18, 2020, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$159.00 expenditure to Custom Signs & Graphics, Inc. on March 23, 2020, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$103.35 expenditure to Custom Signs & Graphics, Inc. on June 10, 2020, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$119.25 expenditure to Custom Signs & Graphics, Inc. on June 16, 2020, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail

to report a \$337.63 expenditure to Run-Off Custom Signs & Graphics, Inc. on July 15, 2020, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$438.84 expenditure to Runoff Bradham Printing & Signs on July 15, 2020, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

**COUNT EIGHTEEN**  
**FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That James H. Kennedy, candidate for Mauldin City Council, did in Richland County, fail to use a campaign account for campaign contributions and expenditures, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

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.

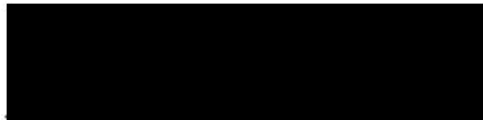


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director  
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> 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 James H. Kennedy, 123 Meadowood Drive, Mauldin, SC 29662 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 27<sup>th</sup> 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**  
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2022-033 )  
State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant. )  
James H. Kennedy, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


**ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the State Ethics Commission convened on June 20, 2024 and heard Commission staff's Motion to Dismiss the above-captioned complaint based on the following:

1. Respondent is eighty-two (82) years of age and resides in Mauldin, South Carolina. According to Respondent, he does not own a cell phone or a computer.
2. On December 2, 2023, Respondent received a Notice of Hearing in the above-referenced matter scheduling a hearing on June 20, 2024.
3. Following his receipt of the Notice of Hearing, Respondent suffered injuries to both of his lower legs which required him to undergo surgery. Ultimately, Respondent was sent to a physical rehabilitation facility for care.
4. According to Respondent, he was released from the physical rehabilitation center in mid-June of 2024. According to Respondent, he currently wears braces on his legs and is immobile. Respondent states he is unable to leave his home.
5. On June 17, 2024, Respondent spoke to Commission staff using his home telephone. With the assistance of Commission staff, Respondent's reports were filed, and all necessary disclosures were made. Respondent is now in compliance.
6. Given the aforementioned facts, Commission staff believes no further action should be taken.

Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-703(C) and 52-706(C), the Commission hereby grants the Motion to Dismiss C2022-033.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 9th DAY OF July 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
  
BRYANT S. CALDWELL,  
HEARING PANEL CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina