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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2022-034

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Christopher Sumpter
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Former Councilman - Sumter County

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 Campaign Disclosure was due no later than October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, April 10, 2020, July 10, 2021, October 10, 2021, and January 10, 2022. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated June 18, 2021 and August 31, 2021 as described in the attached. To date, no properly completed Quarter 3, 2020, Quarter 4, 2020, Quarter 1, 2021, Quarter 2, 2021, Quarter 3 2021, or Quarter 4, 2021 Campaign Disclosure has been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B) 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 C2022-034))
))
State Ethics Commission) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
Complainant.))
))
Christopher Sumpter))
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, 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 QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 Quarter 3 Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to file a 2020 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Quarter 4/Final CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$150.00 contribution from Sumpter & Associates, LLC, 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 Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$1,000.00 contribution from Lt. Col. James W. Ross, Sr., 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 Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$500.00 contribution from T&N Septic Tank Co. Inc., 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 Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$250.00 contribution from Sumter Casket Company, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$200.00 contribution from Gwen H. Moultrie, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to report a \$1,000.00 contribution from Wade and Dorothy Kolb, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$500.00 contribution from Bowen & Associates Realty, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$250.00 contribution from O. Mack Kolb, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$200.00 contribution from David and Georganne Kirven, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$628.32 contribution from Kid's Academy, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$1,000.00 contribution from Taylor F. Daylami, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$1,000.00 contribution from Alexander W. Atkinson, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$1,000.00 contribution from Greg and Danielle Thompson, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$540.00 contribution from Bryan Law Firm of LC, LLP, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to report a \$200.00 contribution from Charles and Suzanne Fienning, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$235.00 contribution from telephone transfer P. Chris, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a \$500.00 contribution from Joseph and Kathryn McElveen, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a February 10, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$250.00 to Community Broadcasters, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a February 12, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$350.00 to Community Broadcasters, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an April 27, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$1,950.00 to Chris Sumpter/Sumpter & Associates, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a May 4, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$1,750.00 to Chris Sumpter/Sumpter & Associates, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a May 6, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$789.40.00 for campaign yard signs, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a May 21, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$15.71 to Lowe's, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to report a May 21, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$628.32 to PrintPlace, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a May 23, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$1,388.93 to Sumpter & Associates, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a May 29, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$9.70 to Lowe's, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a May 29, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$143.86 to Lowe's, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a May 6, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$540.00 to The Item, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 9, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$30.00 to NGP VAN, INC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 9, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$10.09 to Youngs, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 10, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$54.95 to Pizza Hut, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 10, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$90.38 to Piggly Wiggly, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to report a June 11, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$12.00 to Youngs, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 11, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$54.95 to Pizza Hut, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 11, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$315.99 to Walmart, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 12, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$53.72 to Staples, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 18, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$152.91 to campaign (illegible), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 20, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$63.00 to Payton Brader, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 26, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$153.00 to Tracy McCoy, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 26, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$235.00 to (illegible), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a July 10, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$63.00 to Tracy McCoy, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to report a July 16, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$500.00 to Sumpter & Associates, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 29, 2021 expenditure in the amount of \$51.41 to Christopher Sumpter, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a February 24, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$136.89 to Staples from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a February 27, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$176.50 to Food Lion from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a March 20, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$627.32 to Sumter County Democratic Party from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a March 22, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$138.33 to Custom Prints from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a March 30, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$4.99 to Tractor Supply from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a March 30, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$242.88 to Lowe's from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

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

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a April 4, 2020 expenditure in the amount of \$1,203.66 to Sign Wave from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-SEVEN
FAILURE TO DEPOSIT LOAN INTO CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to reposit a personal loan into his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-EIGHT
IMPROPER USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS
SECTION 8-13-1348, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, issue a May 23, 2020 check to Respondent's business that exceeded the amount of the loan from his business, in violation of Section 8-13-1348.

COUNT FIFTY-NINE
IMPROPER USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS
SECTION 8-13-1348, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Christopher Sumpter, former Sumter County Councilmember, did in Richland County, issue a July 16, 2020 check to Respondent's business that exceeded the amount of the loan from his business, in violation of Section 8-13-1348.

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 28th day,
of February 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Christopher Sumpter, 1200 Broad Street, PMB 100, Sumter, SC 29150 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 11th 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 C2022-034)
)
 State Ethics Commission,)
 Complainant,)
)
 Christopher Sumpter,)
 Respondent.)
 _____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on April 4, 2022. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Christopher Sumpter (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 Sumter County Council in a June 9, 2020 primary election. Respondent thereafter advanced to a June 23, 2020 primary runoff election, where he was defeated.
2. Prior to the filing of the Complaint, Respondent’s most recently filed Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) was a Quarter 2 2020 CDR reflecting a balance of contributions. Respondent thereafter failed to file any additional quarterly CDRs.
3. In a June 18, 2021 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to timely file Quarter 3, 2020, Quarter 4, 2020, and Quarter 1, 2021 CDRs.
4. On August 13, 2021, the status of the certified letter was “In Transit, Arriving Late” according to the United States Postal Service (USPS). As a result, an updated certified penalty letter was mailed to Respondent on August 31, 2021. The updated certified letter included an additional notification to Respondent regarding his failure to timely file a Quarter 2, 2021 CDR.
5. According to the USPS, the August 31, 2021 certified letter was delivered to Respondent’s address

of record on September 2, 2021 at 1:09 p.m. The return receipt received from USPS contained no signature.

6. On October 20, 2021, Respondent contacted the Commission via telephone. A Commission staff member explained the filing requirements and, in a follow up email, advised him on where he could direct an appeal.
7. The Commission did not receive an appeal from Respondent and, accordingly, filed the Complaint on April 4, 2022. Respondent received the Complaint on April 21, 2022 and contacted the Commission the following day.
8. Following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent's campaign bank account records were subpoenaed and reviewed, revealing the following relevant information:
 - a. Beginning in June of 2020, Respondent's campaign bank account maintained a balance of \$51.41 until Respondent donated this amount to a 501(c)(3) organization on November 29, 2021;
 - b. Respondent used his business, Sumpter and Associates, to make seven (7) campaign expenditures totaling \$2,530.57, rather than using his campaign bank account;
 - c. Respondent failed to deposit a personal loan of \$3,131.77 into to his campaign bank account;
 - d. On February 21, 2020, Respondent's business, Sumpter and Associates, contributed \$150.00 to Respondent's campaign via check. Respondent thereafter issued two (2) campaign checks to Sumpter and Associates totaling \$1,738.93 for "loan payment[s]."
9. Respondent subsequently came into compliance by filing 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) of the Ethics Act. Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-1308(B) provides, in relevant part:

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.

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. All contributions received by the candidate or committee, directly or indirectly, must be deposited in the campaign account by the candidate or committee within ten days after receipt. All contributions received by an agent of a candidate or committee ~~within~~ must be forwarded to the candidate or committee not later than five days after receipt . . . *SEF*

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

No candidate, committee, public official, or political party 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. The prohibition of this subsection does not extend to the incidental personal use of campaign materials or equipment nor to an expenditure used to defray any ordinary expenses incurred in connection with an individual's duties as a holder of elective office.

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; 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.

6. Section 8-13-320(10)(l) allows the Commission to issue a civil penalty 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 six (6) counts of violating

campaign bank account, and two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1348 for reimbursing his business for a total of \$1,738.93 more than the business contributed to Respondent's campaign.

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 twelve (12) months from receipt of this Order, a reduced late-filing penalty of \$600.00 for his violations of Section 8-13-1308(B);² a reduced civil penalty of \$500.00 for his violations of Section 8-13-1312; a reduced civil penalty of \$200.00 for Respondent's excess reimbursement to his business, which were in violation of Section 8-13-1348; and an administrative fee of \$600.00, for a total of \$1,900.00.

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 \$1,900.00 (less any money paid to 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 \$1,900.00 (less any money paid to the Commission) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 18th DAY OF September 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR

CHRISTOPHER SUMPTER
RESPONDENT

² The Commission declines to assess additional late-filing penalties pursuant to Section 8-13-1510 given the lack of a signature on the proof of service from USPS with regard to the Commission's August 31, 2021 certified letter.