

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2022-104

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Bradley D. Prince
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Former Council Member – City of Andrews

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 2021 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated March 21, 2022 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the deadline. To date, a 2021 Statement of Economic Interests has not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, SC 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
31st day of August, 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)
)
)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Complaint C2022-100)
)
Bradley D. Prince)
Respondent.)
)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
_____)

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, to support the allegations made 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 Thursday, June 15, 2023 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:

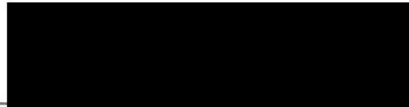
COUNT ONE
FAILURE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Bradley D. Prince, Former Town of Andrews Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Statement of Economic Interests, 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 L. Walker, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 19th day,
of January 2023.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on Bradley D. Prince, 403 S. Poplar Avenue, Andrews, SC 29510 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 20th day of January 2023, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant

Columbia, South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
)
)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Complaint C2022-100)
)
Bradley D. Prince)
Respondent.)
)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
_____)

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 Thursday, October 19, 2023 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 STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Bradley D. Prince, Former Town of Andrews Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Statement of Economic Interests, 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 27th day,
of July 2023.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2022-100)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant,)
Bradley D. Prince,)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

**CERTIFIED
STATE
ETHICS
COMMISSION
COPY**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on April 31, 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 Bradley D. Prince (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing on one (1) violation of Section 8-13-1140 for failing to file 2021 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI). Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to the following:

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant, Respondent served on Andrews Town Council.
2. Respondent failed to file a SEI on or before March 30, 2021.
3. In a March 21, 2022 certified letter, the Commission assessed an initial \$100.00 late-filing penalty and notified Respondent of his failure to timely file a 2021 SEI. According to the letter, additional late-filing penalties would accrue if Respondent failed to file his 2021 SEI.
4. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was "Delivered, Left with Individual" at the Respondent's address of record on March 23, 2022 at 3:39 p.m. No signature accompanied the USPS proof of service.
5. Following the filing of the Complaint, a Commission Investigator contacted Respondent. Respondent was transferred to the Disclosure Division for assistance filing his 2021 SEI. Respondent thereafter attempted to file his 2021 SEI. However, rather than filing the report,

Respondent inadvertently saved it to the Commission's electronic filing system.

6. After an additional contact from Commission staff, Respondent filed his 2021 SEI on September 21, 2023.

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 "public official" pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27).

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 . . . an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March 30 . . .

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.

DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file a 2021 SEI. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he failed to timely file his 2021 SEI. In mitigation, Respondent states that he resides with his wife and neither of them received the Commission's March 21, 2022 letter. Respondent states that he has served from 2018-2022 and strived to timely file the necessary reports with the Commission. Respondent also notes, and the Commission acknowledges, that Respondent appears to have filed an

SEI prior to the March 30, 2021 deadline; however, Respondent filed a 2020 SEI instead of a 2021 SEI. Respondent apologizes to the Commission for his error and takes responsibility for his failure to timely file.

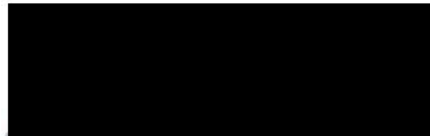
DISPOSITION

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1140 for failing a 2021 SEI.
2. The Commission adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this written warning to Respondent, and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within sixty (60) days from receipt of this Order, a late-filing penalty of \$100.00 and an administrative fee of \$500.00, for a total of \$600.00. The Commission declines to assess the remaining \$4,900 in late-filing penalties given that Respondent does not appear to have received the Commission's March 21, 2022 correspondence.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is not only admitting to a violation of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$600 in the event he does not make payment as provided for in this Order, in which case the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent with the County Clerk of Court in Respondent's last known County of residence, who shall enter this Order in the amount of \$600 (less any money paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 3rd DAY OF November 2023.



BRADLEY D. PRINCE
RESPONDENT

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR