

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C2022-102

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Candidate – Town of Cheraw 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 October 13, 2021 and October 18, 2021. 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 March 28, 2022 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure has not 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
14th day of September, 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

C102form

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2022-102)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad)
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 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, April 18, 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 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 Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad, Candidate for Cheraw 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 15th day,
of September 2023.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Bahaadur Adb'ul'Ahad, 100 Fred Harris Drive, Apt. 8, Cheraw, SC 29520 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 4th day of September 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

Laster, Courtney

From: Bahaadur Abdulahad <bahaadurabdualahad@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 8:39 AM
To: Laster, Courtney
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Request for Continuance



Comes Now Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad, and Sends this letter to Cease and Desist against The State Ethics Commissions for Harassment. I been Closed all Bank accounts and File to end Campaign you all keep going like I'm still running, I used my money in Both elections, THEREFORE CEASE AND DESIST the HARASSMENT!!!!

On Wed, Apr 17, 2024 at 6:28 PM Bahaadur Abdulahad <bahaadurabdualahad@gmail.com> wrote:
I have all Rights to face my accusers in Person, Personal matters, I have no problem Standing among anyone!!!!.

On Wed, Apr 17, 2024 at 6:25 PM Bahaadur Abdulahad <bahaadurabdualahad@gmail.com> wrote:
You have no jurisdiction anyway, and the case is Fraud. Trying me again for the same things, when I closed my Elections, and didn't run again. and I Closed the Bank accounts,, and also filed to close it, account too.I thought with you all. Case Close, and I paid for everything both times no donations, only said that to look like I did. my Money! A case of just trying to harass me.

On Wed, Apr 17, 2024 at 4:34 PM Laster, Courtney <claster@ethics.sc.gov> wrote:

Mr. Abdulahad,

I am in receipt of your request for a continuance. I will present this to the Panel tomorrow, April 18, 2024. I intend to object to this request given the number of Notices of Hearing staff had to issue in your prior Complaint, C2019-041, and your last-minute request for a continuance in that matter, also due to a "personal reason."

Thank you,

Courtney M. Laster

General Counsel

South Carolina Ethics Commission

201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150

Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: 803-253-4192

Fax: 803-253-7539

From: O'Bryan, Rachael <robryan@ethics.sc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 4:08 PM
To: Laster, Courtney <claster@ethics.sc.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] Re: Request for Continuance

From: Bahaadur Abdulahad <bahaadurabdualahad@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 4:06 PM
To: O'Bryan, Rachael <robryan@ethics.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Request for Continuance

I will not be available all Day on the 18th for a Zoom meeting, Personal Matter. Sorry. This why The Continuance request.

On Wed, Apr 17, 2024, 3:25 PM Bahaadur Abdulahad <bahaadurabdualahad@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you for your assistance.

On Wed, Apr 17, 2024 at 2:44 PM O'Bryan, Rachael <robryan@ethics.sc.gov> wrote:

Mr. Abd'ul'Ahad,

Per our phone conversation, I have copied Courtney on this email so you can submit your request to her.

I know you indicated transportation may be an issue for you as far as attending a hearing date. You are able to attend by Zoom, you would just need to let staff know so a link can be provided.

Thank you.

Rachael O'Bryan

Administrative Assistant - Legal

South Carolina State Ethics Commission

201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150

Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: 803.253.4192

Fax: 803.253.7539

O'Bryan, Rachael

From: O'Bryan, Rachael
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 4:12 PM
To: Bahaadur Abdulahad
Subject: RE: [External] Re: Request for Continuance

Courtney asked me to forward you the hearing panel link for tomorrow, in the event you do need it. Thank you.

Topic: April Commission Hearings
Time: Apr 18, 2024 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87913127140?pwd=bmU0RHpxbmNndktzc2pGcHBNN2xUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 1312 7140
Passcode: 949799

One tap mobile
+13092053325,,87913127140#,,,,*949799# US
+13126266799,,87913127140#,,,,*949799# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US

Meeting ID: 879 1312 7140
Passcode: 949799

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdrMZ4YCGa>

From: Bahaadur Abdulahad <bahaadurabduhad@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 4:06 PM
To: O'Bryan, Rachael <robryan@ethics.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Request for Continuance

I will not be available all Day on the 18th for a Zoom meeting, Personal Matter. Sorry. This why The Continuance request.

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Per our phone conversation, I have copied Courtney on this email so you can submit your request to her.

I know you indicated transportation may be an issue for you as far as attending a hearing date. You are able to attend by Zoom, you would just need to let staff know so a link can be provided.

Thank you.

Rachael O'Bryan

Administrative Assistant - Legal

South Carolina State Ethics Commission

201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150

Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: 803.253.4192

Fax: 803.253.7539

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2022-102)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Bahaadur Abdulahad,)
Respondent.)


BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**ORDER GRANTING
RESPONDENT’S REQUEST FOR A
CONTINUANCE**

The above-captioned matter was called for a hearing on April 18, 2024 before Commissioners AJ Holloway, Scott E. Frick, and F. Xavier Starkes, Hearing Chair. At the call of the case, correspondence dated April 17, 2024 and April 18, 2024 was presented to the Panel wherein Respondent requested a continuance due to a “personal matter.” Commission staff objected, arguing Respondent had a history of last-minutes requests for continuances. The Panel hereby grants Respondent’s request for a continuance and directs staff to re-notice this matter for October 17, 2024. The Panel notes that this is Respondent’s first request for a continuance in this matter.

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

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


F. XAVIER STARKES
HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Complaint C2022-102)	
)	
State Ethics Commission)	AMENDED
Complainant.)	NOTICE OF HEARING
)	
Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad)	
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 17, 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 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 Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad, Candidate for Cheraw 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 18th day,
of April 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Bahaadur Adb'ul'Ahad, 100 Fred Harris Drive, Apt. 8, Cheraw, SC 29520 by depositing said **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 22 day of April 2024, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.

[REDACTED]

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 C2022-102)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad,)
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 September 14, 2022. 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 Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad (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.¹ Respondent was duly notified but did not appear. Complainant was represented by Courtney Laster. The following charge was considered:

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

That Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad, Candidate for Cheraw Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Respondent was a candidate for Cheraw Town Council in a November 2, 2021 election.
2. Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the November 2, 2021 election.

¹ Commissioners Pinkston and Holloway appeared virtually.

3. In a March 28, 2022 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to timely file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR.
4. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on April 1, 2022 at 9:51 a.m. Respondent signed for the letter and subsequently acknowledged to Commission Investigator James Bagnall that he received it.
5. On April 11, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$10.00 per day.
6. On April 21, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$100.00 per day.
7. On September 11, 2022, Respondent filed his 2021 Pre-Election CDR, having accrued the statutory maximum of \$5,000.00 in late-filing penalties.

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

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 Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad is in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR.

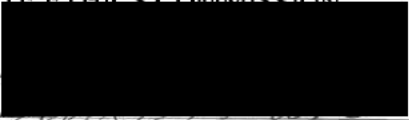
THEREFORE, Respondent is hereby Publicly Reprimanded and assessed a reduced late-filing penalty of \$2,500.00 for his failure to timely file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR and an administrative fee of \$1,000.00, for a total of \$3,500.00.

FURTHER, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$3,500.00 is not paid within ninety (90) days from Respondent's receipt of this Order, a judgment in the amount of \$6,000.00 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's Office in the County of Respondent's last known residence, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$6,000.00, less any money paid, in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, Respondent Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad 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 7th DAY OF March 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


SCOTT E. FRICK, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
CZ022-102

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Bahaadur Abd'ul' Ahad
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Candidate - Town of Cheraw 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 October 13, 2021 and October 18, 2021. 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 March 28, 2022 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure has not 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 14th day of September 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

C102form

Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad

March 28, 2022: \$100.00 penalty is sent certified for failure to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure between October 13, 2021 and October 18, 2021.

April 1, 2022: According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter is "Delivered, Left with Individual" at 9:51 a.m.

April 11, 2022: Penalties begin accruing at \$10 per day for the first ten days

April 21, 2022: Penalties begin accruing at \$100 per day

September 12, 2022: After no response, complaint is filed.

Previous or Current Non-Compliance

C2019-041



April 25, 2022

Dear STATE ETHICS COMMISSION:

The following is in response to your request for proof of delivery on your item with the tracking number:
9214 8969 0099 9790 1421 2004 41.



Item Details

Status: Delivered, Left with Individual
Status Date / Time: April 1, 2022, 9:51 am
Location: CHERAW, SC 29520
Postal Product: First-Class Mail®
Extra Services: Certified Mail™
Return Receipt Electronic
Recipient Name: Mr Bahaadur Abd ul Ahad

Shipment Details

Weight: 0.0oz

Recipient Signature

Signature of Recipient:	
Address of Recipient:	

Note: Scanned image may reflect a different destination address due to Intended Recipient's delivery instructions on file.

Thank you for selecting the United States Postal Service® for your mailing needs. If you require additional assistance, please contact your local Post Office™ or a Postal representative at 1-800-222-1811.

Sincerely,
United States Postal Service®
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-0004

4-11-2022: \$10/day begins
4-21-2022: \$100/day begins

State of South Carolina
State Ethics Commission

4/25

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



AL HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 28, 2022

CERTIFIED MAIL: 9214 8969 0099 9790 1421 2004 41

Mr. Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad

Dear Mr. Abd'ul'Ahad:

This is not a form letter. You are receiving this letter because you are currently in violation of the Ethics Reform Act. As a candidate for Cheraw Town Council, you are subject to the Ethics Reform Act, which is the body of laws that govern public officials, public members, and public employees.

Continued delays in filing the Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure will result in accrual of late filing penalties with a maximum penalty of \$5,000.00.

Please be advised that this letter only addresses late or missing reports, and you could still be subject to a random audit regarding illegal contributions and expenditures. Due to the new system migration in September 2021, you may see reports in your account that say, "System Created Report." This means you did not file them or filed them late in the old system. It might be necessary for you to add any contributions or expenditures not previously reported. This will create an amendment to your system created report. If you do not have any further contributions or expenditures to report, please send confirmation in writing. While reviewing your Campaign Disclosures and Statements of Economic Interests, the following deficiencies were discovered:

A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to October 18, 2021 but no earlier than October 13, 2021, has not been filed.

In accordance with Section 8-13-1510, South Carolina Code Ann., 1976, as amended, a late filing penalty of \$100.00 is hereby levied. If the required reports 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.

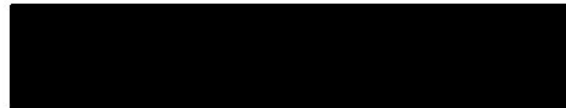
If extenuating circumstances prevented you from filing the reports as required, you may file a written appeal of this late filing penalty. To file an appeal, you must do the following within ten (10) days of the date you receive this letter:

Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad
March 28, 2022
Page 2 of 2

- File all missing reports online at <http://ethics.sc.gov>
- Send a personal check or money order made payable to the State Ethics Commission
- Provide a written statement describing any extenuating circumstances and include any supporting documentation.

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:cnd

com100

Candidate Listing

Bahadur Abd'ul'Ahad

Votes.gov

11/2/2021 Town of Cheraw General Election

For a list of all candidates, click search without selecting any search options. You can narrow your search by making selections below. If you have questions concerning your search results, please contact your County Voter Registration office.

Office: Party:
 Candidates by County: Location of Filing:
 Candidate Status:
 Candidate Last Name:
 Candidate First Name:

Results Found: 7

Results Shown: 1-7

Office	Associated Counties	Name on Ballot	Running Mate	Party	Location of Filing	Candidate Status
Town Council District, Chesterfield Town Council Dist 2	CHESTERFIELD	Carl Davis		Nonpartisan	CHESTERFIELD	Defeated in Election
Town Council District, Chesterfield Town Council Dist 2	CHESTERFIELD	Jerry Tucker		Nonpartisan	CHESTERFIELD	Elected
Town Council District, Chesterfield Town Council Dist 2	CHESTERFIELD	Billy Wallace Jr		Nonpartisan	CHESTERFIELD	Defeated in Election
Town Council District, Chesterfield Town Council Dist 4	CHESTERFIELD	Harvey Johnson		Nonpartisan	CHESTERFIELD	Elected
Town Council District, Chesterfield Town Council Dist 6	CHESTERFIELD	Bahadur Abd ul Ahad		Nonpartisan	CHESTERFIELD	Defeated in Election
Town Council District, Chesterfield Town Council Dist 6	CHESTERFIELD	Blake Tillman		Nonpartisan	CHESTERFIELD	Defeated in Election
Town Council District, Chesterfield Town Council Dist 6	CHESTERFIELD	Richard White		Nonpartisan	CHESTERFIELD	Elected

Candidate Detail

Votes.gov

Election: Town of Cheraw General Election
Office: Town Council District, Chesterfield Town Council Dist 6
Candidate: Bahaadur Abd ul Ahad
Party: Nonpartisan
Address: 100 Fred Harris Dr Cheraw SC, 29520
Status: Defeated in Election
Date Filed: 8/27/2021
Location Filed: CHESTERFIELD

State of South Carolina
State Ethics Commission

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



AJ HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 16, 2021

Bahaadur Aalim Abdulahad
100 Fred Harris Dr
Cheraw, SC, 29520

Bahaadur Aalim:

Thank you for participating in the 2021 election. Even though you were unsuccessful this time, the Ethics Reform Act requires you to continue filing quarterly campaign disclosures as long as you maintain a balance in your campaign checking account. Some candidates who are planning to run *for the same office* in the future, choose to maintain their campaign checking account balance and continue filing quarterly campaign disclosures.

If you would like to end your filing requirements, you must bring your campaign checking account balance to \$0.00. Once your campaign checking account balance reaches \$0.00, and you file a Final Campaign Disclosure, you will no longer be required to file quarterly campaign disclosures.

Pursuant to Section 8-13-1370 of the Ethics Reform Act, you can use unexpended campaign contributions in the following manner:

- 1) Contribute the balance to a 501(c)(3);
- 2) Return the balance, pro rata, to your contributors;
- 3) Contribute the balance to the state's general fund; or
- 4) A combination of the above methods.

Be advised that failure to file quarterly campaign disclosures while maintaining a balance in your campaign checking account can lead to costly penalties. A person who fails to file campaign disclosures as required by the Ethics Reform Act can be fined up to \$5,000.00 per campaign disclosure they fail to file. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at (803) 253-4192 with any questions you have.

Sincerely,

Meghan Walker

Meghan Walker
Executive Director

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

September 18, 2024

Mr. Bahaadur Adb'ul'Ahad
100 Fred Harris Drive, Apt. 8
Cheraw, SC 29520

Certified Mail No.: 9214 8969 0099 9790 1425 7499 46

RE: Complaint C2022-102

In the Matter of Bahaadur Adb'ul'Ahad

Dear Mr. Adb'ul'Ahad:

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 Second Amended Notice of Hearing. In accordance with 8-13-320(10)(s), South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, all complaint matters are 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.

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 Second Amended Notice of Hearing and notify the Commission whether you will or will not attend the scheduled hearing at 9:30am, Thursday, February 20, 2025 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.

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

Sincerely,



Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

MWD:ro
Enclosures: Second Amended Notice of Hearing

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Complaint C2022-102)	
)	
State Ethics Commission)	SECOND AMENDED
Complainant.)	NOTICE OF HEARING
)	
Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad)	
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, February 20, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the 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 Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad, Candidate for Cheraw 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 4th day,
of September 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Bahaadur Adb'ul'Ahad, 100 Fred Harris Drive, Apt. 8, Cheraw, SC 29520 by depositing said **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 18th 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



October 2, 2024

Dear Rachael OBryan:

The following is in response to your request for proof of delivery on your item with the tracking number:
9214 8969 0099 9790 1425 7499 46.


Item Details

Status: Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Post Office
Status Date / Time: September 27, 2024, 3:59 pm
Location: CHERAW, SC 29520
Postal Product: First-Class Mail®
Extra Services: Certified Mail™
Return Receipt Electronic
Recipient Name: Mr Bahaadur Adb ul Ahad

Shipment Details

Weight: 0.0oz

Recipient Signature

Signature of Recipient:	
Address of Recipient:	100 FRED HARRIS DR APT 8 CHERAW, SC 29520-3411

Note: Scanned image may reflect a different destination address due to Intended Recipient's delivery instructions on file.

Thank you for selecting the United States Postal Service® for your mailing needs. If you require additional assistance, please contact your local Post Office™ or a Postal representative at 1-800-222-1811.

Sincerely,
United States Postal Service®
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-0004

NOTICE OF APPEAL TO THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Bahaadur AbdulAhad
100 Fred Harris Dr. Apt. 8
Cheraw, SC 29520
843-703-5358
bahaadurabdualahad@gmail.com

RE: Complaint C2022-102

COMES NOW, Bahaadur AbdulAhad, On March 13, 2025, I received a letter mailed on March 10, 2025, about a hearing that was held without me being Present. The State Ethics Commission completed a hearing into the above-captioned Complaints on February 20, 2025. As a result of a hearing without my presence, the State Ethics Commission issued the attached Decision and Order, which was sent 18 days later. I contacted Courtney Lester, General Counsel, and Requested a Continnence, However, She and others tried me, without me being present to address these false claims, I finished my Campaign Filed my Campaign disclosure report, and worked with Jimmy Bagnell, Investigator for the Commission "Said we were done, everything was finished. However, Mrs. Lester, Filed this Complaint in Violation of my Constitutional Rights to be Heard, and also, to address my Accuser, I had sickness in my Family, and Transportation Problems, I was with Family Members. that caused me to be at the Hospital. I contacted the Commission, and requested more time. And I Thought the Case was Closed.

**I, Bahaadur AbdulAhad, HEREBY APPEALS THE DECISION AND ORDER OF
THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION Dated March 10, 2025.**

Sincerely,



Bahaadur AbdulAhad
The Respondant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
 COMPLAINT C2022-102)
)
 State Ethics Commission)
 , Complainant)
 vs.)
)
 Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad)
 Respondent,)
 _____)

**APPEAL OF BAHAADUR ABD'UL'AHAD
 OF
 DECISION AND ORDER**

Comes Now, Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad, and Files this Appeal to THe Commission Decision and Order of a hearing held on February 20, 2025, Present at the hearing were Commissioners Brandolyn T. Pinkston, AJ Holloway, and Scott E. Frick, Hearing Chair, Respondent notified Courtney Laster that he had transportation problems as well as a family that was in the hospital and asked for a Continuous. The Commission denied my request and had the hearing without my presence. The Respondent Now requests a new hearing to present All facts and Evidence, that were denied. I hereby appeal because I believe the charge and fine were issued in error for the following reasons, I had transportation problems, computer problems, Financial hardship,, and sickness in the family at the time of the hearing. Therefore, I submitting my appeal and plan to testify at a new hearing.

**CERTIFICATION: I CERTIFY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS APPEAL ARE TRUE
 CORRECT AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF**

Dated this 23th Day of March, 2025





STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

201 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

RESPONDENT SURVEY

Please indicate how strongly you agree with each of the following statements about your recent experience with the State Ethics Commission.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I was treated fairly by the Commission and/or staff.					✓
I was treated with respect before the Commission and/or staff.					✓
The Commission took my request(s) and/or evidence presented seriously.					✓
The proceedings were clearly explained to me.					✓
Staff was available to answer any questions I had during this process.					✓

Tried Me, without Me being presence

Please return this survey via email to robryan@ethics.sc.gov or via U.S. Mail to 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, SC 29210.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2022-102)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad,)
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 September 14, 2022. 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 Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad (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.¹ Respondent was duly notified but did not appear. Complainant was represented by Courtney Laster. The following charge was considered:

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

That Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad, Candidate for Cheraw Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Respondent was a candidate for Cheraw Town Council in a November 2, 2021 election.
2. Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the November 2, 2021 election.

¹ Commissioners Pinkston and Holloway appeared virtually.

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 Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad 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-filing penalty of \$2,500.00 for his failure to timely file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR and an administrative fee of \$1,000.00, for a total of \$3,500.00.

FURTHER, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$3,500.00 is not paid within ninety (90) days from Respondent's receipt of this Order, a judgment in the amount of \$6,000.00 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's Office in the County of Respondent's last known residence, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$6,000.00, less any money paid, in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

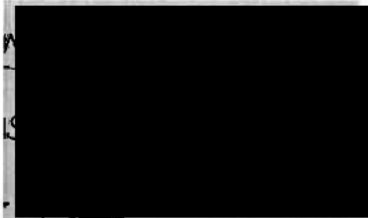
FINALLY, Respondent Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad has ten (10) days from receipt of this Order to appeal this Decision and Order to the full Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 7th DAY OF March 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


SCOTT E. FRICK, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina



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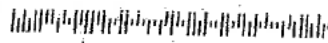
\$
R23

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE SUITES
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 150
29210

RECEIVED

MAR 26 2025

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2022-102)
State Ethics Commission,)
Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad,)
APPELLANT.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING

Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad served a Motion for an Appeal on the State Ethics Commission on March 26, 2024. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal appellate hearing into the matter, in accordance with State Ethics Commission Regulations, 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 802 (2013 Cum. Supp.) on September 21, 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.

Pursuant to 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 803, the Appellant shall file any additional briefs within ten (10) days of the date of service of this notice. In the event the Appellant fails to appear, he will have waived his hearing and judgment will stand.



Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

Dated this 26th day,
of March 2025.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** was duly served on the Respondent Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad,, 100 Fred Harris Drive, Apt. 8, Cheraw, SC 29520 by depositing said **NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 14th day of April 2025, 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 C2022-102)
State Ethics Commission,)
Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad,)
APPELLANT.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**AMENDED
NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING**

Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad served a Motion for an Appeal on the State Ethics Commission on March 26, 2024. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal appellate hearing into the matter, in accordance with State Ethics Commission Regulations, 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 802 (2013 Cum. Supp.) on November 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.

Pursuant to 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 803, the Appellant shall file any additional briefs within ten (10) days of the date of service of this notice. In the event the Appellant fails to appear, he will have waived his hearing and judgment will stand.



Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

Dated this 19th day,
of September 2025.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **AMENDED NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** was duly served on the Respondent Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad,, 100 Fred Harris Drive, Apt. 8, Cheraw, SC 29520 by depositing said **AMENDED NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 26th day of September 2025, 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 C2022-102)
State Ethics Commission,)
Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad,)
APPELLANT.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**SECOND AMENDED
NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING**

Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad served a Motion for an Appeal on the State Ethics Commission on March 26, 2025. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal appellate hearing into the matter, in accordance with State Ethics Commission Regulations, 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 802 (2013 Cum. Supp.) on January 15, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

Pursuant to 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 803, the Appellant shall file any additional briefs within ten (10) days of the date of service of this notice. In the event the Appellant fails to appear, he will have waived his hearing and judgment will stand.



Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

Dated this 20th day,
of November, 2025.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2022-102)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad)
Appellant.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

APPEAL ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a timely Notice of Appeal filed by Bahaadur Abd'ul'Ahad (Appellant) to appeal the Decision and Order (Decision) of the Commission Hearing Panel (Hearing Panel) issued March 7, 2025. Present at the January 15, 2026, Appeal Hearing were Commissioners Bryant S. Caldwell, Helen Munnerlyn, Sara Parrish, Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, Neal D. Truslow, and F. Xavier Starkes, Appellate Panel Chair.¹ The Commission was represented by Courtney M. Laster. As explained herein, Appellant was duly notified, but failed to appear.

FACTS

On February 20, 2025, pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Act), the Hearing Panel received testimony regarding this Complaint. Although he was duly notified of the hearing, Appellant failed to appear, and the hearing proceeded in his absence. Ultimately, the Hearing Panel found Appellant in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to a November 2, 2021, election for Cheraw Town Council. The Hearing Panel assessed a reduced late-filing penalty of \$2,500.00 and an administrative fee of \$1,000.00, for a total of \$3,500.00, to be paid

¹ Pursuant to Reg. 52-805(A), the Appellate Panel is comprised of the full Commission "excluding the original hearing Commissioners." The Hearing Panel consisted of Commissioners Scott E. Frick, Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, and AJ Holloway, whose terms all expired on March 30, 2025. Therefore, there were no recusals during the appeal hearing.

JX #1

within ninety (90) days. If Appellant failed to pay the \$3,500.00 within ninety (90) days, the Hearing Panel ordered the late-filing penalty to revert to the statutory maximum of \$5,000.00. In the event of a reversion, the Hearing Panel ordered a judgment to be filed against Appellant in the amount of \$6,000.00 (the amount of the late-filing penalty plus the administrative fee). Appellant timely filed a request for an appeal.

The appeal hearing was initially scheduled for September 21, 2025. On September 20, 2025, Appellant requested a continuance, stating he could not attend the hearing because he may have contracted Covid-19. The Commission granted Appellant's request and ordered that the matter be continued. The appeal hearing was subsequently re-noticed for November 20, 2025. On the morning of November 20, 2025, Appellant requested a second continuance, contending he had contracted Covid-19 and was unable to appear. The Commission granted Appellant's request and ordered that the matter be continued. The Commission further instructed Commission staff to advise Appellant that virtual attendance at the appeal hearing was available.

On December 9, 2025, the appeal hearing was re-noticed for January 15, 2026. A cover letter advising Appellant that virtual attendance was available accompanied the Second Amended Notice of Appellate Hearing. On December 10, 2026, Commission Investigator Reginald Gaymon traveled to Appellant's address of record in Cheraw, South Carolina. Upon arrival, Investigator Gaymon contacted Appellant via telephone. Investigator Gaymon informed Appellant that he needed to serve Appellant with the Second Amended Notice of Hearing and accompanying cover letter. Appellant instructed Investigator Gaymon to deliver the documents to Laretta Marshall, a neighbor. Investigator Gaymon complied with Appellant's instructions and delivered the documents to Marshall.

At the call of the case on January 15, 2026, Appellant was not present and had not submitted any additional requests for continuances. Commission staff therefore asked the Commission to dismiss Appellant's appeal, thereby affirming the Hearing Panel's Decision and Order.



DECISION

NOW, based on the procedural history outlined herein, the Commission finds that Appellant was properly notified of the appeal hearing and failed to appear as required. Accordingly, the Commission hereby dismisses Appellant's appeal, thereby affirming the Hearing Panel's Decision and Order. In that regard, Appellant has ninety (90) days from his receipt of this Appeal Order to pay a reduced late-filing penalty of \$2,500.00 and an administrative fee of \$1,000.00, for a total of \$3,500.00. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$3,500.00 is not paid within the specified time period, the reduced late-filing penalty will revert to the statutory maximum of \$5,000.00 and a judgment in the amount of \$6,000.00 (\$5,000.00 for the late-filing penalty and \$1,000.00 for the administrative fee) shall be entered against Appellant. In the event of a failure to pay, upon the Commission's filing of said judgment with the Clerk of Court in Appellant's last known County of residence, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$6,000.00 in its Judgment Rolls, less any monies paid, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(m), this review is the final disposition of this matter before the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 11th DAY OF February 2026.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


F. XAVIER STARKES,
APPELLATE PANEL CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina