

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER

C 2022-113

COMPLAINT FORM

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
RECEIVED SEP22'22 PM1:36:4

**COMPLAINANT:** State Ethics Commission  
**ADDRESS:** 201 Executive Center Drive, Ste. 150,  
Suite 150, Columbia, SC 29210  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 803.253.4192  
**TITLE:**

**RESPONDENT:** Teresa Smith  
**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** [REDACTED]  
**TITLE:** Clerk for Town of Lodge

*Set forth in detail specific facts upon which you based your complaint against above-named respondent (only detailed, clear factual allegations will be considered. If additional space is needed, attach supplemental sheets).*

Pursuant to a confidential investigation, a Commission Investigator subpoenaed account records for the Town of Lodge. Upon review of the account records, the Commission Investigator observed checks written from the Town's account to Teresa Smith and signed by Teresa Smith, a public employee and clerk for the Town of Lodge.

**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 he/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 his/her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2022

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Complainant Signature

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 C2022-113 )  
)  
State Ethics Commission )  
Complainant. )  
)  
Teresa Smith )  
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, August 15, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

**COUNT ONE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3932 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWO**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official

position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3937 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THREE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3949 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FOUR**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3955 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FIVE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3960 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT SIX**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3967 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT SEVEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3973 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT EIGHT**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3979 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT NINE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3984 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3991 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT ELEVEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official

position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 3998 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWELVE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4009 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTEEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4017 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FOURTEEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4021 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FIFTEEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4029 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT SIXTEEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4045 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT SEVENTEEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4053 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT EIGHTEEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4059 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT NINETEEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4066 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWENTY**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official

position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4072 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWENTY-ONE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4079 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWENTY-TWO**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4085 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWENTY-THREE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4092 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWENTY-FOUR**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4099 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWENTY-FIVE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4107 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWENTY-SIX**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4113 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWENTY-SEVEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4117 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWENTY-EIGHT**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4124 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT TWENTY-NINE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official

position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4138 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTY**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4148 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTY-ONE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4150 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTY-TWO**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4155 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTY-THREE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4163 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTY-FOUR**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4169 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTY-FIVE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4176 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTY-SIX**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4184 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTY-SEVEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4188 in the amount of \$100 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTY-EIGHT**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official

position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4190 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT THIRTY-NINE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4199 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FORTY**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4206 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FORTY-ONE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4215 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FORTY-TWO**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4222 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FORTY-THREE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4243 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FORTY-FOUR**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4249 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FORTY-FIVE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4256 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FORTY-SIX**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4267 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FORTY-SEVEN**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official

position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4273 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FORTY-EIGHT**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4279 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FORTY-NINE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4285 in the amount of \$102.24 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FIFTY**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4287 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FIFTY-ONE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4294 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FIFTY-TWO**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4300 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

**COUNT FIFTY-THREE**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4310 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

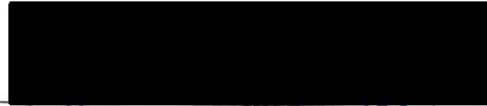
**COUNT FIFTY-FOUR**  
**USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INTEREST**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(B), S. C. CODE ANNOTATED, 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Teresa Smith, Clerk for Town of Lodge, did in Richland County, use her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing check 4319 in the amount of \$300 to herself, in violation of Section 8-13-700(B).

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.

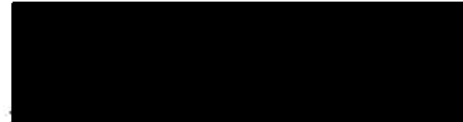


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director  
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day,  
of November 2023.

**Certificate of Service by Certified Mail**

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on Attorney Teresa Smith, 13670 Broxton Bridge Road, Ehrhartdt, SC 29081 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



**Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant**  
State Ethics Commission (803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
 )  
 IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 COMPLAINT C2022-113 )  
 )  
 State Ethics Commission, )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 Teresa Smith, )  
 Respondent. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a complaint filed on September 22, 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 Teresa Smith (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 has served as the clerk for the Town of Lodge for approximately 25 years.
2. At all times relevant, Town policy requires two (2) signatures on any check issued on behalf of the Town.
3. Throughout her employment with the Town, Respondent was an authorized signatory on the Town’s checking account. The Town’s Mayor was the other signatory.
4. From October 2, 2018 through September 2, 2022,<sup>1</sup> Respondent co-signed fifty-four (54) checks to herself. Of these fifty-four (54) checks, fifty-two (52) of them were for Respondent’s compensation as the Town Clerk and the remaining two (2) checks were to reimburse Respondent for purchases she made on behalf of the Town.

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission is limited to a four (4) year statute of limitations pursuant to Section 8-13-320(9)(d).

5. Following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent informed Commission Investigators that she was unaware that she could not sign the checks to herself. Respondent further stated that the Town revised its check-writing policy in light of the Complaint to avoid similar issues in the future.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Statements of Facts, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a public employee, as defined by Section 8-13-100(25).

The Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

2. Section 8-13-700(B) provides, in relevant part:

No [public employee] may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use his [employment] to influence a governmental decision in which he, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated has an economic interest. A [public employee] who, in the discharge of his official responsibilities, is required to take an action or make a decision which affects an economic interest of himself, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated shall:

- (1) prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decisions and the nature of his potential conflict of interest with respect to the action or decision;

...

- (3) if he is a public employee, he shall furnish a copy of the statement to his superior, if any, who shall assign the matter to another employee who does not have a potential conflict of interest. If he has no immediate superior, he shall take the action prescribed by the State Ethics Commission;

3. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to “levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation of any provision of the Ethics Act.”
4. Section 8-13-320(10)(l)(i) allows the Commission to require payment of a civil penalty of up to two thousand dollars for each violation of the Ethics Act.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with fifty-four (54) counts of violating Section 8-13-700(B) for signing checks from the Town of Lodge made out to Respondent. Through this Consent Order, Respondent acknowledges she violated the Ethics Act in each instance outlined in the Notice of Hearing. In mitigation, Respondent states she was unaware that the Town's check-writing practice was problematic until the filing of the Complaint. Respondent further states that the Town has since revised its check-writing policy to avoid similar issues in the future. The Commission notes that Respondent did not receive any economic benefit to which she was not entitled.

### **DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent Teresa Smith in violation of Section 8-13-700(B) as outlined in the Notice of Hearing.
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 this Public Reprimand to Respondent for violations of the Ethics Act;

AND orders Respondent to pay to the Commission, within six (6) months, an administrative fee of \$300, for a total of \$300. The Commission declines to assess any civil penalties given the mitigating circumstances presented.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that she is not only admitting to violations of the Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$300 (less any money paid to the Commission) in the event she does not make full and timely payment as provided in this Order. In that event, the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent in the County of

Respondent's last known residence. Upon said filing, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$300 (less any money paid to the Commission) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS ORDERED THIS 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF March, 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR

  
TERESA SMITH  
RESPONDENT