

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED FEB 8 '23 PM 4:37:07

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2023-066

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Troy T. Thomas
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Candidate – Town of Springfield 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 reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated June 25, 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 8th day of February, 2023

[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

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
REF ID: FEB8'23 PM4:57:07

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2023-006

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Troy T. Thomas
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Candidate – Town of Springfield Council

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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 reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated June 25, 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 8th day of February, 2023

[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**

Troy T. Thomas

June 25, 2022: \$100.00 penalty letter is sent certified for failure to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure between October 13, 2021 and October 18, 2021.

June 30, 2022: According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter is "Delivered" at 3:59 p.m.

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

July 20, 2022: Penalties begin accruing at \$100 per day

February 6, 2023: After no response, complaint is filed.

Previous or Current Non-Compliance

None



July 11, 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 8057 69.

Item Details

Status:	Delivered
Status Date / Time:	June 30, 2022, 3:59 pm
Location:	SPRINGFIELD, SC 29146
Postal Product:	First-Class Mail®
Extra Services:	Certified Mail™ Return Receipt Electronic
Recipient Name:	Mr Troy T Thomas

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

7/10/22 - \$10/day begins

7/20/22 - \$100/day begins

7/25

State of South Carolina
State Ethics Commission

SCOTT E. FRICK
AJ HOLLOWAY
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON
F. XAVIER STARKES



MARY HUNTER B. TOMLINSON
NEAL D. TRUSLOW
MATTHEW N. TYLER

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 25, 2022

CERTIFIED MAIL: 9214 8969 0099 9790 1421 8057 69

Mr. Troy T. Thomas
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Thomas:

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 Springfield 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. You must 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 between October 13, 2021, and October 18, 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 report is 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:

- Send a personal check or money order made payable to the State Ethics Commission
- File all missing reports online at <http://ethics.sc.gov>
- 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

Troy T. Thomas

- no account

Candidate Listing

SCVotes.gov

11/2/2021 Town of Springfield 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: 9

Results Shown: 1-9

Office	Associated Counties	Name on Ballot	Running Mate	Party	Location of Filing	Candidate Status
Mayor, Springfield	ORANGEBURG	Whitney Corbett		Nonpartisan	ORANGEBURG	Defeated in Election
Mayor, Springfield	ORANGEBURG	Ed Furtick		Nonpartisan	ORANGEBURG	Elected
Town Council, Springfield	ORANGEBURG	Gregory Abendroth		Nonpartisan	ORANGEBURG	Elected
Town Council, Springfield	ORANGEBURG	Tiffany M Brice		Nonpartisan	ORANGEBURG	Defeated in Election
Town Council, Springfield	ORANGEBURG	Francine Edwards		Nonpartisan	ORANGEBURG	Elected
Town Council, Springfield	ORANGEBURG	Anne Greene		Nonpartisan	ORANGEBURG	Defeated in Election
Town Council, Springfield	ORANGEBURG	Doug Kinard		Nonpartisan	ORANGEBURG	Elected
Town Council, Springfield	ORANGEBURG	Allen Stanley		Nonpartisan	ORANGEBURG	Elected
Town Council, Springfield	ORANGEBURG	Troy T Thomas		Nonpartisan	ORANGEBURG	Defeated in Election

Statement of Intention of Candidacy - Nonpartisan

- This form must be completed by a candidate seeking nonpartisan office. Contact the receiving authority for filing deadlines
- The S.C. Constitution prohibits a person who has been convicted of a felony from filing for public office for 15 years after the completion of the sentence, including probation and parole time, unless previously pardoned.

Name	Troy T. Thomas				
Office	Council member				
County or City	Springfield	Election Date	Nov 2 2021		
Address	P.O. Box 2643 / 1408 Georgi St.	City	Springfield	Zip	29146
Email Address	springfield2407@hotmail.com				
Telephone	Cell	[REDACTED]		Home	Work
Voter Registration Number	386438052				
Guidelines for a Candidate's Name to appear on the ballot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A given name or a derivative may be used ▪ The name may not contain quotations, parentheses, or other distinguishing marks ▪ Nicknames are allowed if they are used in good faith for honest purposes and do not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imply professional or social status ▪ Include an office or military rank ▪ Exceed 15 letters 					
Name as you wish it to appear on ballot (please print)		Troy T. Thomas			

Candidate's Oath	
I affirm I meet, or will meet by the time of the general or special election, the qualifications for the office of AUG 12 11 PM 5: 15	
Candidate's Signature	[REDACTED]

To be Completed by Receiving Authority					
Date Received	8/5/2021	Time Received	4:04 PM	Filing Fee Amount Paid	\$10.00
Received By	B. McCormick		Receiving Authority	Town Clerk	

SOUTH CAROLINA



August 9, 2023

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 1423 8130 45.**


Item Details

Status: Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Post Office
Status Date / Time: August 7, 2023, 3:28 pm
Location: SPRINGFIELD, SC 29146
Postal Product: First-Class Mail®
Extra Services: Certified Mail™
Return Receipt Electronic
Recipient Name: Mr Troy T Thomas

Shipment Details

Weight: 0.0oz

Recipient Signature

Signature of Recipient: 
Address of Recipient: **PO BOX 643**
SPRINGFIELD, SC 29146-0643

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

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

August 2, 2023

Mr. Troy T. Thomas

Certified Mail: 92148969009997901423813045

RE: Complaint C2023-006

In the Matter of Troy T. Thomas

Dear Mr. Thomas:

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

In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. Section 1-23-320(F), in lieu of a hearing, the Commission may be agreeable to resolve this matter through an informal disposition by Consent Order. 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 Notice of Hearing and notify the Commission whether you will or will not attend the scheduled hearing at **9:30am, Thursday, February 15, 2024** 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.
- Discuss the option of a Consent Order

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

Sincerely,

Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

MWD:ro
Enclosure: Notice of Hearing

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2023-006)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
Troy T. Thomas)
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, February 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 allegation will be heard:

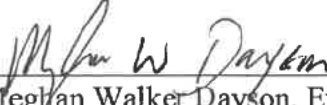
COUNT ONE
FAILURE TO FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Troy T. Thomas, Candidate for Springfield 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 27th day,
of July 2023.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Troy T. Thomas, P.O. Box 643, Springfield, SC 29146 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 2nd day of August 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 C2023-006)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Troy T. Thomas,)
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 February 8, 2023. 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 Troy T. Thomas (Respondent) and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Present at the hearing on February 15, 2024, were Commissioners Matthew N. Tyler, Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, and Neal D. Truslow, Hearing Chair. Respondent was duly notified but did not appear. Complainant was represented by Renique Brabham. 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 Troy T. Thomas, Candidate for Springfield 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 Springfield 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.

3. In a June 25, 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 June 30, 2022 at 3:59 p.m.
5. On July 10, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$10.00 per day.
6. On July 20, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$100.00 per day.
7. On May 19, 2023, Respondent filed his Pre-Election CDR and is now in compliance.

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

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 Troy T. Thomas is in violation of one (1) count of 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. In lieu of paying one (1) lump sum, Respondent may choose to remit monthly payments of \$291.67. In any event, the total \$3,500.00 is due no later than twelve (12) months from Respondent's receipt of this Order.

FURTHER, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$3,500.00 is not paid within twelve (12) months 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 Troy T. Thomas 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 27 DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


NEAL D. TRUSLOW, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina

NDT

April 4, 2024

To General Counsel;

I am writing to appeal my current decision and order found by this commission. I am not understanding spending \$0 on campaign for counsel to being threatened with the upward of \$6000.

Sincerely,



STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED APR 24 PM 1:38:33

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2023-006)
State Ethics Commission,)
APPELLATE.)
Troy T. Thomas,)
APPELLANT.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING

Wanda Stringfellow served a Motion for an Appeal on the State Ethics Commission on April 4, 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 July 18, 2024 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 24th day,
of April 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** was duly served on the Respondent Troy T. Thomas, P.O. Box 643, Springfield, SC 29146 by depositing said **NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 26th day of April 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

(803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2023-006)
Troy T. Thomas,)
Appellant.)
State Ethics Commission,)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

APPEAL ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Request for an Appeal filed by Troy T. Thomas (Appellant) to appeal the Decision and Order (Decision) of the Commission Hearing Panel (Hearing Panel). Present at the Appeal Hearing held on July 18, 2024, were Commissioners Scott E. Frick, F. Xavier Starkes, AJ Holloway, and Bryant Caldwell (“Appellate Panel”).¹ Appellant appeared *pro se*, and the Commission was represented by Renique Brabham, Esq., Assistant General Counsel.

FACTS

On February 15, 2024, pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (the Act), the Hearing Panel received testimony in the above-captioned complaint charging Appellant with failure to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A). Ultimately, the Hearing Panel found Appellant in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A) and 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. The Hearing Panel ordered that this amount be paid to the Commission within twelve (12) months;

¹ Pursuant to S.C. Code Regs. Ann. 52-805, Commissioners Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, Matthew N. Tyler, and Neal D. Truslow did not participate because they served on the original Hearing Panel. Commissioner Brandolyn T. Pinkston was not present.

otherwise, the amount owed would revert to \$6,000.00, the maximum penalty permitted under the Act. Appellant timely filed a request for an appeal.

The Appellant now asks the Appellate Panel for a reduction of the assessed penalties and fees. In mitigation, Respondent states that he paid \$10.00 to run for office and that he had been unemployed for a period of time between running for office and the Complaint. Respondent acknowledges that did not timely file his Pre-Election CDR and that he is currently employed.

DECISION

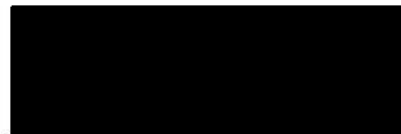
NOW, based on the information presented by the Appellant, the Appellate Panel affirms the Hearing Panel's Decision and Order.

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Act, if the reduced amount of \$3,500.00 is not paid in full within twelve (12) months from Respondent's receipt of this Order, a judgment in the maximum 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 in Respondent'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 13th DAY OF September 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



SCOTT E. FRICK, APPELLATE PANEL
CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina