

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2023-075

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Keith T. Bailey  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]  
TITLE: Candidate – Town of Blythewood Mayor

Section 8-13-1308, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires candidates to file Campaign Disclosures within ten (10) days of receiving or expending \$500; fifteen (15) days prior to each election; within ten (10) days of the end of each quarter; and a final report when the campaign account is closed. In addition, certified campaign reports detailing campaign contributions and expenditures must contain the total of contributions accepted, the name and address of each person making a contribution, the total expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate or committee, and the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made from campaign funds. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1362 and Regulation 52-504 (C), the Pre-Election and quarterly report are required even when there have been no contributions or expenditures.

Records of the State Ethics Commission indicate that a Campaign Disclosure was due no later than April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, April 10, 2021, July 10, 2021, October 10, 2021, January 10, 2022, April 10, 2022, July 10, 2022, October 10, 2022, January 10, 2023, and April 10, 2023. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline from April 2020 through October 2021 and was sent an email reminder thirty days before and ten days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline after October 2021.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated October 3, 2022 as described in the attached. To date, properly completed Quarter 1 2020, Quarter 2 2020, Quarter 3 2020, Quarter 4 2020, Quarter 1 2021, Quarter 2 2021, Quarter 3 2021, Quarter 4 2021, Quarter 1 2022, Quarter 2 2022, Quarter 3 2022, Quarter 4 2022, and Quarter 1 2023 Campaign Disclosures have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B) and Section 8-13-1308 (F), S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

**If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF Richland

Personally appeared before me Meghan Walker Dayson 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  
19th day of May, 2023

[REDACTED]  
Meghan Walker Dayson, 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 OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2023-075	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Keith T. Bailey	)	
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 allegations will be heard:

**COUNT ONE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Keith T. Bailey, candidate Blythewood Town Mayor, did in Richland County, fail to disclose two (2) campaign contributions totaling \$1,100.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(1).

**COUNT TWO**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F)(3), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Keith T. Bailey, candidate Blythewood Town Mayor, did in Richland County, fail to

disclose six (6) campaign expenditures totaling \$1,481.79, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F)(3).

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day,  
of July 2024.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Keith T. Bailey, 216 Maple Ridge Road, Blythewood, SC 29016 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 31st day of July 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**

Columbia, South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2023-075 )

State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant, )

**CONSENT ORDER**

Keith T. Bailey )  
Respondent. )

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on May 19, 2023. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the complaint against Keith T. Bailey (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to the following:

**STATEMENTS OF FACT**

1. Respondent was an unsuccessful candidate for Town of Blythewood Mayor in a November 5, 2019 election.
2. On November 1, 2019, Respondent filed a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) in the Commission's legacy filing system disclosing a positive on-hand contribution balance of \$1,100.00 from personal loans. Respondent thereafter failed to file any additional CDRs.
3. In 2021, the Commission's filing system was updated and created a system-generated Quarter 4 2019 CDR for Respondent.
4. In an October 3, 2022 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent, in relevant part, of his requirement to amend his Quarter 4 2019 CDR to disclose any contributions or

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- expenditures not previously reported.<sup>1</sup>
5. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was picked up from the Post Office on October 17, 2022 at 12:15 p.m. Later that day, the Respondent contacted the Commission to discuss the letter. Commission staff instructed him to file his CDRs and provide a final bank statement.
  6. After Respondent failed to provide bank statements or file his CDRs, the Complaint was filed on May 19, 2023.
  7. Following the filing of the Complaint, the Commission's investigation revealed Respondent opened his campaign bank account on September 9, 2019 and closed it on November 12, 2019. The investigation additionally revealed that Respondent failed to report two (2) contributions totaling \$1,100.00 and six (6) expenditures totaling \$1,481.79 on his Quarter 4 2019 CDR.
  8. On May 24, 2024, Respondent amended his Quarter 4 2019 CDR with the help of Commission staff and is now in compliance.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a candidate pursuant to Section 8-13-1300(4). Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-1308(F) provides certified campaign reports detailing campaign contributions and expenditures must contain:
  - (1) the total of contributions accepted by the candidate or committee;
  - (2) the name and address of each person making a contribution of more than one hundred dollars and the amount and date of receipt of each contribution;
  - (3) the total expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate or committee;

<sup>1</sup> The Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file CDRs from Quarter 4 2019 through Quarter 2 2022. However, the Commission's investigation revealed that Respondent was not required to file any additional CDRs.

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- (4) the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made from campaign funds, including the date, amount, purpose, and beneficiary of the expenditure.
3. Section 8-13-320(10)(l) allows the Commission to issue a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 for each violation of the Ethics Act.
  4. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to "levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation" of the Ethics Act.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308(F) for failing to report the aforementioned campaign contributions and campaign expenditures. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he failed to properly disclose campaign contributions and expenditures. In mitigation, Respondent acknowledges his oversight and asserts that he believed he properly disclosed all required information. Respondent further asserts that he does not have a computer and was accustomed to getting help from Commission staff in-person. Additionally, Respondent states that he cared for his mother who suffered from dementia before she passed away in November 2023 and that caring for and grieving the loss of his mother delayed him in providing bank records and amending his CDR. The Commission acknowledges that Respondent has now disclosed all contributions and expenditures and is now in compliance. The Commission further acknowledges that Respondent mostly funded his campaign with personal funds, received \$1,100.00 from two (2) other contributors, and expended less than \$4,000.00 for his entire election cycle.

### **DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation as stated herein.
2. The Commission adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and

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Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this Public Reprimand to Respondent, and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within six (6) months from receipt of this Order, an administrative fee of \$450.00. Given the mitigation discussed herein, the Commission declines to assess a civil penalty.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is not only admitting to a violation of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$450.00 in the event he does not make payment as provided for in this Order, in which case the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent with the County Clerk of Court in Respondent's last known County of residence, who shall enter this Order in the amount of \$450.00 (less any money paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF February <sup>2025</sup> 2024 *JK*

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR

  
KEITH T. BAILEY  
RESPONDENT