

# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2023-097

## COMPLAINT FORM

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

**RESPONDENT:** Perry Chinnors  
**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** [REDACTED]  
**TITLE:** Councilman – Town of Reevesville

Section 8-13-1120, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires disclosure of the source, type, and amount of income from a governmental entity and a listing of the private source and type of any income received by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family during the reporting period. Respondent failed to properly report government and private sources of income.

Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires the filing of an updated Statement of Economic Interests for the previous calendar year annually thereafter prior to March 30. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2023 Statement of Economic Interests.

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 Pre-Election and income filing requirements by certified letters dated October 12, 2022 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, 2022 Statement of Economic Interests, or 2023 Statement of Economic Interests have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120, Section 8-13-1140, 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 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  
12th day of JULY, 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 C2023-092 ) )  
) )  
State Ethics Commission ) **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Complainant. ) )  
) )  
Perry Chinnners ) )  
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, April 18, 2023 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 FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Perry Chinnners, Town of Reevesville Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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

That Perry Chinnners, Town of Reevesville Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2023 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

**COUNT THREE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1120, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Perry Chinners, Town of Reevesville Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to properly report sources of income on his 2022 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1120.

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 14<sup>th</sup> day,  
of October 2023.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Perry Chinnners, 105 Whetsell Street, Reevesville, SC 29417 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 11th day of October 2023, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of Rachael O'Bryan. A blue ink scribble is visible to the right of the redaction.

**Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant**

Columbia, South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

DocuSign  
Envelope ID: 20D9F0DA-EC2C-490C-A268-A5F062E70034

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
COMPLAINT C2023-092	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission,	)	<b>CONSENT ORDER</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Perry Chinnners,	)	
Respondent.	)	
_____	)	

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on July 12, 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 Perry Chinnners (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 been a member of Reevesville Town Council since 2021, after succeeding 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 an October 12, 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, Left with Individual” on October 15, 2022 at 11:01 a.m.
5. On October 25, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$10.00 per day.
6. On November 4, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$100.00 per day.
7. On March 30, 2023, Respondent failed to timely file a 2023 Statement of Economic Interests

(SEI).

8. On June 15, 2023, Commission staff spoke with Respondent regarding his reporting requirements. Respondent stated he would call back after gathering the necessary information.
9. After no response, the Commission filed the Complaint on July 12, 2023.
10. On August 15, 2023, Commission staff telephoned Respondent regarding the Complaint. Respondent confirmed receipt of the Commission's October 12, 2022 penalty letter in regard to his failure to file his 2021 Pre-Election CDR and scheduled a time to receive assistance from Commission staff in filing his CDR.
11. On April 16, 2024, Respondent filed his 2021 Pre-Election CDR, disclosing no contributions or expenditures, as well as his 2023 SEI. At the time Respondent came into compliance, Respondent had accrued the statutory maximum of \$5,000 with regard to the 2021 Pre-Election CDR and \$100 with regard to his 2023 SEI.

### 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) and a "public official" pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27). 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 8-13-1140 provides, in relevant part:

A person required to file a [SEI] under this chapter annually shall file . . . an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March 30 . . .

4. 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.

5. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to “levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation” of the Ethics Act.

**DISCUSSION**

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to timely file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR and one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file a 2023 SEI.<sup>1</sup> Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act as described herein. In mitigation, Respondent states that Reevesville is a small community of roughly two hundred (200) people. Respondent further states he has issues with technology and had troubles accessing his email and the filing system. Respondent further states his duties managing his farm were a large distraction and caused him to continually overlook his filing duties. Finally, Respondent states he did not spend or receive any money during his 2021 election.

**DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of 8-13-1308(A) and one (1) count of 8-13-1140.

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission also found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of 8-13-1120 for failing to report income on his 2022 SEI. As Respondent has since disclosed his source of income on his 2022 SEI, the Commission declines to proceed as to this count.

2. The Commission adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this Public Reprimand and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within one (1) year from receipt of this Order, a reduced late-filing penalty of \$600.00 (\$500.00 for the 2021 Pre-Election CDR and \$100.00 for the 2023 SEI)<sup>2</sup> and an administrative fee of \$600.00, for a total of \$1,200.00. The Commission declines to assess additional accrued late-filing penalties.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is confessing to a judgment of \$1,200.00 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 \$1,200.00 (less any money paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.<sup>3</sup>

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF June 2024.



PERRY CHINNERS  
RESPONDENT

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR

<sup>2</sup> Respondent did not accrue penalties in relation to the 2023 SEI beyond \$100.00 because he did not receive certified notice in regard to his failure to timely file his 2023 SEI.

<sup>3</sup> Respondent also failed to timely file his 2022 SEI. This violation was resolved through the standard noncompliance process and Respondent has paid his penalty in-full. The execution of this Consent Order does not affect this other instance of noncompliance.