

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2024-017

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Timothy L. Cousar  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]  
TITLE: Councilman - City of Dillon

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 report government income on the 2021 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated January 23, 2023 and February 14, 2023 as described in the attached. To date, an amended 2021 Statement of Economic Interests has not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120, SC 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  
8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

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  
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
COMPLAINT C2024-017	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission,	)	<b>DECISION AND ORDER</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Timothy L. Cousar,	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on April 8, 2024. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On January 16, 2025, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Timothy L. Cousar (Respondent) with violating the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act). For the reasons stated herein, the Commission finds probable cause exists, but waives further proceedings on the matter.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. Respondent has served on the Dillon City Council since 2019.
2. On March 25, 2021, Respondent timely file his 2021 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) but failed to disclose his government income therein.
3. On May 20, 2024, Respondent amended his 2021 SEI to disclose government income received from the City of Dillon totaling \$3,000.00.

**LAW**

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320, the Commission is empowered to receive complaints and conduct investigations related to violations of the Ethics Act. Following the receipt of a Complaint

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and completion of a corresponding investigation, the Commission must determine whether there is probable cause to believe a violation of the Ethics Act occurred. Section 8-13-320(10)(i). If the Commission determines probable cause exists, it may order a hearing on the merits or, if the Respondent has taken action to remedy or correct the alleged violation, it may waive further proceedings. Section 8-13-320(10)(i). The decision to waive further proceedings lies within the sound discretion of the Commission.

Section 8-13-1120 of the Ethics Act requires public officials to disclose the source and amount of government income on their SEIs.

**DECISION**

As an initial matter, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1120 of the Ethics Act by failing to properly disclose government income on his 2021 SEI. However, Respondent has taken action to correct the alleged violation by amending his 2021 SEI to disclose said income.

THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF February, 2025.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION

  
F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina