

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

2024-070

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

~~C 2024-070~~

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: Alberta Wasden

RESPONDENT: Mayor La Donna Hall

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TITLE: Town Administrator

TITLE: Mayor

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).

See attached

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 Lexington

Personally appeared before me Alberta Wasden 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]  
Complainant Signature

[REDACTED]  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires 7-22-2024

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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Alberta Wasden  
P O Box 544  
Wagener, SC 29164  
803-206-7252

August 02, 2024

South Carolina State Ethics Commission

201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150 Columbia, SC 29210

Office: (803) 253-4192

Dear Members of the Ethics Commission,

I am writing to file an ethics complaint regarding the use of campaign funds and documentation of donations by LaDonna Hall, who is currently serving as Mayor of Salley, SC. I believe there have been violations concerning the inappropriate use of campaign funds, specifically in relation to a donation, mileage reimbursement, and personal reimbursement as outlined below:

Mayor LaDonna Hall listed on her 4th Quarter final report in 2023 a donation of \$ 365.00 as "Individuals from the congregation". This violations both transparency and disclosure made by contributors.

**1. Improper Donation to 501(c)(3) Organization in Nov. 18, 2023:**

- Mayor Hall made a donation to a 501(c)(3) organization, the Epoch Girls Squad, a Double Dutch jump rope team. While supporting community initiatives is commendable, using campaign funds for donations to a charitable organization (attached photo shows) , the Mayor and her daughter are personally involved in and the Mayor traveled to New York on Dec. 03, 2023 to act as a driver. This does not align with the regulations governing campaign expenditures.

2. - Furthermore, Mayor Hall reimbursed herself \$120.00. There is no record of a loan to her campaign just a previous \$125.00 donation on Oct. 24, 2023. There is no record of her lending money to her campaign which after the election she could then reimburse herself from campaign funds.

**3. Unsubstantiated Mileage Reimbursement:**

- Mayor Hall also used campaign funds to pay Rasheeda Suber for driving people to vote and to and from Denmark, SC, at the standard mileage reimbursement rate of .655 cents per mile. The Town of Salley is .77 square miles in total area and the distance to Denmark is 44 miles round trip. At that rate 46 people would be transported to vote out of 82. While reimbursing volunteers for travel expenses can be permissible, there needs to be clear documentation and justification for these expenditures to ensure they are directly related to the campaign.

It is unclear if proper records and receipts were maintained for these reimbursements, and whether the use of campaign funds in this manner was duly authorized and documented.

The actions described above suggest potential violations of the ethical guidelines and regulations governing the use of campaign funds. Transparency and accountability in campaign finance are crucial to maintaining public trust and

matters thoroughly to determine if any ethical or legal breaches have occurred.

Thank you for your attention to this complaint. I look forward to your prompt investigation and resolution of these issues.

[REDACTED]  
Alberta Wasden

P O Box 544

Wagener, SC 29164

[apwasden@gmail.com](mailto:apwasden@gmail.com)

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Epoch Girls Squad

... @epochgirls

Thank you to Mayor Ladamia Hall for always being supportive of our team and mission. She traveled and was an Uber to the team in NYC all weekend!



מסגרת תוכנית הלימודים

אוגוסט 11, 2023

במהלך שיעור התאמנות (6th grade) הילדה של מייזל של סאליי, שסיימה להצטרף למועדון התאמנות שלנו, הציגה לנו כמה תרגילי התאמנות שיש להם. הילדים שלנו נהנו מאוד לראות את התאמנות שלהם וללמוד מהם. תודה רבה לילדה שלנו על שיתוף הידע שלהם!



**From:** [ladonna hall](#)  
**To:** [Gaymon, Reginald](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Mayor LaDonna Hall Ethics Violation Statement  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025 2:43:45 PM

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I, Mayor LaDonna Hall, would like to request complaint # against my campaign funds disclosure be withdrawn due to the following reasons:

Along with two other candidates during the election time-frame, I reached out to the Ethics Commission office for guidance on how to properly spend the remaining campaign funds. I explained I would like to donate to a local non-profit as well as compensate a resident for providing transportation to and from the polls for those voting in the election. I also inquired about reimbursing myself for the campaign yard signs. I was advised by the office that each of these transactions were acceptable and no violation would be a result. However, I was not aware of the requirement to process these transactions via a check as opposed to utilizing cash. Therefore, due to ignorance of this specific law, I was unaware of which questions to inquire about to prevent a situation as such. Unfortunately, I did not question the means by which to disburse these funds; however, proper receipts were recorded and provided for these transactions.

With the proper knowledge, I would have undoubtedly disbursed these funds via check instead. Please consider the aforementioned circumstances as you review the violation and consider withdrawing it.

Sincerely,

Mayor LaDonna Hall

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND ) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
) )  
IN THE MATTER OF: ) )  
) )  
Complaint C2024-070 ) )  
) )  
Alberta Wasden ) **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Complainant. ) )  
) )  
LaDonna Hall ) )  
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, October 16, 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 DEPOSIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That LaDonna Hall, Town of Salley Mayor, did in Richland County, fail to deposit a \$120.00 personal campaign contribution into her campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

**COUNT TWO**  
**FAILURE TO USE CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT TO MAKE EXPENDITURE**  
**SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That LaDonna Hall, Town of Salley Mayor, did in Richland County, fail to make a \$120.00

expenditure for campaign signs through her campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

**COUNT THREE**  
**FAILURE TO USE CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT TO MAKE EXPENDITURE**  
**SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That LaDonna Hall, Town of Salley Mayor, did in Richland County, fail to make a \$75.00 expenditure to Rasheeda Suber through her campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

**COUNT FOUR**  
**FAILURE TO USE CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT TO MAKE EXPENDITURE**  
**SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That LaDonna Hall, Town of Salley Mayor, did in Richland County, fail to make a \$170.00 expenditure to Epoch Girls Squad through her campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

**COUNT FIVE**  
**EXCESSIVE CASH WITHDRAWAL**  
**SECTION 8-13-1348(C), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That LaDonna Hall, Town of Salley Mayor, did in Richland County, withdrawal \$245.00 from her campaign bank account on November 6, 2023, in violation of Section 8-13-1348(C).

**COUNT SIX**  
**ACCEPTANCE OF CASH EXCEEDING CASH CONTRIBUTION LIMIT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1314(A)(2), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That LaDonna Hall, Town of Salley Mayor, did in Richland County, accept \$365.00 in cash contribution(s), in violation of Section 8-13-1314(A)(2).

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 20<sup>th</sup> day,  
of March 2025.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT LaDonna Hall, 161 Railroad Avenue N., Salley, SC 29137 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025, 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 )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2024-070 )  
Alberta Wasden, )  
Complainant, )  
LaDonna Hall, )  
Respondent. )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on September 19, 2024. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against LaDonna Hall (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 entry of the following:

**STATEMENTS OF FACT**

1. Respondent has served as mayor in the Town of Salley since November 2019. Respondent's most recent election was on November 7, 2023.
2. On September 19, 2024, the Commission received the Complaint. According to the Complaint, Respondent (1) improperly used campaign funds by donating \$170.00 to the "Epoch Girls Squad"; (2) improperly used campaign funds by reimbursing herself \$120.00; (3) improperly accepted a \$365.00 contribution; and (4) improperly used campaign funds to pay a volunteer for transporting voters to and from the polls.
3. Following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent's campaign bank account records were subpoenaed and compared to her Campaign Disclosure Reports (CDR). In addition, a Commission Investigator interviewed Respondent. The following relevant facts were revealed:
  - a. On April 11, 2023, Respondent filed a Statement of Intention of Candidacy and paid a \$5.00 filing fee out of personal funds.

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- b. On September 4, 2023, Respondent used personal funds to pay for campaign signs totaling \$120.00.
- c. On November 5, 2023, the congregation at Respondent's church took up a collection totaling \$365.00 in furtherance of her candidacy.
- d. On November 6, 2023, Respondent deposited the \$365.00 in cash into her campaign bank account. In the applicable CDR, Respondent disclosed the source of the contributions as "Individuals from the Congregation."
- e. On November 7, 2023, Respondent used campaign funds to pay a volunteer \$75.00 in cash to "take residents to vote, including a trip to and from Denmark, SC." In the applicable CDR, Respondent disclosed that the "funds were determined using the mileage reimbursement rate."
- f. On November 16, 2023, Respondent used campaign funds to donate \$170.00 in cash to Epoch Girls Squad, a 501(c)(3) organization. Respondent also withdrew \$120.00 in cash to reimburse herself for the September 4, 2023 sign purchase.

#### 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 8-13-1312 provides, in relevant part:

...Except as otherwise provided under Section 8-13-1348(C), expenses paid on behalf of a candidate or committee must be drawn from the campaign account and issued on a check signed by the candidate or a duly authorized officer of a committee. All contributions received by the candidate or committee, directly or indirectly, must be deposited in the campaign account by the candidate or committee within ten days after receipt....

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3. Section 8-13-1348(C)(1) provides:

An expenditure of more than twenty-five dollars drawn upon a campaign account must be made by: (a) a written instrument; (b) debit card; or (c) online transfers. The campaign account must contain the name of the candidate or committee, and the expenditure must contain the name of the recipient. These expenditures must be reported pursuant to the provisions of Section 8-13-1308.

4. Section 8-13-1314 provides, in relevant part:

(A) Within an election cycle, a candidate or anyone acting on his behalf shall not solicit or accept, and a person shall not give or offer to give to a candidate or person acting on the candidate's behalf:

(2) a cash contribution from an individual unless the cash contribution does not exceed twenty-five dollars and is accompanied by a record of the amount of the contribution and the name and address of the contributor;

5. Section 8-13-320(10)(1) allows the Commission to issue a civil penalty of up to \$2,000.00 for each violation of the Ethics Act.

6. 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 the following: four (4) counts of Section 8-13-1312 for failing to use her campaign bank account; one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348(C) for making a cash expenditure over \$25.00; and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1314(A)(2) for accepting cash contributions over \$25.00. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits she violated the Ethics Act in these instances. In mitigation, Respondent states 2023 was the first election cycle where she engaged in campaign activity and was unaware of the rules regarding cash when her church took up the collection.

Respondent further states that she closed her campaign bank account on November 16, 2023 by donating her remaining campaign funds to Epoch Girls Squad. Respondent states she contacted the Commission during this timeframe and asked if each of the aforementioned transactions were

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permissible but failed to specify that she would be using cash. The Commission notes that although Respondent erred in using cash for this transaction, Section 8-13-1370 specifically allows candidates to donate unexpended campaign funds to a 501(c)(3) organization upon account closure. Similarly, the Commission notes that while Respondent erred in using cash, her payment to the volunteer for travel was permissible pursuant to Section 8-13-1348.<sup>1</sup>

**DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of four (4) counts of Section 8-13-1312, one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348(C), and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1314(A)(2).
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 and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within nine (9) months from receipt of this Order, a reduced civil penalty of \$300.00 and an administrative fee of \$250.00, for a total of \$550.00.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that she is not only admitting to a violation of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$550.00 in the event she 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 \$550.00 (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 OCTOBER 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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<sup>1</sup> During the Commission's investigation, Respondent provided a properly completed mileage log substantiating the payment.

Signed by:  
*LaDonna Hall*  
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LADONNA HALL  
RESPONDENT

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