

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

c 2024-088

COMPLAINT FORM

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

**RESPONDENT:** Murray A. Stanley  
**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** [REDACTED]  
**TITLE:** Councilman – Town of Springfield

Section 8-13-1120, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires certain officials to file a Statement of Economic Interests prior to assuming the duties of the office. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2021 Statement of Economic Interests prior to taking the oath of office in December 2021.

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 2022, 2023, and 2024 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 an accumulated aggregate of \$500.00 or more; 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 18, 2023 and October 23, 2023.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by a certified letter dated February 23, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, 2021, 2022, 2023, or 2024 Statement of Economic Interests Campaign Disclosure have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120, Section 8-13-1140, 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 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 15th day of November, 2024

[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 C2024-088	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Murray A. Stanley	)	
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 August 21, 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 FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Murray A. Stanley, former Springfield Town Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2023 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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

That Murray A. Stanley, former Springfield Town Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to file a 2021 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Murray A. Stanley, former Springfield Town Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2022 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Murray A. Stanley, former Springfield Town Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2023 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Murray A. Stanley, former Springfield Town Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2024 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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 21<sup>st</sup> day,  
of May 2025.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Murray A. Stanley, 495 Barnwell Street, Springfield, SC 29146 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Columbia, South Carolina

**Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant**  
State Ethics Commission (803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2024-088 )  
State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant, )  
Murray A. Stanley )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on November 15, 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 Murray A. Stanley (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 initially elected to Springfield Town Council (Council) in a November 2, 2021 election.
2. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 2, 2021 election.
3. Respondent did not file a 2021 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) prior to taking the oath of office.
4. Respondent did not file a 2022 SEI on or before March 30, 2022.
5. Respondent did not file a 2023 SEI on or before March 30, 2023.
6. Respondent was re-elected in a November 7, 2023 election, and served until his resignation in the fall of 2024.
7. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to his 2023

*JK #1*

election.

8. In a February 23, 2024 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent that he had not filed a 2021 Pre-Election CDR,<sup>1</sup> a 2021 SEI, a 2022 SEI, a 2023 SEI, or a 2023 Pre-Election CDR.
9. On March 1, 2024, a Commission staff member checked the tracking status of the certified letter through the United States Postal Service (USPS). According to USPS, the certified letter was "Moving Through Network. In Transit to Next Facility, Arriving Late."
10. On March 5, 2024, Respondent filed the 2021 Pre-Election CDR and quarterly CDRs from Quarter 3 2021 through Quarter 4 2023. Respondent thereafter left a voicemail for a Commission staff member. The staff member subsequently returned Respondent's call, but was unable to leave a voicemail.
11. Respondent did not file a 2024 SEI on or before March 30, 2024.
12. On June 25, 2024, a Commission employee texted Respondent and advised him to file a 2023 Pre-Election CDR and the 2021-2023 SEIs.
13. On July 1, 2024, Respondent filed Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 2024 CDRs.
14. On July 16, 2024, a Commission employee telephoned Respondent. Respondent stated he believed he had filed all required reports. Respondent asked to schedule an appointment to receive filing assistance the following day. When staff subsequently contacted him to schedule the appointment, Respondent did not answer and his voicemail box was full.
15. From August 1, 2024 through October 14, 2024, Commission staff attempted to contact Respondent several times.

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<sup>1</sup> As explained herein, the 2021 Pre-Election CDR was filed prior to the filing of the Complaint. Therefore, any associated late-filing penalties will proceed through the Commission's standard non-compliance process.

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16. On October 24, 2024, Respondent filed a Quarter 3 2024 CDR. Respondent also telephoned the Commission and left a message asking for a return call. When staff returned his call, Respondent did not answer and his voicemail box was full.
17. The Complaint was filed on November 15, 2024.
18. On January 24, 2025, a Commission Investigator contacted Respondent via telephone. Respondent informed the Investigator that he had not received the Complaint and asked that it be sent to him via email. Respondent also stated that, aside from a \$10.00 filing fee, he did not receive or expend funds during the 2021 or 2023 election cycles. Respondent further stated that he believed he was filing the required reports when he filed the quarterly CDRs on March 5, 2024, July 1, 2024, and October 24, 2021.
19. On January 27, 2025, Respondent came into compliance by filing his 2023 Pre-Election CDR and the 2021-2024 SEIs.

### 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. Respondent was required to file a Pre-Election CDR fifteen (15) days prior to his November 7, 2023 election in accordance with Section 8-13-1308(A), which 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. Respondent was required to file a SEI on or before March 30 in 2022, 2023, and 2024 in accordance with Section 8-13-1140, which provides, in relevant part:

JX #3

A person required to file a [SEI] under this chapter annually shall file, pursuant to Section 8-13-365, an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March thirtieth of each calendar year . . .

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; (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 Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to timely file a 2023 Pre-Election CDR and three (3) counts of Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file SEIs in 2022, 2023, and 2024.<sup>2</sup> Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act as outlined herein. In mitigation, Respondent states that he believed he was filing the required reports when he filed CDRs on March 5, 2024, July 1, 2024, and October 24, 2024. Respondent further states that he dealt with ongoing family matters throughout 2024, to include the death of a parent, that caused him to neglect other aspects of his life.

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<sup>2</sup> Based on Commission staff’s recommendation, the Commission also found probable cause to believe Respondent violated Section 8-13-1140 when he failed to file a 2021 SEI prior to taking the oath of office. However, this finding was in error because Section 8-13-1140 pertains only to annual SEIs, whereas Section 8-13-1110 requires individuals to file an SEI prior to taking the oath of office. Accordingly, the Commission declines to proceed on the charge related to the 2021 SEI.

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**DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A) and three (3) counts of Section 8-13-1140.
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 Written Warning to Respondent and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within twelve (12) months from receipt of this Order, a reduced late-filing penalty of \$400.00 (\$100.00 per report), and an administrative fee of \$400.00, for a total of \$800.00. Although Respondent contacted the Commission shortly after the Commission mailed its February 23, 2024, the Commission declines to assess any accrued late-filing penalties pursuant to Section 8-13-1510(A)(2) given that no return receipt exists.

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 \$800.00 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 \$800.00 (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 July 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Signed by:  
  
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MURRAY A. STANLEY  
RESPONDENT

