

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2025-023

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Danny S. Horne
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Former Mayor – Town of Ware Shoals

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 2021 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated January 19, 2024 and February 16, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a 2021 Statement of Economic Interests has not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, 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
28th day of February, 2025

[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
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
))
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2025-023)
))
State Ethics Commission,) **DECISION AND ORDER**
Complainant.))
))
Danny Scott Horne,)
Respondent.)
_____)

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on February 28, 2025. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On May 15, 2025, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Danny Scott Horne (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.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Respondent was elected to serve as Mayor of the Town of Ware Shoals on November 3, 2020. Respondent served as Mayor until his resignation on December 31, 2022.
2. Respondent failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) by March 30 in 2021.
3. Prior to the filing of the Complaint, the Commission unsuccessfully attempted to contact Respondent regarding his failure to timely file a 2021 SEI.
4. On March 6, 2025, following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent filed his 2021 SEI.

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 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 8-13-1140 requires public officials to file a SEI on or before March 30 of each year.

DECISION

Based on evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1140 of the Ethics Act by failing to file a 2021 SEI. However, given that Respondent did not receive notification prior to the filing of the Complaint, and because Respondent has taken action to correct the error by filing the 2021 SEI, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings with regard to this Complaint.

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

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 27th DAY OF May, 2025.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION



F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR