

# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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## COMPLAINT FORM

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2025-062

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

**RESPONDENT:** Charles B. Lemon  
**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** (843) 862-0092  
**TITLE:** Former Marlboro County Sheriff

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 Quarter 3 2024 and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between October 16, 2024 and October 21, 2024, and a Campaign Disclosure was due no later than January 10, 2025 and April 10, 2025. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before and ten days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline.

Section 8-13-1356 (C), SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires a person who becomes a write-in candidate must electronically file a statement of economic interests for the preceding calendar year within twenty-four hours of filing an initial campaign finance report pursuant to Section 8-13-1308(A) or before taking the oath of office, whichever occurs earlier. The Respondent was required to file a 2024 Statement of Economic Interests as a write in candidate.

Respondent was reminded of the Statement of Economic Interests and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure filing requirements by a certified letter dated November 12, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed 2024 Statement of Economic Interests, Quarter 3 2024 and Pre-Election, Quarter 4 2024, or Quarter 1 2025 Campaign Disclosure have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A), Section 8-13-1308(B), Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), Section 8-13-1308 (F), and Section 8-13-1356(C), 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 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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  
ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To: States Ethics Commission

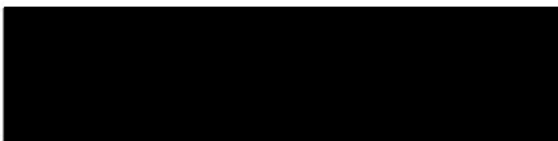
Mr. William White

Mrs. Erin Caughman

First, let me ask for forgiveness, and I would greatly appreciate any help that you would give me in this matter. In past months, I have lost my baby sister, who was killed on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Her husband is bedridden, who has a 30-year-old son, my nephew, which I have to help care for due to his mental illness. I have been taking him to doctor appointments often. Second, my oldest sister suffers from seizures which I have to take to the doctor every other week and I fix her medication weekly. Thirdly, I have another sister, who lives with me, suffers from mental illness and has been diagnosed with stomach cancer and because of her mental state, is not working well with the physicians in this matter.

Initially, when I was under investigation, I stopped all activity on the campaign account and there was no activity for over two and a half years, because I did not know what to do during that time. I pray and ask for any consideration and forgiveness in this matter.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Charles B. Lemon



Daymark Recovery Services  
Richmond  
523 N US 1 Hwy Ste A  
Rockingham, NC 28379-7771  
(910) 895-2462

03/27/25

Singleton, Travis Jermale

Dear Singleton, Travis Jermale,

This is a reminder that your appointment for a(n) Nursing is scheduled on 05/13/25 at 02:00 P with Lingren, Taylor.

If you cannot make this appointment, we will be happy to reschedule your appointment for a more convenient time. Please call our office at least **24 hours prior** to this appointment at the following number (910) 895-2462.

Next 5 upcoming appointments:

05/13/25 02:00 P

05/13/25 02:20 P

Nursing

Medication Management

Richmond

Richmond

**Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time.**

Sincerely,

The Staff and Physicians at  
Richmond

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



*Mrs. Jeanise*  
**LEMON SINGLETON**

DECEMBER 15, 1965 - JANUARY 5, 2025

Sunday, January 12, 2025 | 2:00 p.m.

Wayman Chapel A.M.E. Zion  
Church Faith Center | 1933 Osborne Road | Hamlet, North Carolina 28345

*Reverend Steven J. Douglas. Officiating*



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2025-062 )  
State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant. )  
Charles B. Lemon, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on June 26, 2025. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On November 20, 2025, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Charles B. Lemon (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 as the Marlboro County Sheriff in 2016. Respondent was subsequently re-elected in 2020.
2. On December 14, 2021, Respondent was removed from office following indictments issued by the state grand jury. Respondent was subsequently also indicted by a federal grand jury.
3. Respondent’s state level charges were dismissed on March 5, 2024, and he was found not guilty in a federal trial on August 19, 2024.
4. Due to the pending charges, Respondent was unable to file to run for Sheriff in the November 5, 2024 election. However, after the trial, Respondent began campaigning as a write-in

*[Handwritten signature]* #1

candidate.

5. Respondent did not file a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) as a write-in candidate.
6. Respondent was defeated in the November 5, 2024 election.
7. Prior to the Complaint, Respondent's most recently filed Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) was a Quarter 2 2024 CDR that was filed late on March 24, 2025. Respondent's Quarter 2 2024 CDR disclosed \$4,566.84 in contributions. Respondent thereafter failed to file any additional CDRs.
8. In a certified letter dated November 13, 2024, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file a Quarter 3 2024 CDR and a Quarter 4 2024 CDR.
9. Following the filing of the Complaint, the Commission subpoenaed Respondent's campaign bank account records, which revealed the following:
  - a. On July 30, 2021, Respondent's campaign bank account maintained a balance of \$4,566.84.
  - b. Excepting monthly bank fees, Respondent's campaign bank account remained dormant until September 25, 2024, when four (4) checks were written totaling \$1,358.70.<sup>1</sup>
  - c. Thereafter, regular transactions consistent with campaign activity occurred until November 12, 2024.
  - d. From November 12, 2024, through May 14, 2024, Respondent's campaign bank account maintained a balance of \$2,481.78.
  - e. On May 14, 2025, Respondent deposited \$1,358.70 into the campaign bank

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<sup>1</sup> The bank account records had no images for these checks, so the payee could not be determined.

JA #2

account.

f. On July 8, 2025, Respondent closed his campaign bank account by donating \$3,840.48 to a 501(c)3 organization, as permitted by Section 8-13-1370.

10. Following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent advised Commission Investigators that he deposited \$1,358.70 on May 14, 2025, after he realized that the previous four (4) checks were not campaign-related. Respondent further advised that his youngest sister died on January 15, 2025. Respondent also advised that he provides care for numerous family members suffering from serious health conditions. Finally, Respondent advised that he ceased all campaign activity and reporting during the indictment and trial period.

11. On August 9, 2025, Respondent came into compliance by filing all requisite reports.

### 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 an 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.

The Ethics Act imposes several filing requirements upon public officials and candidates for public office. Section 8-13-1308(B) requires all candidates to file quarterly CDRs at the end of each calendar quarter until their campaign bank account undergoes final disbursement. In addition, Section 8-13-1356(C) requires write-in candidates to file a SEI within twenty-four (24)

JL #3

hours of filing an Initial CDR.

**DECISION**

Based on evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1308(B) of the Ethics Act by failing to file a Quarter 3 2024 CDR and a Quarter 4 CDR. The Commission further finds Respondent violated Section 8-13-1356(C) by failing to file a 2024 SEI as a candidate.<sup>2</sup> However, given that Respondent has corrected this error, and based on the mitigation listed herein, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings regarding this Complaint.

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 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December, 2025.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION

  
F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission found probable cause to believe Respondent violated Section 8-13-1356(C) for failing to file a 2024 SEI within twenty-four (24) hours of filing his Initial CDR. However, given that Respondent had a previous election cycle with an open campaign bank account, Respondent did not file an Initial CDR.