

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2025-063

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Deloris Frazier
ADDRESS: 
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 534-8589
TITLE: Orangeburg County Council

Section 8-13-1308 (F) of the South Carolina Code of laws, 1976, as amended, requires certified campaign reports must contain: the total of contributions accepted by the candidate or committee, the name and address of each person making a contribution of more than one hundred dollars, and date of receipt of each contribution; the total expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate or committee; the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made from campaign funds, including the date, amount, purpose, and beneficiary of the expenditure. Respondent failed to properly report expenditures on the Quarter 3 2022 and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure.

Section 8-13-1312 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended states, in 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". Section 8-13-1348 states that 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. According to the Quarter 3 2022 and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, the Respondent made an expenditure to Citi Bank in the amount of \$1,849.27 with the description "Yard signs, Flyers, and Supplies (credit card)" and made an expenditure to Citi Bank in the amount of \$75.12 with the description "Banking Industry."

Section 8-13-1348 of the South Carolina Code of laws, 1976, as amended, prohibits a candidate from using campaign funds to defray personal expenses which are unrelated to the campaign. Section 8-13-1348 (B) allows payment of food or beverages consumed by the candidate or members of his immediate family while at, and in connection with, a political event. Meals, other than at a political event/function, are not allowable. According to the Quarter 3 2022 and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, the Respondent made an expenditure to herself in the amount of \$888.11 with the description "Gas mileage." The Respondent was instructed to provide a mileage log in connection with campaign travel for the gas purchases. If that could not be provided, the Respondent was instructed to either reimburse the campaign account from personal funds or donate to the Children's Trust Fund or a 501 (C)(3) if the campaign account is closed.

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To date, the Respondent has failed to properly report expenditures in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F), SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended; paid for expenses not drawn from the campaign account all in violation of Section 8-13-1312, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended; and has not provided a mileage log, reimbursed the campaign account, or provided proof of a donation for gas purchases all in violation of Section 8-13-1348, 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
26th day of JUNE, 2025


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director


Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 01/12/26

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2025-063)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Deloris Frazier,)
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 Deloris Frazier (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 has served on the Orangeburg County Council (Council) since 2017. Most recently, Respondent was a successful candidate in a November 8, 2022, election.
2. In a 2022 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), Respondent disclosed a \$1,849.27 expenditure to Citi Bank for the purchase of campaign signs, a \$75.12 expenditure to Citi Bank for “banking industry,” and an \$888.11 expenditure for “gas mileage.”
3. On August 30, 2024, the Commission sent Respondent certified letters asking Respondent to provide a mileage log for the gas expenditure and to provide clarification as to the Citi Bank expenditure. The letters further advised Respondent that candidates are not permitted to use personal credit cards for campaign expenditures.
4. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the certified letters were delivered to

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Respondent's address of record on September 3, 2024, at 4:27 p.m.

5. Between September 4 and September 23, 2024, Respondent was in contact with Commission staff regarding the certified letters.
6. On September 25, 2024, Respondent amended her 2022 Pre-Election CDR to show that the \$75.12 expenditure to Citi Bank was for a "bank book." However, Respondent did not provide a mileage log.
7. Following the filing of the Complaint, the Commission subpoenaed Respondent's campaign bank account records, which revealed the following:
 - a. Respondent failed to disclose the following contributions: \$100.00 in cash on May 3, 2022; \$80.00 on June 14, 2022, from John Rickenbaker; and \$500.00 on June 14, 2022, from the Friends of Jim Clyburn.
 - b. Respondent failed to disclose the following expenditures: \$200.00 to Yvonne Johnson on June 22, 2022 and \$364.88 to Deloris Frazier on October 12, 2022.
8. During the Commission's investigation, Respondent was asked to produce records related to the \$75.12 expenditure to Citi Bank, the \$1,849.27 expenditure to Citi Bank, and the mileage log. Respondent produced a partial mileage log, but was unable to produce any other records related to these requests.
9. On October 17, 2025, Respondent came into compliance by disclosing all contributions and expenditures within her CDRs.

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

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Respondent has acted 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 8-13-1308(F) requires all CDRs to contain: (1) the total of contributions accepted by the candidate; (2) the name and address of each person making a contribution of more than one hundred dollars and the amount and date of receipt of each contribution; (3) the total expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate; and (4) the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made from campaign funds, including the date, amount, purpose, and beneficiary of the expenditure. Section 8-13-1302 requires candidates to maintain receipts, invoices, and/or other evidence of contributions and expenditures for a period of four (4) years.

DECISION

Based on evidence presented, the Commission finds probable cause exists to believe that Respondent failed to disclose the aforementioned contributions and expenditures, all in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F). Further, the Commission finds probably cause exists to believe Respondent violated Section 8-13-1302 by failing to maintain records regarding the aforementioned contributions and expenditures. However, given that Respondent is now in compliance, 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 waives further proceedings.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 21st DAY OF December, 2025.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION



F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina