

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
RECEIVED OCT 29 '25 PM 2:37:0

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2025-098

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Miliken A. Matthews  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]  
TITLE: City of Saluda Mayor and Former City of  
Saluda Council Member

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 Statement of Economic Interests as a Council Member and the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Statements of Economic Interests as Mayor.

Respondent was reminded of the 2022 and 2023 Statements of Economic Interests filing requirement by letters dated January 9, 2023 and July 6, 2023 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the deadline. To date, a 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Statement of Economic Interests have 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  
29th day of October, 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

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND ) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
) )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2025-093 )  
) )  
State Ethics Commission, ) **DECISION AND ORDER**  
Complainant. ) )  
) )  
Miliken A. Matthews, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on October 29, 2025. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On January 15, 2026, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Miliken A. Matthews (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 Saluda Town Council since 2018. Most recently, Respondent was a successful candidate for Mayor in a November 8, 2022, election.
2. Respondent filed a 2018 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) on August 6, 2018, a 2019 SEI on January 23, 2020, a 2020 SEI on January 23, 2020, and a 2021 SEI on April 8, 2021.<sup>1</sup>
3. Respondent did not file a 2022 SEI on or before March 30, 2022.
4. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure prior to the November 8, 2022,

---

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Section 8-13-1510, Respondent was assessed a \$100.00 late-filing penalty through the Commission’s standard non-compliance process for his failure to timely file the 2019 and 2021 SEIs.

election.

5. In a January 9, 2023, certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR and a 2022 SEI. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on January 11, 2023, at 3:05 p.m.
6. On January 18, 2023, Respondent filed the 2022 Pre-Election CDR<sup>2</sup> and amended his 2021 SEI. However, Respondent did not file a 2022 SEI.
7. Respondent did not file a 2023 SEI on or before March 30, 2023.
8. In a July 6, 2023, certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file a 2023 SEI. According to USPS, the certified letter was delivered on July 8, 2023, at 2:53 p.m.
9. Respondent did not file a 2024 SEI on or before March 30, 2024.
10. Respondent did not file a 2025 SEI on or before March 30, 2025.
11. Following the filing of the Complaint, a Commission Investigator spoke with Respondent, who thought he had properly filed the required reports when he filed the 2022 Pre-Election CDR and amended his 2021 SEI on January 18, 2023. Respondent also stated his confusion over the difference between CDRs and SEIs.
12. On November 17, 2025, with the assistance of Commission staff, Respondent filed his 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 SEIs.

### 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

---

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Section 8-13-1510, Respondent was assessed a \$100.00 late-filing penalty through the Commission's standard non-compliance process for his failure to timely file the 2022 Pre-Election CDR.

SA # 2

and completion of a corresponding investigation, the Commission must determine whether there is probable cause to believe a violation of the Ethics Act occurred. S.C. Code Ann. § 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 acted to remedy or correct the alleged violation, it may waive further proceedings. S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-320(10)(i). The decision to waive further proceedings lies within the sound discretion of the Commission.

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

**DECISION**

Based on the evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1140 by failing to file 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 SEIs by March 30 of each year. However, given that Respondent has acted to remedy or correct these errors, and in light of the mitigating facts listed herein, 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 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF February, 2026.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION

  
F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina