

Official Use Only  
Date Received: 2026-007

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
201 Executive Center Drive  
Suite 150  
Columbia, SC 29210  
ETHICS ACT COMPLAINT FORM

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**Section 1. READ BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM:**

Investigative Authority: The Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (the Act) gives the State Ethics Commission (Commission) the authority to investigate complaints against candidates, public officials, public members, public employees, at the state or local government level in South Carolina as well as lobbyists, and lobbyist's principals.

The Commission has the authority to investigate violations of Title 8, Chapter 13 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 2, Chapter 17 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 59, Chapter 150 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, various provisions of Title 42, Chapter 3 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and various provisions of Title 58, Chapter 3 of the South Carolina Code of Laws

Statute of Limitations: Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(9)(d) of the Act, the Commission cannot take action on a complaint more than four years after the violation is alleged to have occurred.

Blackout Period: Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(9)(b)(1) of the Act, no complaint may be accepted against a candidate for elective office during the fifty-day period before an election in which he is a candidate.

Please note that the Commission does not have the jurisdiction to investigate alleged violations of South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act, violations of the criminal code, instances of rude or discourteous treatment, federal officials, or violations of local ordinances, policies, or procedures.

**Section 2. PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING A COMPLAINT:**

Complaints must be submitted by mailing the original of a fully completed complaint form to the Commission at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, SC 29210. Failing to completely fill out the complaint form will result in the form being returned to you without an investigation being opened. Complaint forms must be either typed or written in clear, legible handwriting.

Both the Complainant and the Respondent have the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choosing. If either the complainant and/or the respondent chooses to be represented by legal counsel, they do so at their own expense.

**Section 3. CONFIDENTIALITY:**

Complaint forms become public documents if the Commission finds probable cause that a violation of law has occurred. Please note that upon receiving a properly filed complaint form, the Commission will share an unredacted copy of the complaint with the Respondent whether or not an investigation is ordered.

**Section 4. COMPLAINT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Please check each circle to acknowledge that you have read and understand the following:

- I understand that I may be called to testify in an administrative or criminal proceeding should probable cause be found on this matter.
- I understand that I may be subpoenaed to sit for a deposition where I will be required to answer questions under oath.
- I understand that my name, address, and phone number will be shared with the Respondent.
- I understand that my name may be made public by the Respondent or the Commission.

**Section 5. CHECK THE POSITION OF THE PERSON AGAINST WHOM THIS COMPLAINT IS FILED:**

- Candidate for public office
- Elected official at the state or local level
- Employee of local or state government
- Lobbyist
- Lobbyist's Principal
- Member of South Carolina Legislature
- Public member (a person appointed to a part-time board, commission, or council at the state or local level)

**Section 6. COMPLAINANT AND RESPONDENT INFORMATION:**

<b>I. PERSON BRINGING THE COMPLAINT (COMPLAINANT)</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	State Ethics Commission		
<b>Address:</b>	201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150		
<b>City:</b>	Columbia	<b>State:</b> SC	<b>Zip Code:</b> 29210
<b>Telephone</b>	(803) 253-4192	<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>II. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT (RESPONDENT)</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	Brice Andrew Cox		
<b>Address:</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>City:</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>State:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Zip Code:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Telephone</b>			

**Section 7. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS COMPLAINT COMES FROM:**

- Personal knowledge
- Media Reports
- From a third-party
- Other
- Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Section 8: STATEMENT OF FACTS (Please state the actions of the Respondent upon which your ethics complaint is based):

Pursuant to a confidential investigation, a Commission Investigator subpoenaed account records for the Town of Sharon. Upon review of the records, the Commission Investigator observed Town checks were written to, and signed by, former Town Administrator Brice Andrew Cox, in violation of 8-13-700(A).

**Section 9. VERIFICATION BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION - ORIGINAL NOTARY AND SIGNATURES REQUIRED:**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

Personally appeared before me Meghan Walker Dayson who, first being duly sworn, says that he has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of his own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026



Meghan Walker Dayson  
Executive Director



Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires 01/22/26

Brice Andrew Cox  
261 Lyndhurst Place, APT 204  
Lexington, KY 40508

02/23/2026

South Carolina State Ethics Commission  
Attn: W. B. White, Jr.  
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150  
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: State Ethics Commission C2026-007

Dear Mr. White

I am writing in response to the questions presented regarding my employment and compensation with the Town of Sharon, South Carolina.

I was employed by the Town in both full-time and part-time capacities. From approximately 2021 through mid-2022, I served in full-time roles as Town Administrator and Water Specialist. In addition, from approximately 2018 through mid-2022, I performed part-time and contracted work, including Meter Reader duties and maintenance work as needed.

- As Town Administrator, I was responsible for the administrative operations of the Town: preparing reports and materials for town council meetings, paying town bills, coordinating contractors, and performing work as directed by the council.
- In my role as Water Specialist, I primarily handled administrative coordination for the water system, including monitoring water pressure and coordinating repairs in support of the licensed water operator.
- As Meter Reader, I read and recorded water meters monthly.
- Maintenance work was performed on an as-needed basis and included repairs to lighting and electrical systems, including well power for the water system.

I was compensated for all work performed. The Town Administrator position was paid on a recurring schedule, which I believe was biweekly. The Water Specialist position was paid either biweekly or monthly, and the Meter Reader position was paid monthly. Maintenance work was compensated when completed. Time for certain positions, such as Town Administrator, was submitted through timesheets. Other roles were compensated based on job completion or contracted arrangements.

Brice Andrew Cox  
261 Lyndhurst Place, APT 204  
Lexington, KY 40508

All financial transactions, including compensation payments, were included in monthly financial reports presented to the Town Council. These transactions were reviewed and approved by council vote during monthly meetings, and such approvals were reflected in the meeting minutes. During those meetings, I provided updates regarding work completed and work in progress, and council members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide direction.

During the relevant time period, three individuals were authorized to sign checks on behalf of the Town: Mayor Nicole Perkins, Mayor Pro Tem Brownie Brown, and the Town Administrator. I signed certain checks payable to myself for compensation. This was done pursuant to instructions provided by prior Town Administrators, who informed me that this was the established and longstanding practice of the Town. To my knowledge, this procedure had been followed for many years prior to my service. I did not independently create or modify this process. All compensation payments were reflected in the monthly financial statements reviewed and approved by the Town Council.

At no time did I sign or receive compensation for work that I did not perform. Additionally, during my employment, I was not instructed regarding any obligation to file annual Statements of Economic Interests with the South Carolina State Ethics Commission. However, with the help of Erin Caughman, I have filed Statements of Economic Interests for the time periods in question.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide clarification and remain available to supply any additional documentation or information that may assist in your review.

Respectfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Brice Andrew Cox

A black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND ) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
) )  
IN THE MATTER OF: ) )  
) )  
Complaint C2026-007 ) )  
) )  
State Ethics Commission, ) **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Complainant. ) )  
) )  
Brice Andrew Cox, ) )  
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, June 18, 2026 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**  
**USE OF OFFICE FOR FINANCIAL GAIN**  
**SECTION 8-13-700(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Brice Andrew Cox, Sharon Town Administrator, from January 21 through May 18, 2022, did knowingly use his official position to obtain an economic interest for himself by signing nineteen (19) checks totaling \$8,803.45 from the Town of Sharon to himself, all in violation of Section 8-13-700(A).

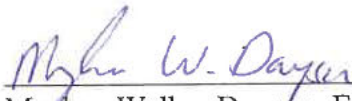
**COUNT TWO**  
**FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1110, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Brice Andrew Cox, Sharon Town Administrator, failed to timely file a 2022 Statement

of Economic Interests, in violation of Section 8-13-1110.

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 19<sup>th</sup> day,  
of March 2026.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Brice Andrew Cox, 261 Lyndhurst Place, Apartment 204, Lexington, KY 40508 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 23 day of March 2026, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



**Erin Caughman**  
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2026-007 )  
State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant, )  
Brice Andrew Cox, )  
Respondent. )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on January 20, 2026. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Brice Andrew Cox (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 served as Administrator in the Town of Sharon (Town) from 2021 through May of 2022.<sup>1</sup> As Town Administrator, Respondent was responsible for paying the Town's bills, coordinating contractors, and providing public access to the Town's ordinances.
2. At all times relevant, Respondent also served as a Water Specialist, meter reader, and maintenance person for the Town.
3. Respondent did not file a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) on or before March 30, 2022.
4. During his tenure as Town Administrator, the Town had three (3) authorized signers for its checking account, and it was common practice for individuals to sign paychecks to themselves.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the four-year statute of limitations found in Section 8-13-320(9)(d), the Commission's investigation was limited to events occurring on or after January 20, 2022.

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5. Each month, Respondent submitted a time sheet to Town Council. Once approved, Respondent signed a Town check to himself for the amount due to him. From January 31, 2022 through May 18, 2022, Respondent signed nineteen (19) payroll checks to himself.
6. Following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent was interviewed by Commission Investigator Brad White. According to Respondent, his mother was the Town's prior Administrator. In 2021, Respondent's mother was diagnosed with cancer and Respondent agreed to fill in for her on a part-time basis until she completed her treatment and was able to return to work. However, Respondent's mother died shortly thereafter and Respondent agreed to serve full-time.
7. The Commission's investigation did not reveal any evidence that Respondent paid himself more than he was owed.
8. On February 13, 2026, Respondent came into compliance by filing a 2022 SEI.

### 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 "public official" pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27).  
Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
  2. Section 8-13-1110(A) provides, in relevant part:  

No [public employee] . . . may take the oath of office or enter upon his official responsibilities unless he has filed a [SEI] in accordance with the provisions of this chapter with the appropriate supervisory office.
  3. Section 8-13-700 provides, in relevant part:  

(A) No [public employee] may knowingly use his official [employment] to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. This prohibition does not extend to the incidental use of public materials, personnel, or equipment, subject to or available for a [public employee's] use that does not result in additional public

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expense:

(B) No [public employee] may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use his [employment] to influence a governmental decision in which he, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated has an economic interest. A [public employee] who, in the discharge of his official responsibilities, is required to take an action or make a decision which affects an economic interest of himself, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated shall:

(1) prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decisions and the nature of his potential conflict of interest with respect to the action or decision;

(4) if he is a public employee, he shall furnish a copy of the statement to his superior, if any, who shall assign the matter to another employee who does not have a potential conflict of interest. If he has no immediate superior, he shall take the action prescribed by the [Commission].

4. In accordance with Section 8-13-1510(A), Respondent has accrued a \$100.00 late-filing penalty with regard to the 2022 SEI:

... 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

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.

6. Section 8-13-320(10)(l) allows the Commission to assess a \$2,000.00 civil penalty for violations of the Ethics Act.

**DISCUSSION**

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of Section 8-13-1110 for failing to timely file a 2022 SEI and one (1) count of Section 8-13-700 for signing each of the aforementioned Town checks to himself. Through this Consent Order, Respondent

NDT

acknowledges he violated the Ethics Act in these instances. In mitigation, Respondent states that he was not advised of the SEI filing requirement when he began working for the Town, which has a population of approximately 500 people. Respondent states, and the Commission agrees, that he came into compliance as soon as he was notified of the filing requirement. With regard to the paychecks, Respondent states that it was a decades-long practice within the Town for individuals to sign their own paychecks. Respondent further contends, and the Commission acknowledges, that he did not receive any money that he was not owed. Finally, Respondent advises that he is currently a college student in Kentucky majoring in risk management and finance. Respondent states that any financial penalty would cause extreme hardship and asks the Commission for leniency if possible.

**DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of Section 8-13-1110 and Section 8-13-700 as outlined above.
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. The Commission declines to assess any additional penalties or fees given the facts and mitigation referenced herein.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2026.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
BRICE ANDREW COX  
RESPONDENT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND ) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
 )  
 IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 COMPLAINT C2026-007 )  
 )  
 State Ethics Commission, ) **CONSENT ORDER**  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 Brice Andrew Cox, )  
 Respondent. )  
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5. Each month, Respondent submitted a time sheet to Town Council. Once approved, Respondent signed a Town check to himself for the amount due to him. From January 31, 2022 through May 18, 2022, Respondent signed nineteen (19) payroll checks to himself.
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(4) if he is a public employee, he shall furnish a copy of the statement to his superior, if any, who shall assign the matter to another employee who does not have a potential conflict of interest. If he has no immediate superior, he shall take the action prescribed by the [Commission].

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RESPONDENT