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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

2020 JUN 11 AM 11:12

STATE ETHICS  
COMMISSION

COMPLAINT FORM

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2020 JUN 11 AM 11:11

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER

C 2020-025310N

COMMISSION

COMPLAINANT: Robert J. Blok, Sr.

RESPONDENT: David J. Zeoli

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TITLE: Dr.

TITLE: Candidate for Beaufort County Coroner

Set forth in detail specific facts upon which you based your complaint against above-named respondent (only detailed, clear factual allegations will be considered. If additional space is needed, attach supplemental sheets).

Mr. David J. Zeoli is a Republican candidate for Beaufort County Coroner for the June 9, 2020 Primary election.

As of today, June 9, 2020, Zeoli has not filed a PRE ELECTION REPT as required by all candidates no later than 15 days prior to the election.

All investigations, inquiries, hearings, and accompanying documents must remain confidential unless respondent waives the right to confidentiality. 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. The willful release of confidential information is a misdemeanor, and any person releasing such confidential information, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned not more than one year. Section 8-13-320(10)(g).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF ~~Richland~~ BEAUFORT

Personally appeared before me ROBERT J. BLOK, SR. who, first being duly sworn, says that he/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 his/her 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  
9 day of JUNE, 2020

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Complainant Signature

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL SEAL

Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

JOHN L. GEORGE

Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires April 13, 2027

SEC-7 (Revised 8/2019)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192

FAXED COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

C102form

July 21, 2020

State of South Carolina  
State Ethics Commission  
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150  
Columbia, SC 29210

RECEIVED  
2020 JUL 23 PM 1:33  
STATE ETHICS  
COMMISSION

RE: Complaint C2020-029

To Whom It May Concern,

Recently I received the complaint referenced and this letter is being provided. In regards to the Pre-Election Filing this was an oversight on my behalf. I unfortunately assumed the report filed in April covered this requirement.

It was not until my Treasurer for the campaign communicated with your office by email (attached) regarding the disposition of the remaining funds that this was brought to our attention and was immediately corrected.

I was also contacted by investigator Reggie Gaymon with your office regarding the referenced complaint. It was mentioned during our conversation that a penalty may be imposed in the amount of \$100.00 for a late submission of the report. I have also attached a check (#7846) regarding this penalty.

Thank you in advance for your time and please keep me posted on what additional actions are needed.

Sincerely,

  
David J. Zeoli

Enclosures: Larry Beckler's ltr dated 17Jul20  
Copy of Email dated 22Jun20  
Personal Check # 7846

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2020 JUL 23 PM 1:33

STATE ETHICS  
COMMISSION

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Larry Beckler  
Treasurer  
Committee to Elect David Zeoli

843 521-7431  
lpbeckler@aol.com

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07/17/2020

S. C. State Ethics Commission  
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, SC 29210

CC: David Zeoli

Re: Pre-Election Filing

To Whom IT May Concern

I am writing to clarify the events around Mr. Zeoli's Pre-Election filing. Due to my administrative oversight of this filing during our first ever attempt of having a candidate run for office during this COVID-19 epidemic we missed the filing deadline. I had raised a question to Ms. Deaven Linen about donating the balance of funds left in our account. At this time Ms. Linen responded back to me via email and brought to my attention that we were required to file a 2020 Pre-election campaign disclosure report. She stated that we could change the not filed saved July 10<sup>th</sup> report to a Pre-election report. With this direction I immediately made the changes that Ms. Linen described and submitted the filing.

Respectfully Submitted



Larry Beckler

Treasurer

Committee to Elect David Zeoli

**From:** dlinen@ethics.sc.gov,  
**To:** lpbeckler@aol.com,  
**Subject:** SC State Ethics Commission RE: David Zeoli campaign disclosure reports  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 22, 2020 4:30 pm

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Good afternoon Mr. Beckler,

Please note that before you can close out Mr. Zeoli's account. He is required to file a **2020 Pre-election** campaign disclosure report was which, was due **May 26, 2020**.

You can change the not filed saved **July 10th** report to a **Pre-election** report. Click edit beside the **July 10th** report. Go to report type on the summary page. Check **Pre-election** and uncheck **July 10th** and file this report.

After, this report is filed and the campaign bank account is closed. Then, he can file his **Final** report by **July 10, 2020**.

Yes, the remanding funds can be donated to a nonprofit origination, 501 C3 or, the SC Children's Trust Fund.

Please let me know if, you have any other questions.

*Please be advised that staff response times may be delayed because of shifting workforce demands due to Covid-19. When possible, please use email to contact staff rather than telephone. Thank you for your patience.*

Thank you,

Ms. Deaven Linen  
Program Assistant  
S. C. State Ethics Commission  
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150  
Columbia, SC 29210  
Office: 803-253-4192  
Fax: 803-253-7539  
<http://ethics.sc.gov>

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COMMISSION

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND ) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
) )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2020-029 )  
) )  
Robert J. Blok, Sr., ) **DECISION AND ORDER**  
Complainant. )  
) )  
David J. Zeoli, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on June 11, 2020. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On September 17, 2020, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge David J. Zeoli (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 in the matter.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Respondent was a candidate in a June 9, 2020 primary election for Beaufort County Coroner but failed to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) fifteen days prior to the election. Respondent filed a Pre-Election CDR on June 24, 2020 and a Final CDR on June 28, 3030. Respondent has paid the \$100 late-filing penalty for his late Pre-Election CDR.

**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 the 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 8-13-1308(A) provides, in part:

Upon the receipt or expenditure of campaign contributions or the making of independent expenditures totaling an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars or more, a candidate or committee required to file a statement of organization pursuant to Section 8-13-1304 must file an initial certified campaign report within ten days of these initial receipts or expenditures. However, a candidate who does not receive or expend campaign contributions totaling an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars or more must file an initial certified campaign report fifteen days before an election

#### DISCUSSION

Respondent failed to timely file a Pre-Election CDR. However, he has already paid the late-filing penalty. In addition, Respondent came into compliance on June 24, 2020, prior to any contact from the Commission.

**[this space left intentionally blank]**

**DECISION**

Based on the evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated the Ethics Act, but waives further proceedings pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i).

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 13 DAY OF November 2020.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHILDS CANTEY THRASHER, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina