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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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STATE ETHICS
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COMPLAINT FORM

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2021-030

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

RESPONDENT: Ron L. Charlton
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Former Councilman – Georgetown County
and Candidate – City of Georgetown

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 \$500; 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.

On the October 10, 2017 Campaign Disclosure and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, Respondent reported three contributors with three different addresses as “Unnamed” or “Undisclosed” and has not disclosed these contributors’ names. On the July 10, 2020 Campaign Disclosure, Respondent reported the description of an expenditure to Lamar Advertising as “425.00” and was asked to amend the report with what was purchased.

Section 8-13-1302, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires that all candidates maintain a record of campaign contributions, expenditures, all receipted bills, canceled checks, or other proof of payment for each expenditure and the occupation of each person making a contribution for a period of four years. South Carolina Code of Regulations, Reg. 52-501.D requires that campaign records must be made available to the State Ethics Commission upon request. The contribution received August 18, 2017 has an occupation of “Business”. Respondent was asked to provide a more specific occupation.

Section 8-13-1314, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, states that a candidate may not accept contributions from a person aggregating \$1,000.00 in an election cycle. On March 31, 2020, Bonnie N. Charlton made a \$10,000 contribution to the Respondent’s campaign, and on May 15, 2020, she made a \$3,440 contribution.

Section 8-13-1326 (A), S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, says that a loan is considered a contribution from the maker or the guarantors of the loan and is subject to the contribution limitations of this article. On March 31, 2020, Bonnie N. Charlton loaned \$25,000 to the Respondent’s campaign, and on May 15, 2020, she loaned \$3,340 to the campaign.

Section 8-13-1328, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, places limits on the repayment of loans from candidate or family members to campaign. On June 6, 2020, the Respondent reported “Personal Loan Forgiven” as a loan repayment to Bonnie Charlton in the amount of \$3,340, and on June 22, 2020, an expenditure to Bonnie Charlton was disclosed as “Loan Repayment.”

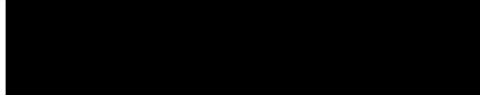
Records of the State Ethics Commission indicate a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure as a candidate for Mayor was due between October 18, 2017 and October 23, 2017. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before the Campaign Disclosure deadline.

In the County Council account with election dates of November 6, 2012 and November 7, 2017, Respondent was required to file a January 10, 2018, April 10, 2018, July 10, 2018, October 10, 2018, January 10, 2019, April 10, 2019, July 10, 2019, October 10, 2019, January 10, 2020, April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, and April 10, 2021 Campaign Disclosure and was sent an email reminder thirty days before each quarterly deadline.

In the County Council account with a June 9, 2020 election date, Respondent was required to file an October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, and April 10, 2021 Campaign Disclosure and was sent an email reminder thirty days before each quarterly deadline.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT'S ATTORNEY Laura M. Moyer, P.O. Box 479, Georgetown, SC 29440 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 15th day of June 2023, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Complaint C2021-030)	
)	
State Ethics Commission)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Complainant.)	
)	
Ronald L. Charlton)	
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, February 15, 2024 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
EXCESSIVE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1314, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, accept an excessive campaign contribution from Southern Coastal Cable on July 10, 2017 in the amount of \$1,500.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1314.

COUNT TWO
EXCESSIVE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1314, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, accept an excessive campaign contribution from Southern Coastal Cable on August 14, 2017 in the amount of \$1,500.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1314.

COUNT THREE
EXCESSIVE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1314, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, accept an excessive campaign contribution from Southern Coastal Cable on October 5, 2017 in the amount of \$2,500.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1314.

COUNT FOUR
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign contribution from Gerald or Linda Harmon in the amount of \$125.00 received on October 8, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT FIVE
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign contribution from TJC Capital, LLC in the amount of \$500.00 received on October 23, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT SIX
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign contribution from Tamsberg Properties in the amount of \$500.00 received on October 18, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT SEVEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign contribution from Bonnie Charlton in the amount of \$150.00 received on October 24, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT EIGHT
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign contribution from GAMS LLC in the amount of \$300.00 received on October 21, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT NINE
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign contribution from SC Realtors PAC in the amount of \$1,000.00 received on October 13, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign contribution from James Clements or Edith Graves in the amount of \$200.00 received on October 25, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT ELEVEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to report a campaign contribution from Carolina Properties in the amount of \$150.00 received on October 30, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWELVE
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign contribution from Original Colony Builders, LLC in the amount of \$1,000.00 received on October 31, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT THIRTEEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign contribution from TJ or Carol Connoly in the amount of \$1,000.00 received on October 31, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT FOURTEEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign contribution from Harborage, LLC in the amount of \$150.00 received on October 27, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT FIFTEEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions received under \$100.00 totaling \$525.00 on his CDRs, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT SIXTEEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Jamie Harrelson in the amount of \$64.06 on October 10, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT SEVENTEEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Fishbone Design and Marketing in the amount of \$851.13 on October 11, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT EIGHTEEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Georgetown Times in the amount of \$458.00 on October 16, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT NINETEEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Hog Heaven in the amount of \$991.99 on October 17, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Methods Development, Inc. in the amount of \$201.89 on October 18, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY-ONE
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to The Mitney Project in the amount of \$375.00 on October 17, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY-TWO
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Southern Costal Cable in the amount of \$185.36 on October 26, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY-THREE
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Ronald L. Charlton in the amount of \$409.57 on October 27, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY-FOUR
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Mary Prince in the amount of \$172.47 on October 17, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY-FIVE
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Southern Costal Cable in the amount of \$90.00 on October 26, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY-SIX
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Pronto Press in the amount of \$3,412.80 on November 6, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY-SEVEN
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Ronald L. Charlton in the amount of \$633.27 on November 13, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY-EIGHT
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Bonnie N. Charlton in the amount of \$12.97 on November 13, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY-NINE
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Mary Prince in the amount of \$257.35 on November 13, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT THIRTY
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Kenneth L. Mitchum in the amount of \$95.50 on November 13, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT THIRTY-ONE
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Southern Coastal Cable in the amount of \$175.00 on November 13, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT THIRTY-TWO
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to Southern Coastal Cable in the amount of \$15.19 on November 14, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT THIRTY-THREE
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to VFW Rental in the amount of \$50.00 on November 14, 2017, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT THIRTY-FOUR
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a campaign expenditure to close the campaign bank account in the amount of \$901.59 on February 9, 2018, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT THIRTY-FIVE
FAILURE TO DEPOSIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to deposit an August 12, 2017 campaign contribution from Kenneth Mitchum in the amount of \$163.00 into his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT THIRTY-SIX
FAILURE TO DEPOSIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to deposit an August 18, 2017 campaign contribution from Paige Sawyer Photography in the amount of \$75.00 into his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT THIRTY-SEVEN
FAILURE TO DEPOSIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to deposit an August 30, 2017 campaign contribution from Ronald Charlton in the amount of \$1,500.00 into his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT THIRTY-EIGHT
FAILURE TO DEPOSIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to deposit an October 23, 2017 campaign contribution from Laura Moyer in the amount of \$1,000.00 into his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT THIRTY-NINE
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make an August 18, 2017 campaign expenditure to Paige Sawyer Photography in the amount of \$75.00 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FORTY
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a September 25, 2017 campaign expenditure to City of Georgetown from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FORTY-ONE
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make an October 23, 2017 campaign expenditure to Georgetown Times in the amount of \$264.25 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FORTY-TWO
EXCESSIVE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1314, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, accept an excessive campaign contribution from Bayside Property, Inc. on March 31, 2020 in the amount of \$10,000.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1314.

COUNT FORTY-THREE
EXCESSIVE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1314, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, accept an excessive campaign contribution from Bonnie Charlton on June 9, 2020 in the amount of \$2,100.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1314.

COUNT FORTY-FOUR
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions received under \$100.00 totaling \$152.00 on his CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT FORTY-FIVE
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a May 1, 2020 campaign expenditure to Pronto Press in the amount of \$1,213.92, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT FORTY-SIX
FAILURE TO REPORT A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a July 21, 2020 campaign expenditure closing the campaign bank account in the amount of \$626.40, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT FORTY-SEVEN
FAILURE TO DEPOSIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland

County, fail to deposit a May 5, 2020 campaign contribution from Bonnie Charlton in the amount of \$3,440.00 into his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FORTY-EIGHT
FAILURE TO USE CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make an April 14, 2020 campaign expenditure to SC Voter Registration Rolls in the amount of \$163.72 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FORTY-NINE
FAILURE TO MAKE USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make an April 14, 2020 campaign expenditure to City of Georgetown in the amount of \$250.00 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make an April 21, 2020 campaign expenditure to Pronto Press in the amount of \$1,500.00 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-ONE
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a April 29, 2020 campaign expenditure to Coastal Observer in the amount of \$1,472.54 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-TWO
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a May 5, 2020 campaign expenditure to Pronto Press in the amount of \$1,500.00 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-THREE
FAILURE TO MAKE CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES FROM
CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, report a May 15, 2020 campaign expenditure to Bonnie Charlton in the amount of \$3,340.00 on his CDRs but did not make the expenditure through his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-FOUR
FAILURE TO MAKE USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a May 15, 2020 campaign expenditure to Pronto Press in the amount of \$3,330.48 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-FIVE
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, failed to make a May 29, 2020 campaign expenditure to Lamar Advertising in the amount of \$75.00 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-SIX
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a May 31, 2020 campaign expenditure to Lamar Advertising in the amount of \$425.00 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-SEVEN
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a June 5, 2020 campaign expenditure to GAB News in the amount of \$200.00 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-EIGHT
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to make a June 11, 2020 campaign expenditure to FaceBook in the amount of \$2,681.78 from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT FIFTY-NINE
FAILURE TO USE A CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, failed to make a June 15, 2020 campaign expenditure to Monarch Broadcasting in the amount of \$41.05 on his CDRs from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT SIXTY
EXCESSIVE CAMPAIGN LOAN REPAYMENT
SECTION 8-13-1328, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Ronald L. Charlton, former Georgetown County Councilmember, did in Richland County, repay a loan to Bonnie Charlton in the amount of \$19,438.01, in violation of Section 8-13-1328.

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 15th day,
of June 2023.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by letters dated October 12, 2020 and January 21, 2021 as described in the attached. To date, no properly completed Pre-Election, January 10, 2018, April 10, 2018, July 10, 2018, October 10, 2018, January 10, 2019, April 10, 2019, July 10, 2019, October 10, 2019, January 10, 2020, April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, or April 10, 2021 Campaign Disclosure has been received. In addition, there has been no response to the letters regarding contributions, expenditures, and loans. All in violation of Section 8-13-1302, 8-13-1308(B), Section 8-13-1308 (D)(1), Section 8-13-1308 (F), Section 8-13-1314, Section 8-13-1326, and Section 8-13-1328, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended.


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

Personally appeared before me Meghan L. Walker 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 April, 2021




Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 8-11-2025

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**

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2021-030)

State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)


Ronald L. Charlton,)
Respondent.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

MOTION TO DISMISS

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act) and corresponding regulations S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-703(C) and 52-706(C), the undersigned counsel hereby seeks an Order from the Commission dismissing the above-captioned complaint, which was filed on April 29, 2021. This motion is based on the following:

1. On June 15, 2023, a hearing in this matter was scheduled for February 15, 2024.
2. On or around November 30, 2023, Respondent’s counsel contacted Commission staff and advised that Respondent was unable to assist in his defense due to incapacity. Respondent’s counsel subsequently provided documentation to support this assertion.
3. Based on the information provided by Respondent’s counsel, Commission staff believes that this matter should be dismissed.
4. Respondent’s counsel does not object to this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney M. Easter (Bar No. 77807)
S.C. State Ethics Commission
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
803-253-4192
claster@ethics.sc.gov

January 4, 2024
Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2021-030)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Ronald L. Charlton,)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

ORDER

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the State Ethics Commission convened on January 18, 2024 and heard Commission staff's Motion to Dismiss the above-captioned complaint based on the following:

1. A hearing in this matter was scheduled for February 15, 2024.
2. Respondent's counsel contacted Commission staff and advised that Respondent was unable to assist in his defense due to incapacity. Respondent's counsel subsequently provided documentation to support this assertion.
3. Based on the information provided by Respondent's counsel, the Commission concludes that this matter should be dismissed.

Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-703(C) and 52-706(C), the Commission hereby grants the Motion to Dismiss C2021-030.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 9th DAY OF February 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina