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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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COMPLAINT FORM

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2021-064

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

RESPONDENT: Eddie L. Jones, Sr.  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]  
TITLE: Former Board Member – Board of  
Cosmetology

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 2019 and 2020 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated September 14, 2020 and December 23, 2020 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the deadline. To date, no properly completed 2019 or 2020 Statement of Economic Interests has been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, SC 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  
12th day of August, 2021

[REDACTED]  
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

[REDACTED]  
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  
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2021-064 )  
State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant. )  
Eddie L. Jones, Sr., )  
Respondent. )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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COMMISSION

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on August 12, 2021. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On November 18, 2021, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Eddie L. Jones, Sr. (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 on the matter.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Respondent served on the South Carolina Board of Cosmetology (Board) from 2014 until his resignation in September of 2020. Respondent failed to timely file his 2019 and 2020 Statements of Economic Interests (SEI). The Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file these SEIs by way of a certified letter delivered to Respondent’s address of record on December 26, 2020.

Following the filing of the Complaint, a Commission Investigator spoke with Respondent’s wife after attempting to reach Respondent. Respondent’s wife informed the Investigator that Respondent had begun suffering from Alzheimer’s disease in the Spring of 2019. Respondent’s

wife explained that Respondent no longer possessed the mental capacity to serve on the Board and that he had resigned in September of 2020 following his physical absence from several meetings during 2020. With Commission staff's assistance, Respondent's wife completed the 2019 and 2020 SEIs on Respondent's behalf.

### **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 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 8-13-1140 requires public members to file a SEI on or before March 30 of each year.

### **DISCUSSION**

The facts of this case are clear. Respondent failed to timely file a 2019 SEI and a 2020 SEI. However, these SEIs have now been filed and the Commission believes that Respondent's failure to file were caused by personal circumstances beyond his control.

### **DECISION**

Based on evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1140 of the Ethics Act. However, in light of the

above-discussion, and based on the totality of the circumstances, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the Ethics Act.

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 28 DAY OF December 2021.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the chair.

CHILDS CANTEY THRASHER, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina