

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2022-147

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Nikki Fontana
ADDRESS: 5750 Oyster Catch Drive Unit 813
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (843) 267-9152
TITLE: Council Member – City of North Myrtle Beach

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.

Records of the State Ethics Commission indicate that a Campaign Disclosure was due no later than 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, April 10, 2021, July 10, 2021, January 10, 2022, April 10, 2022, July 10, 2022, and October 10, 2022. In addition, a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between October 13, 2021 and October 18, 2021. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated May 26, 2022 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election, Quarter 4 2018, Quarter 1 2019, Quarter 2 2019, Quarter 3 2019, Quarter 4 2019, Quarter 1 2020, Quarter 2 2020, Quarter 3 2020, Quarter 4 2020, Quarter 1 2021, Quarter 2 2021, Quarter 4 2021, Quarter 1 2022, Quarter 2 2022, or Quarter 3 2022 Campaign Disclosure has not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A), Section 8-13-1308 (B), Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), and Section 8-13-1308 (F), S.C. 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 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

21st day of November 2022

Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires 01/22/24

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

C102form

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2022-147	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Nikki Fontana	)	
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, April 17, 2025 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
FAILURE TO FILE PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

file 2022 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT THREE
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FOUR
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FIVE
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SIX
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SEVEN
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT EIGHT
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT NINE
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT TEN
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2024 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT ELEVEN
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2024 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 16, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Keith Hinson, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from AM & RD Title Agency, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Robert Guyton, PC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Founders National Golf, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 20, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Big Block Properties, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report a September 21, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Ten Mile, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Dylan Andrew, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Charles A. Brown, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Beach Homes of NMB, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 1, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from KTAD Holdings, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 6, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Cleaning and Lines, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 7, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$999.00 from Convenience Store & More, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 8, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$100.00 from Big Survey Service and Supply, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 11, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Robert and Deborah Wilfong Jr., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 12, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Development Resources Group, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 14, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$100.00 from Michael & Cynthia Campbell, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 18, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from AO Hardee & Son, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 18, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Donald & Wendy Pleasants, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 21, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$750.00 from Barefoot Zoological Gardens, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$400.00 from DMAC Enterprises, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 26, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Penny Chimile, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 27, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Thomas Staats, Jr., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 29, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Foxfire Communicants, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 29, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Jon Coyne, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions of \$100.00 or less in the aggregate on her 2021 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions of \$100.00 or less in the aggregate on her 2021 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 28, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$67.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 1, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$315.00 to Sand Dollar, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 7, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Outdoor gosq.com, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 8, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$331.56 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 13, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,402.64 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 27, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,402.64 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 28, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Palmetto Associated Services, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 9, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$635.00 to Political Marketing International, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 18, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$1,416.00 to NMB Times, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 18, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Palmetto Associated Services, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a March 21, 2022 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$83.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 4, 2022 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$166.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a December 14, 2023 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$113.00 to DDA withdrawal, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 11, 2024 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$166.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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 1/12 day,
of December 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Nikki Fontana, 5750 Oyster Catch Drive, Unit 813, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 31st day of December 2024, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant

Columbia, South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2022-147	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	AMENDED
Complainant.	)	NOTICE OF HEARING
	)	
Nikki Fontana	)	
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, August 21, 2025 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
FAILURE TO FILE PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

file 2022 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT THREE

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FOUR

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FIVE

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SIX

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SEVEN

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT EIGHT

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT NINE

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT TEN

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2024 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT ELEVEN

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2024 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT TWELVE

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 16, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Keith Hinson, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from AM & RD Title Agency, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Robert Guyton, PC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Founders National Golf, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 20, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Big Block Properties, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report a September 21, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Ten Mile, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT EIGHTEEN

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Dylan Andrew, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT NINETEEN

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Charles A. Brown, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Beach Homes of NMB, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT TWENTY-ONE

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 1, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from KTAD Holdings, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 6, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Cleaning and Lines, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 7, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$999.00 from Convenience Store & More, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 8, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$100.00 from Big Survey Service and Supply, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 11, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Robert and Deborah Wilfong Jr., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 12, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Development Resources Group, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 14, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$100.00 from Michael & Cynthia Campbell, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 18, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from AO Hardee & Son, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 18, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Donald & Wendy Pleasants, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 21, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$750.00 from Barefoot Zoological Gardens, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$400.00 from DMAC Enterprises, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 26, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Penny Chimile, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 27, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Thomas Staats, Jr., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 29, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Foxfire Communicants, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 29, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Jon Coyne, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions of \$100.00 or less in the aggregate on her 2021 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions of \$100.00 or less in the aggregate on her 2021 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 28, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$67.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 1, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$315.00 to Sand Dollar, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 7, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Outdoor gosq.com, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 8, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$331.56 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 13, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,402.64 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 27, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,402.64 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 28, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Palmetto Associated Services, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 9, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$635.00 to Political Marketing International, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 18, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$1,416.00 to NMB Times, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 18, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Palmetto Associated Services, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a March 21, 2022 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$83.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 4, 2022 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$166.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a December 14, 2023 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$113.00 to DDA withdrawal, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 11, 2024 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$166.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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 May 2025.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2022-147	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	THIRD AMENDED
Complainant.	)	NOTICE OF HEARING
	)	
Nikki Fontana	)	
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 19, 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
FAILURE TO FILE PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

file 2022 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT THREE
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FOUR
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FIVE
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SIX
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SEVEN
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT EIGHT
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT NINE
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT TEN
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2024 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT ELEVEN
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2024 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 16, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Keith Hinson, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from AM & RD Title Agency, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Robert Guyton, PC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Founders National Golf, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 20, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Big Block Properties, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report a September 21, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Ten Mile, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Dylan Andrew, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Charles A. Brown, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Beach Homes of NMB, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 1, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from KTAD Holdings, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 6, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Cleaning and Lines, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 7, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$999.00 from Convenience Store & More, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 8, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$100.00 from Big Survey Service and Supply, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 11, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Robert and Deborah Wilfong Jr., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 12, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Development Resources Group, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 14, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$100.00 from Michael & Cynthia Campbell, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 18, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from AO Hardee & Son, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 18, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Donald & Wendy Pleasants, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 21, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$750.00 from Barefoot Zoological Gardens, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$400.00 from DMAC Enterprises, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 26, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Penny Chimile, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 27, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Thomas Staats, Jr., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 29, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Foxfire Communicants, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 29, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Jon Coyne, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions of \$100.00 or less in the aggregate on her 2021 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions of \$100.00 or less in the aggregate on her 2021 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 28, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$67.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 1, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$315.00 to Sand Dollar, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 7, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Outdoor gosq.com, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 8, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$331.56 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 13, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,402.64 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 27, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,402.64 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 28, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Palmetto Associated Services, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 9, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$635.00 to Political Marketing International, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 18, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$1,416.00 to NMB Times, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 18, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Palmetto Associated Services, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a March 21, 2022 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$83.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 4, 2022 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$166.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a December 14, 2023 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$113.00 to DDA withdrawal, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 11, 2024 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$166.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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 27th day,
of October 2025.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2022-147	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	FOURTH AMENDED
Complainant.	)	NOTICE OF HEARING
	)	
Nikki Fontana	)	
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, April 16, 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
FAILURE TO FILE PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

file 2022 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT THREE
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FOUR
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FIVE
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SIX
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SEVEN
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT EIGHT

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT NINE

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT TEN

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2024 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT ELEVEN

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2024 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT TWELVE

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 16, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Keith Hinson, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from AM & RD Title Agency, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Robert Guyton, PC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Founders National Golf, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 20, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Big Block Properties, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report a September 21, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Ten Mile, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Dylan Andrew, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Charles A. Brown, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Beach Homes of NMB, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 1, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from KTAD Holdings, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 6, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Cleaning and Lines, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 7, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$999.00 from Convenience Store & More, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 8, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$100.00 from Big Survey Service and Supply, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 11, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Robert and Deborah Wilfong Jr., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 12, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Development Resources Group, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 14, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$100.00 from Michael & Cynthia Campbell, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 18, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from AO Hardee & Son, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 18, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Donald & Wendy Pleasants, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 21, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$750.00 from Barefoot Zoological Gardens, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$400.00 from DMAC Enterprises, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 26, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Penny Chimile, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 27, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Thomas Staats, Jr., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 29, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Foxfire Communicants, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 29, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Jon Coyne, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions of \$100.00 or less in the aggregate on her 2021 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions of \$100.00 or less in the aggregate on her 2021 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 28, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$67.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 1, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$315.00 to Sand Dollar, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 7, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Outdoor gosq.com, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 8, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$331.56 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 13, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,402.64 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 27, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,402.64 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 28, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Palmetto Associated Services, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 9, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$635.00 to Political Marketing International, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 18, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$1,416.00 to NMB Times, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 18, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Palmetto Associated Services, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a March 21, 2022 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$83.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 4, 2022 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$166.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a December 14, 2023 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$113.00 to DDA withdrawal, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

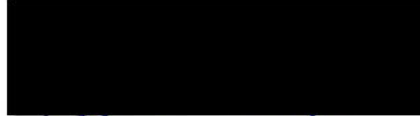
COUNT FIFTY-ONE
FAILURE TO REPORT CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 11, 2024 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$166.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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 22nd day,
of January 2026.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
COMPLAINT C2022-147	)	
	)	MOTION FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
State Ethics Commission,	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
Nikki Fontana,	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act) and S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-206 and 52-703(C), the undersigned hereby seeks an Order authorizing Commission staff to serve Respondent with a Notice of Hearing via publication. This motion is based on the following:

1. The above-captioned complaint was filed on November 21, 2022. The complaint alleged that Respondent, former Councilmember of the City of North Myrtle Beach, failed to timely file numerous Campaign Disclosure Reports (CDR) in violation of Section 8-13-1308 of the Ethics Act.

2. On September 19, 2024, the Commission found probable cause to believe Respondent violated the Ethics Act and issued a Notice of Hearing charging Respondent with the following: one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to timely file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR, ten (10) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to timely file ten (10) quarterly CDRs, and forty (40) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308(F) for failing to properly disclose campaign contributions and expenditures.

3. Since September 19, 2024, Commission staff has attempted to serve Respondent with the Notice of Hearing numerous times using multiple methods. See Attachments: Affidavits of Commission Investigators Ryanne Caldwell, William White, and Reginald Gaymon. To date, and

despite the diligent efforts as outlined in the attachments, Commission staff has been unable to successfully serve Respondent with the Notice of Hearing using traditional means.

4. Accordingly, Commission staff asks that an Order be entered authorizing Commission staff to serve the Notice of Hearing on Respondent via publication in the Myrtle Beach Sun Times, which is a newspaper of general circulation in Respondent's last known County of residence, and that such publication occur once per week for three (3) weeks.

Respectfully submitted,



Courtney M. Claster
S.C. State Ethics Commission
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
claster@ethics.sc.gov

March 12, 2026
Columbia, South Carolina

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED MARCH 9 2026 AM 11:51

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2022-147)

State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant,)

Nikki Fontana,)
Respondent.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**ORDER GRANTING SERVICE BY
PUBLICATION**

This matter comes before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Motion for Service by Publication filed by Commission staff. Therein, Commission staff seeks an Order from the Commission authorizing publication of the Notice of Hearing in the above-captioned matter. On March 19, 2026, the Commission considered the Motion and attached affidavits, as well as witness testimony from Commission Investigators RYANNE CALDWELL, WILLIAM B. WHITE, and REGINALD GAYMON. Based on its review, the Commission finds (1) that Commission staff has exercised due diligence in its attempts to serve Respondent with the Notice of Hearing through traditional means and (2) that Respondent cannot be located. As such, the Commission authorizes Commission staff to serve Respondent with the Notice of Hearing by publication pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-206.

It is therefore ORDERED that a copy of the Notice of Hearing be inserted in a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Respondent's last known residence, no less than one (1) time per week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 19th DAY OF March 2026.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



F. Xavier Starks, Chairman

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2022-147	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	FIFTH AMENDED
Complainant.	)	NOTICE OF HEARING
	)	
Nikki Fontana	)	
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, August 20, 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
FAILURE TO FILE PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

file 2022 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT THREE

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FOUR

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FIVE

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SIX

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT SEVEN

**FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT EIGHT
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT NINE
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2023 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT TEN
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2024 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT ELEVEN
FAILURE TO FILE CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file 2024 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 16, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Keith Hinson, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from AM & RD Title Agency, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Robert Guyton, PC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 17, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Founders National Golf, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 20, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Big Block Properties, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report a September 21, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Ten Mile, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Dylan Andrew, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Charles A. Brown, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Beach Homes of NMB, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 1, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from KTAD Holdings, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 6, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Cleaning and Lines, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 7, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$999.00 from Convenience Store & More, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 8, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$100.00 from Big Survey Service and Supply, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 11, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Robert and Deborah Wilfong Jr., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 12, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Development Resources Group, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 14, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$100.00 from Michael & Cynthia Campbell, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 18, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from AO Hardee & Son, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 18, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Donald & Wendy Pleasants, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 21, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$750.00 from Barefoot Zoological Gardens, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 22, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$400.00 from DMAC Enterprises, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 26, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Penny Chimile, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 27, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Thomas Staats, Jr., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 29, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Foxfire Communicants, LLC, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 29, 2021 campaign contribution in the amount of \$500.00 from Jon Coyne, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions of \$100.00 or less in the aggregate on her 2021 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report campaign contributions of \$100.00 or less in the aggregate on her 2021 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 28, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$67.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 1, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$315.00 to Sand Dollar, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 7, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Outdoor gosq.com, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 8, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$331.56 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 13, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,402.64 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 27, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,402.64 to Pronto Pres Comp., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to

report an October 28, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Palmetto Associated Services, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 9, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$635.00 to Political Marketing International, Inc., in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 18, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$1,416.00 to NMB Times, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a November 18, 2021 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Palmetto Associated Services, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a March 21, 2022 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$83.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 4, 2022 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$166.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a December 14, 2023 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$113.00 to DDA withdrawal, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Nikki Fontana, North Myrtle Beach Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to report a June 11, 2024 campaign expenditure in the amount of \$166.00 to USPS, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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 10th day,
of April 2026.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

IN THE MATTER OF:
Complaint 2022-147

State Ethics Commission,
Complainant.

Nikki Fontana,
Respondent.

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DECISION AND ORDER

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991 (Ethics Act), the Commission reviewed the above-captioned Complaint against Nikki Fontana (Respondent) and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Present at the hearing on August 20, 2026 were Commissioners Helen Munnerlyn, Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, and F. Xavier Starkes, Hearing Panel Chair. The Commission was represented by Courtney Laster. The Respondent was duly notified, but failed to appear.¹

The following charges were considered: one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR and ten (10) counts of Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to file ten (10) quarterly CDRs.²

¹ Pursuant to a Commission Order issued on March 19, 2026, Respondent was served by publication of the Notice of Hearing in the Myrtle Beach Sun Times on April 19, 2026, April 26, 2026, and May 3, 2026. During the Panel hearing held on August 20, 2026, the Panel received as evidence an affidavit authored by Commission employee Marquita Kessler, which set forth the dates of publication and the cost of publication to the Commission, which was \$3,886.89.

² The Notice of Hearing contained multiple charges related to Respondent's failure to properly disclose campaign contributions and expenditures, all in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F). At the call of the case, Commission staff moved to dismiss these charges because Respondent was also charged with failing to file the corresponding CDRs. The Panel granted Commission staff's motion and the case proceeded on Counts 1-12 in the Notice of Hearing.

JX #1

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent served on the North Myrtle Beach City Council from 2013 until 2025. Respondent was most recently a successful candidate in a November 2, 2021 election.
2. Prior to the filing of the Complaint, Respondent's most recently filed CDR was a Quarter 3 2021 CDR wherein Respondent disclosed \$3,037.17 in on-hand contributions.
3. Respondent did not file any additional quarterly CDRs.
4. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 2, 2021 election.
5. In a May 26, 2022 certified letter delivered to Respondent's address of record, the Commission notified Respondent of her failure to file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 2, 2021 election. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), this letter was delivered and signed for by Respondent on June 14, 2022.
6. The Complaint was filed on November 7, 2022.
7. During the Commission's investigation, Commission Investigator RYANNE CALDWELL attempted to contact Respondent at least ten (10) times in an attempt to bring Respondent into compliance. Ultimately, Caldwell's only successful contact occurred on March 31, 2023 via telephone. During this call, Caldwell emailed Respondent a copy of the Complaint and Respondent verbally confirmed receipt.
8. During the investigation, Caldwell subpoenaed Respondent's campaign bank account records from Conway National Bank. A review of these records revealed the following relevant information:
 - a. Respondent's campaign bank account was used in prior election cycles, but contained a \$0.00 balance as of January 17, 2019.

JX # 2

- b. On September 9, 2021, Respondent deposited a \$500.00 contribution into her campaign bank account.
 - c. From September 9, 2021 and June 11, 2024, Respondent deposited twenty-four (24) campaign contributions and made fourteen (14) campaign expenditures through her campaign bank account.
 - d. As of August 15, 2024 (the date of the last bank statement produced in response to Caldwell's subpoena) Respondent maintained a balance of contributions totaling \$1,980.17.
9. As of the date of the Panel hearing, despite multiple attempts by Commission staff to bring Respondent into compliance, Respondent had not filed any additional CDRs.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

- 1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a "public official" pursuant to Section 8-13-1300(28).
- 2. Respondent failed to file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 7, 2021 election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), which provides, in relevant part:

At least fifteen days before an election, a certified campaign report must be filed showing contributions of more than one hundred dollars and expenditures to or by the candidate or committee for the period ending twenty days before the election. The candidate or committee must maintain a current list during the period before the election commencing at the beginning of the calendar quarter of the election of all contributions of more than one hundred dollars and expenditures. The list must be open to public inspection upon request.

- 3. Because she maintained a balance of contributions in her campaign bank account from September 9, 2021 through at least August 15, 2024, Respondent was required to file quarterly CDRs from Quarter 1 2022 through Quarter 2 2024, in accordance with Section 8-13-1308(B):

JF #3

Following the filing of an initial certified campaign report, additional certified campaign reports must be filed within ten days following the end of each calendar quarter in which contributions are received or expenditures are made, whether before or after an election until the campaign account undergoes final disbursement pursuant to the provisions of Section 8-13-1370.

4. Using May 3, 2026 (the date of the third publication in the Myrtle Beach Sun Times) as the date Respondent received notice of her failure to file the aforementioned CDRs, Respondent has accrued the maximum late-filing penalty of \$5,000.00 for each required CDR in accordance with Section 8-13-1510:

A person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late statement or report or fails to file a required statement or report must be assessed a civil penalty as follows...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; and after notice has been given by certified or registered mail that a required statement or report has not been filed, a fine of ten dollars per calendar day for the first ten days after notice is given, and one hundred dollars for each additional calendar day in which the required statement or report is not filed, not exceeding five thousand dollars.

5. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to “levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation of any provision of the Ethics Act.”
6. Section 8-13-320(10)(l)(i) allows the Commission to require payment of a civil penalty of up to \$2,000.00 for each violation of the Ethics Act.

DECISION

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Panel has determined, based on a preponderance of evidence, that Respondent Nikki Fontana is in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 7, 2021 election and ten (10) counts of Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to file ten (10) quarterly CDRs from Quarter 1 2022 through Quarter 2 2024.

OK #4

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Respondent for violations of the Ethics Act.

AND orders Respondent to pay to the Commission, within one (1) year from her receipt of this Order, a late filing penalty of \$55,000.00 (\$5,000.00 per CDR) and an administrative fee of \$6,500.00,³ for a total of 61,500.00.

AND, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$61,500.00 is not paid in full within one (1) year from Respondent's receipt of this Order, the Commission shall enter a judgment against Respondent in the amount of \$61,500.00 with the Clerk of Court in the county of Respondent's last known residence. In that event, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$61,500.00 in its judgment rolls, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, Respondent has ten (10) days from receipt of this Order to appeal this Decision and Order to the full Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 8th DAY OF September, 2026.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


F. XAVIER STARKES, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina

³ The administrative fee in this matter is supported by the hearing testimony of the Commission's Director of Non-Compliance Kristin Nabors and Commission Investigators RYANNE CALDWELL and WILLIAM B. WHITE, JR. Through these witnesses, the Panel received evidence that multiple Commission Investigators spent more than four (4) full workdays traveling to and from North Myrtle Beach in an attempt to serve Respondent with Notices of Hearing. These efforts were in addition to (1) the Commission's customary attempts at service using the USPS and (2) the service by publication that occurred in April and May of 2026.