

J. Samuel Griswold, Ph.D.
1225 Methodist Park Road
West Columbia, SC 29170
(803) 796 0349

June 28, 2016

Mr. Herbert R. Hayden, Jr.
Executive Director
State Ethics Commission
5000 Thurmond Mall Suite 250
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: C2014-156

Dear Mr. Hayden:

During the investigation of the above case, I was several times in contact with Mr. Jim Bagnall of your staff. I asked him if I was able to attend the closed hearings about this case. He told me he had to confer with your attorney and would be back in touch. When he got back with me he told me that the attorney had said that as the complainant, I, and only I, had the right to attend the hearings.

After the hearing today, I asked why I was not sent a notice of it and if I would be sent a notice of the next hearing. I had been notified of previous hearings even though they were eventually cancelled. I was directed to Ami Franklin who told me I could not attend the hearings. This is a complete contradiction to what I had been told previously.

The two times I have interacted with Ms. Franklin have not been satisfactory. The first was June 15, 2016, when I arrived at your office to attend a hearing that had been cancelled. You had sent me a notice of the hearing but failed to send me a notice of its cancellation. I had struggled with a broken leg and cast to be at that meeting. Needless to say, I was angry at the fact that I received no notification and asked why the complainant (me) had not been notified. I asked to see you and was told you were not there. I was promised you would discover why I was not notified and would call me to explain. I have received no call. In both cases Ms. Franklin was imperious and non-communicative. She treated an angry member of the public with disdain, insults and eye-rolling thus exasperating the situation instead of easing it. I have credible witnesses to both incidents. As former public servants ourselves, we were astounded at such behavior.

I have no doubt this will fall on deaf ears. That I, and several others of my party, are seen as trouble makers. But, you know what, Herb? We are not. We are not trying to make trouble for you and your staff. We are just members of the broad public who pay

your salaries and expect to be treated with a little respect especially when we are asking about a matter of great concern to us. Your office could use a little training in that arena from what I experienced.

So now to business. I am the complainant here. Do I have the right to receive notices about hearings, etc. when they are scheduled (or cancelled)? I filed the complaint and did much of the heavy lifting to document it. Why has your office provided me with two diametrically opposed positions on my right to attend hearings and see the disposition?

Thank you for your kind consideration of my concerns.

Yours truly,


J. Samuel Griswold

cc: Ami Franklin, Jim Bagnall, James I. Warren, Nikki Haley