



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

August 1, 2019

Delivered electronically to "jbarnfather@ccfd3.org"

Subject: PDC Case 54348

Dear James Barnfather:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to William Miano concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted below to William Miano, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of timely filing a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) with the PDC within two weeks of declaring candidacy. PDC staff expects that you will timely file all required PDC reports, including the C-1 report, in future years in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

If you have questions, you may contact Tabatha Blacksmith at 360-586-8929, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

/s_____
Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s_____
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



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August 1, 2019

Delivered electronically to "bmiano3@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding James Barnfather, PDC Case 54348

Dear William Miano:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 10, 2019. Your complaint alleged that James Barnfather (the "Respondent") may have violated RCW 42.17A.205 & .235 by failing to timely register as a candidate within two weeks of declaring candidacy & timely report contributions & expenditures.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by the Respondent; and the applicable PDC reports filed by Respondent to determine whether they support a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- The Respondent is an incumbent candidate for re-election to Clallam County Fire Commissioner, position 3 who filed with the Elections Division as a candidate on May 13, 2019. Although not a first-time candidate, the Respondent has limited filing experience due to the small size of his previous campaigns and status as a mini-reporter.
- Candidates are required to register with the PDC within two weeks of becoming a "candidate," as defined in RCW 42.17A.005(9) and WAC 390-05-200. Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.205, candidate committees are required to register with the PDC within two weeks of 1) being organized; or 2) first having the expectation of receiving contributions or making expenditures, whichever comes first. The Candidate Registration (C-1 report) serves the dual purpose of registering both the candidate and the candidate's committee.
- The Respondent filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) with the PDC on July 12, 2019 and selected the mini-reporting option. Mini-reporters are not required to submit C-3 and C-4 reports to the PDC disclosing campaign contributions and expenditures.
- Upon being notified of the missing C-1 report on July 11, 2019, the Respondent quickly replied and made a good-faith effort to resolve the issue by filing the missing C-1 within 24 hours.
- Mitigating factors include: The Respondent's late report was the result of a good-faith omission, which he immediately took steps to remedy. The Respondent's campaign is relatively small and unsophisticated, and he has limited filing experience due to his mini-reporting status. Finally, the Respondent does not have any prior violations with the PDC.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to timely file the Candidate Registration (C-1 report) does not amount a violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding James Barnfather about the importance of timely filing all future PDC reports, including the candidate registration.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Tabatha Blacksmith at 1-360-586-8929, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

/s _____
Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: James Barnfather