



**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

September 9, 2019

Delivered electronically to "masont@gmail.com"

Subject: PDC Case 54975

Dear Mason Thompson:

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

As noted below to Kevin Mendez, 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 fully identifying the sponsor of political advertising. PDC staff expects that you will provide complete sponsor ID information on all political advertising 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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September 9, 2019

Delivered electronically to "kevdez98@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Mason Thompson, PDC Case 54975

Dear Kevin Mendez:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 12, 2019. Your complaint alleged that Mason Thompson (the "Respondent") may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to disclose complete sponsor identification (ID) on political advertising.

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

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

- The Respondent is a first-time candidate for Bothell City Council, position 2 who registered as a candidate with the PDC on January 31, 2019.
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.320, all written political advertising shall include the sponsor's name and address, which must 1) be set apart from other printed matter; 2) appear on the first page of the advertisement or communication; 3) be in at least 10-point type or 10% of the largest type used in the advertising, whichever is larger; and 4) not be subject to a half-tone or screening process. RCW 42.17A.005(46(a)) defines "sponsor" as the person paying for the political advertising.
- Prior to July 12, 2019, the Respondent distributed political advertising (flyers) that identified the sponsor but did not contain the sponsor's address as required pursuant to RCW 42.17A.320.
- Upon being notified of noncompliance on July 19, 2019, the Respondent immediately ceased distributing the flyers with incomplete sponsor ID and indicated he was in the process of ordering new materials that fully identify the sponsor.
- Mitigating factors in this case include: The Respondent's status as a first-time candidate; and noncompliance was the result of a good-faith error or omission for which the Respondent quickly took corrective action.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to disclose sponsor address on political advertising does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Mason Thompson about the importance of providing complete sponsor identification information on all political advertising

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@pdc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

/s_____
Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s_____
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Mason Thompson