



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908  
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**Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdcc.wa.gov](http://www.pdcc.wa.gov)**

September 10, 2019

Delivered electronically to "[sunny.hemphill1@gmail.com](mailto:sunny.hemphill1@gmail.com)"

Subject: PDC Case 55739

Dear Deborah "Sunny" Hemphill:

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

As noted below to Heidi Whaley, 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, including re-election campaigns. 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](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Tabatha Blacksmith  
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director

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September 10, 2019

Delivered electronically to "[heidi.mae@comcast.net](mailto:heidi.mae@comcast.net)"

Subject: Complaint regarding Deborah "Sunny" Hemphill, PDC Case 55739

Dear Heidi Whaley:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 29, 2019. Your complaint alleged that Deborah "Sunny" Hemphill (the "Respondent") may have violated RCW 42.17A.205 & .235 by failing to timely register as a candidate within two weeks of declaring candidacy, and 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 School Director for Wenatchee School District, position 3 who filed with the Elections Division as a candidate on May 15, 2019.
- 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 August 1, 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 deposits, contributions and expenditures.
- The Respondent filed the late C-1 report before the PDC's August 6, 2019 email notifying her of the complaint.
- The Respondent indicated her C-1 report was delayed because she neglected to hit the "Send" button so it would transmit to the PDC.

- Mitigating factors include: The Respondent's noncompliance was the result of a good-faith error or omission and she took corrective action before the noncompliance was brought to her attention. The Respondent's campaign is relatively small and unsophisticated. 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 Deborah "Sunny" Hemphill 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](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Tabatha Blacksmith  
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavalley  
Executive Director

cc: Deborah "Sunny" Hemphill