



**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

October 22, 2019

Sent electronically to llehman@aol.com

Subject: Complaints filed by Kevin Taylor and Bill Reed, PDC Case 57398

Dear: Linda Lehman

Enclosed is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Kevin Taylor and Bill Reed concerning complaints filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) alleging a violation of RCW 42.17A.555 for using agency facilities to assist your campaign, and RCW 42.17A.320 for failing to identify yourself as the sponsor of political advertising.

As noted in the letter to Kevin Taylor and Bill Reed, 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.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), this letter serves as a formal written warning concerning your failure to include sponsor identification on political advertising, and your failure to comply with the prohibition against using public facilities in election campaigns, as described in the enclosed letter.

PDC staff expects you to review [PDC guidance](#) (PDC Interpretation 04-02) for local government agencies in election campaigns and to comply with the underlying statute, RCW 42.17A.555. Please note, even though you paid to print the business cards, they are considered a public facility subject to the prohibitions of RCW 42.17A.555 because the initial graphic content was created with government resources.

The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules. Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at (360) 586-4746, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

/s _____
Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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October 22, 2019

Sent Electronically to Kevin Taylor and Bill Reed at rubutoo@gmail.com and
wbjreed@hotmail.com

Subject: Linda Lehman, PDC Case 57398

Dear Kevin Taylor and Bill Reed:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaints you filed September 13 and 22, 2019. Your complaints alleged Linda Lehman, a 2019 candidate for Mayor of Benton City, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using city facilities, specifically city-purchased business cards, to assist her campaign. Based on the evidence you submitted, PDC staff also included an alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.320 for failing to identify a sponsor on political advertising.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the applicable PDC reports, and the response from Linda Lehman to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations. Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Linda Lehman was first elected to the City of Benton City Council in 2014, then elected Mayor of Benton City in 2016. She currently holds this position.
- RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits elected and appointed officials, as well as public employees, from using or authorizing the use of any facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, to assist a candidate's election campaign or to promote or oppose a ballot proposition.

- Lehman stated “First I had no idea that I could not hand out my card as Mayor when speaking with the public. The cards were designed by the City but since early in 2016, I have had them made at Office Max and purchased them myself. Now that I am aware of this, I will stop using them, when handing out materials.”
- Lehman also stated, “The second charge, about my materials not containing sponsor information. I have no sponsors. I have paid for all my materials myself. Please let me know if that settles the matter or I have to revise my information.”
- Lehman was provided information from the PDC regarding the requirement to include sponsor identification on political advertising, even when the advertising is sponsored by the candidate, and the prohibition against using or authorizing the use of any facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, to assist a candidate's election campaign.
- Lehman stated she has “designed and purchased new cards and added Paid for by Linda Lehman and address on my door hangers.”

Based on these findings, staff has determined, because the candidate was the sponsor and there was no apparent attempt to conceal sponsorship information, and because, in this instance, even though the business cards were designed by the City, they were paid for by the candidate, the use of the business cards does not amount to a material violation warranting further investigation.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), Linda Lehman will receive a formal written warning concerning the lack of sponsor identification and the use of city facilities to assist an election campaign. The formal written warning will include PDC staff’s expectation for Linda Lehman to review [PDC guidance](#) for local government agencies in election campaigns and to comply with the underlying statute, RCW 42.17A.555.

The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

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 Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s_____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s_____

Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

/s_____