



**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.pdcc.wa.gov

November 4, 2019

Delivered electronically to “egan@pridefest.org and josie@bluewavepolitics.com”

Subject: Complaint filed by Allison Hopstad and Chase Burns, PDC Case 58357

Dear Egan Orion:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Allison Hopstad and Chase Burns concerning complaints filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Allison Hopstad and Chase Burns, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

If you have questions, you may contact Tabitha Townsend at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s

Tabitha Townsend
Compliance Coordinator

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



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November 4, 2019

Delivered electronically to “chaseburns208@gmail.com and ahopstad@gmail.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Egan Orion, PDC Case 58357

Dear Chase Burns and Allison Hopstad:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on October 9, 2019. Your complaint alleged that Egan Orion (Respondent) may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 for failure to provide sponsor identification on political advertising.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations and, as a result of staff’s initial review, we found the following:

- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.320(1) the Respondent is required to disclose sponsor identification on political advertising, including the sponsor’s name and address.
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.320(3)(a) the sponsor identification is required to be displayed on the first page or fold of the political advertising.
- The Respondent placed a political advertisement in The Stranger to run on October 9, 2019, the ad included the lower 1/3 of a false cover appearing to display the paper’s actual cover and the full page inside of this false cover.
- The Respondent included the sponsor identification on the full-page advertisement on the inside of the false cover, but failed to include the sponsor identification on the first page or fold of The Stranger’s false cover, noted only by the words “PAID ADVERTISEMENT” placed along the spine by The Stranger next to the front 1/3 advertisement.
- The activity described falls under the jurisdiction of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC), which addresses violations of the Seattle Elections Code, SMC 2.04.290.B.4.a, which states that sponsor identification stating the name and address of the person who paid for the ad must “[a]pppear on the first page or fold of [a] written communication.”
- The SEEC entered into a settlement agreement with the Respondent on October 22, 2019, assessing a \$1,000 civil penalty for failure to disclose sponsor identification on the advertisement on The Stranger, in violation of SMC 2.04.290.
- The Respondent has no prior violation with the PDC.

Based on these initial findings, staff has determined that, pursuant to WAC 390-37-061(3), to defer this complaint to the jurisdiction of the SEEC because the alleged violation was resolved under an analogous local ordinance. The PDC has dismissed this complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not be pursuing further investigation or enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Tabitha Townsend at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s

Tabitha Townsend
Compliance Coordinator

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Egan Orion