

Complaint Description

[Hibbdh](#) (Wed, 16 Oct 2019 at 3:40 PM)

to: "PDC Support" pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Today, I would like to file a formal complaint with the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission against Egan Orion's campaign for an incredibly deceptive advertisement placed in the current "Endorsements" issue of The Stranger's newspaper. The way the ad is formatted sends the impression that The Stranger has endorsed Egan Orion's campaign. They have not. In fact, they endorsed his opponent.

Orion's advertisement fails to properly disclose who paid for or sponsored the ad, as pictured below. The omission of the ad's sponsor is not a mere technicality, minor slip up, or honest mistake. It is an extremely deceptive move on the part of Egan Orion's campaign, which is unfortunate, but also not surprising — in the primary, Orion put up posters around the district claiming he had "no corporate PAC money", even though he's received more corporate cash than any candidate in the city. This violation could have a serious impact on District 3's election campaign.

It is my understanding that Orion's advertisement is in violation of the SEEC's election rule 2.04.290.B which states: "All other political advertising, whether relating to candidates or ballot propositions, must state "paid for by" or "sponsored by," followed by the sponsor's name and address." As the Washington State PDC's political advertising guide elaborates, print ads and websites must display sponsor ID and any party preference in an area set apart from the ad text on the first page of the ad."

The Stranger has a circulation of nearly 90,000 in the Seattle area. Not only is it delivered to tens of thousands of doors, it is distributed widely at coffee shops, bars, etc — thousands of people glance casually at the newspaper during its circulation. I urge the chair of the SEEC to pursue this complaint to the highest of his ability, considering that each printed edition of the newspaper is in itself a dishonest representation of the District 3 race.

Ballots will be arriving to voters in only one week. Egan Orion's campaign has already benefited from more corporate PAC money on its behalf than any other City Council candidate in Seattle's history, in addition to the fact that maxed-out checks from top executives and wealthy real-estate developers are rolling in to his campaign every day. I ask the chair to please fine Orion to the highest extent so that corporate bankrolled ads don't determine Seattle's District 3 election.

Central District resident

Darnell Hibbler

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

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List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.

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List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

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Complaint Certification:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.