



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

November 5, 2019

Delivered electronically to "commissioner.steven.fox@gmail.com"

Subject: PDC Case 58919

Dear Steven C Fox:

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

As noted below to Kelly Geiger, 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.

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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November 5, 2019

Delivered electronically to "geiger.km@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Steven C Fox, PDC Case 58919

Dear Kelly Geiger:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on October 18, 2019. Your complaint alleged that Steven C Fox (the "Respondent") may have violated RCW 42.17A.240 by failing to provide sufficient expenditure details on C-4 reports filed with the PDC.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response(s) provided by the Respondent; the applicable PDC reports filed by Respondent; and queried the Respondent's data in the PDC contribution and expenditure database, 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 candidate for Fire Commissioner for Snohomish Fire Protection District 5, position 1. The Respondent registered with the PDC on May 23, 2019 and selected the full reporting option.
- RCW 42.17A.240(6) requires candidates to report the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure was made in the aggregate amount of more than fifty dollars during the period covered by the report, including the amount, date and "purpose of each expenditure," as well as the total sum of all expenditures.
- WAC 390-16-037 states that expenditure reports "shall describe in detail" the goods and/or services provided and includes an example containing a numerical description (e.g. the number of brochures purchased).
- The Respondent filed a *Summary, Full Report Receipts and Expenditures* (C-4 report) for the month of August on September 5, 2019 and a 21-day pre-general C-4 report for 9/1/19 - 10/14/19 on October 15, 2019 (reports #100928457 and #100937630). These reports appeared to lack expenditure details regarding signs, mailings, and a reimbursed 8/16/19 Visa card purchase.
- The Respondent was notified of the allegation on October 21, 2019 and responded the same day. In his response, the Respondent stated he had reviewed RCW 42.17A.240 but could not find a requirement to report the number of signs purchased. The Respondent also indicated he reached out to the PDC for guidance prior to using his personal credit card and followed the instructions given for documenting such expenditures.

- The PDC spoke to the Respondent by telephone on October 21, 2019 and learned that the Respondent had entered expenditure details in the ORCA filing system that, due to field length limitations, are truncated and therefore do not appear in the .pdf versions of his reports that are available on the PDC website.
- The Respondent amended his C-4 reports in ORCA and provided additional expenditure details on October 22, 2019, including the number of signs and mailers purchased (reports #100940075 and #100940074). The Respondent also amended the description of the 8/16/19 credit card purchase, which now clearly shows that the expenditure was for “100 yard signs from UZMarketing,” but the latter half of the description still truncates on the .pdf version of the report due to field length limitations.
- Full, detailed descriptions of the Respondent’s expenditures appear in Open Data search results, which can be accessed from the PDC’s website at <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/open-data>

Based on these findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to provide detailed expenditure descriptions on C-4 reports does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

Steven C Fox made minor or ministerial errors on required reports, which did not materially impact the public interest. Upon notification of these errors, Steven C Fox timely amended their reports, making the necessary technical corrections.

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 pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

/s _____
Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Steven C Fox