

Complaint Description

Wantsun247 (Thu, 31 Oct 2019 at 1:05 PM)

On 10/30/19 at 10:30 am, I met with Melanie Stone, Treasurer of DuPont Citizens for Paramedics PAC at the DuPont J Cafe to review the financial books for their campaign. Melanie provided me a folder with 2 spreadsheets inside and copies of receipts and what looked to be deposit tickets.

Upon looking at the contribution spreadsheet she had printed out for me, there were 2 contributors that had exceeded the mini filer contribution limits of \$500 per contributor. The document showed that the DuPont Professional Fire Fighter Local #3829 had contributed \$2,500. The document also showed that Kelly Limata had contributed 3 donations, 1 for \$200, 1 for \$300, and 1 for \$33.49 for a total of \$533.49.

The contribution sheet reflected a total of \$3,449.64 contributed and the expense sheet reflected a total of \$3,387.73 spent as of 10/30/19.

I also don't remember seeing addresses or employment information for the personal contributors that contributed \$100+.

When I spoke with Jason Lech on September 28, 2019 (after the cutoff date to switch from a mini filer to a regular filer) about who was funding all their flyers and banners and asked how much they were spending. He informed me that the Union was helping fund the campaign as well as citizens. I asked about the \$5,000 limit, and he stated at that time, "when we reach \$5,000, we will just change over to a regular filer". This was after the cut off date to do so.

The Treasurer for this PAC, is also running for a position as a School Board member and therefore should be knowledgeable in the reporting requirements, the contribution limitations, and expenditures limitations for campaigns. The DuPont Professional Fire Fighter Local #3829 should also be aware of contribution limits.

This shows a total disregard to following the rules set forth by the PDC and WAC 390-16-105. As well as provided their campaign a large advantage over the other campaign. This campaign spent an additional \$2,000 because of the 1 large contribution they received. They would not have been able to purchase mailers to be mailed out to the citizens as well as the banners and signs, or even trying to win votes by paying for almost \$300 for pizza if you came out to waive signs in support.

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

This violation impacts the public as the campaign has misled the voters by continuously stating they were funded by Citizens of DuPont, when in reality over 70% of their funding came from 1 source, which was the DuPont Professional Fire Fighter Local #3829 which the employees of this Union will financially gain if this ballot measure is approved. This could have definitely affected the outcome of the ballot measure, as the appearance was citizens were funding all the flyers, conversations & coffees, pizza & sign waiving events, and banners. The financial affect of this error could end up raising property taxes by 64% to citizens that were misled.

The Treasurer of the campaign is also running for a public office. As a Public Official, they are expected to know the laws/rules and abide by them. If they don't know them, they are expected to educate themselves.

This is a moral, ethical and legal violation by both the Union and the Treasurer. This is one of the multiple documented attempts by this committee to mislead the citizens to gain a desired outcome from this levy lid lift.

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

Per the PDC, the PAC is not required to allow for photocopying or photography during the inspection of the financial books, therefore I did not ask to take a picture of the spreadsheets. This information may be found on the contribution spreadsheet that Melanie Stone, the Treasurer for DuPont Citizens for Paramedics printed off for my review of the financial records on 10/30/19 at 10:30 am.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Maria Pierce – 253-307-7797. Unfortunately, this has been a very hostile campaign, and the citizens that I asked to join me in reviewing the campaign finances did not feel comfortable in doing so for fear of being either verbally attacked in person or out in the community or being accused of harassing the campaign. I did have a concern about the violation of contributions and truly wanted 2 sets of eyes to review the books as I am concerned that there is a chance these records will be modified once this is brought to their attention.

Those in attendance from this PAC during my review were Melanie Stone, Treasurer of DuPont Citizens for Paramedics, Vote yes Prop 1 dupont4paramedics@gmail.com, & Jason Lech - Vice President of DuPont Professional Fire Fighters Local #3829, jasoniafflocal3829@gmail.com.

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.