

DuPont Citizens for Paramedics
PO BOX 160
DuPont, WA 98327

November 4, 2019

Mx. Fox Blackhorn
Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
Evergreen Plaza, 711 Capitol Way S #206
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: PDC Case No. 59543, DuPont Citizens for Paramedics

This correspondence is in response to the complaint generated by Mrs. Maria Pierce, Treasurer for Prop 1 NO Committee, or "Let's Work Together to Achieve Sustainable Paramedic Services in DuPont," on October 31, 2019 alleging violation of WAC 390-16-125 for exceeding Mini Reporting limitations without prior written authorization from the PDC, by accepting \$2,500 in contributions from the DuPont Professional Fire Fighter Local #3829.

Dear Mx. Fox Blackhorn:

We apologize for the length of our response, however, there are a lot of allegations made by Mrs. Maria Pierce, and moving parts in this complaint. The allegations made are mostly false, with one exception of the notated lump sum contribution from the DuPont Professional Fire Fighters Union 3829 that has since been corrected. The contribution that exceeded limits was an honest mistake by a first-time candidate and PAC Chairperson for which we truly apologize and have corrected under the guidance of the PDC.

DuPont Citizens for Paramedics and DuPont Professional Fire Fighters Union 3829 upon being publicly named in a Facebook post citing personal information and slanderous statements, took immediate action and contacted the PDC directly for verification and to come to a resolution. We spoke with Mr. Scott Hayley 10/31/19 and explained the situation. It has been corrected in the same way it would have from the beginning under the guidance of the PDC.

Both the WAC and the RCW regarding contribution limits state "no person" contributions may exceed \$500, to which our Treasurer took literally to mean "person." As such, instead of receiving a lump-sum \$2500 contribution from Union 3829, we would have received \$500 from the Union, as well as four additional checks in the amount of \$500 each from individual members. Thus, putting DuPont Citizens for Paramedics within contribution guidelines making the entirety of Mrs. Maria Pierce's allegations false. Deposits of four checks for \$500 each were deposited into the checking account of DuPont Citizens for Paramedics on 11/2/19, and a reimbursement check written and delivered to DuPont Professional Fire Fighters Union 3829 in the amount of \$2000, which was deposited off-duty by the Union on 11/4/19.

In regard to the "effect on the public regarding this matter," the postcard mailer, doorbelling material, and banners all cited "Sponsored by DuPont Professional Fire Fighters." The total campaign

contributions were a combination of contributors both the public and the Union. No person actively involved working on this campaign will profit financially from the passage of the levy.

Regarding the allegations that *“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 is false. Mrs. Kelly Limata made two contributions totaling \$333.49. The claim that “I also don’t remember seeing addresses or employment information for the personal contributors that contributed \$100+” is also an attempt to draw attention toward a false allegation on the part of Mrs. Maria Pierce and has been a “strategy” of the “Prop 1 NO” Committee falling well within the definition of “Actual Malice” as defined in RCW 42.17A.005. As does her claim that “The financial effect of this error could end up raising property taxes by 64% to citizens that were misled.” The “For” Committee, as well as the DuPont Professional Fire Fighters, have on multiple occasions, and via multiple delivery methods, explained and laid out the cost structure of the proposed paramedic levy which will cost taxpayers \$.66 per \$1000 of their assessed property value. It is in fact, the “NO” Committee attempting to mislead voters.*

Regarding the allegations of *“moral, ethical and legal violation by both the Union and the Treasurer and ‘multiple documented’ attempts by this committee to mislead the citizens...”* we ask you to consider Mrs. Pierce’s own admission of acting in a hostile manner toward our committee and the following:

The complainant, Mrs. Maria Pierce, and the “Prop 1 NO” Committee PAC Chairperson, both appear to hold personal grudges against the City of DuPont. It seems as if both are taking this opportunity to use Proposition 1 as one of the ways to take vindictive action for alleged wrongdoings by the City that have absolutely nothing to do with any member of DuPont Citizens for Paramedics or Union 3829 VP Jason Lech. The “Prop 1 NO” PAC Chairperson appears to also be using his position as a platform to further his political campaign as a write-in candidate for DuPont City Council this election cycle. Mrs. Maria Pierce was an employee for the City of DuPont and resigned for undisclosed reasons.

The complainant, Mrs. Maria Pierce, is the Treasurer on record for the “NO” Committee. She and three other members of the “NO” Committee including the PAC Chair, have all publicly endorsed and supported Mrs. Stone’s opponent for school board, and are taking this as another opportunity to support their candidate while slandering Melanie Stone and her personal campaign for school board, DuPont Citizens for Paramedics, and DuPont Professional Fire Fighters Union 3829.

The DuPont Prop 1 NO Committee changed their campaign name to “Let’s Work Together to Achieve Sustainable Paramedic Services in DuPont” on Facebook and ran a paid campaign ad on Facebook under the different name that can be provided if needed. This was done to gain political favor and followers on social media early in their campaign. We believe this to not only be a violation to Facebook policy for political advertising in the state of Washington, but also a violation of RCW 42.12A and Title 390 WAC.

Regarding Mrs. Pierce’s response to the *“list of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.”*

The complainant, Mrs. Maria Pierce has, on multiple occasions, become belligerent in public, and on social media, using personal attacks against Mr. Jason Lech, VP of DuPont Professional Fire Fighters Union 3829, to further her goal of seeing Proposition 1 fail. Her actions and confrontations in public can be verified through witness statements and video taken without consent by Mrs. Maria Pierce and the Prop 1 NO Committee. Due to this behavior, our Treasurer feared for her safety when the time came to meet with the complainant alone when campaign records were requested by Mrs. Maria Pierce.

Mrs. Stone provided every document requested by Mrs. Pierce during their meeting including all expenses, contributions, receipts, and invoices in the presence of Mr. Jason Lech as a witness to not be ambushed by Mrs. Maria Pierce and her "NO" Committee. At no time has any member of the "For" Committee, or Mr. Jason Lech, ever given Mrs. Maria Pierce, or the NO Committee cause for concern. To which her statements regarding "*having no witnesses available*" is completely fabricated and a veiled attempt to hide her own aggressive actions. We would be more than happy to provide evidence from multiple witnesses should you chose to further investigate this matter.

We believe this complaint to have been filed with malice and with the intention of slandering multiple people and organizations within the City of DuPont and to further the "NO" Committee's goal of Proposition 1 failing to receive enough passing votes to be enacted. DuPont Citizens for Paramedics and the DuPont Professional Fire Fighters Union 3829 have made every attempt to remain transparent throughout the entire campaign process to include initial presentations and meetings dating back to March 2019. As noted previously, we understand we made a mistake and worked quickly with the PDC to correct our actions when it was brought to our attention. However, DuPont Citizens for Paramedics would have received the same dollar amount in contributions regardless of the manner in which they were received. In the future, we will have learned from our mistake and not make the same one again.

We apologize to the PDC for taking your time in this matter and for the appearance of malfeasance. This was by no means our intention, and we hope our response provides you with enough information to close our case.

Sincerely,

Melanie M. Stone

Melanie Stone, Treasurer
DuPont Citizens for Paramedics

Kelly Limata

Kelly Limata, PAC Chairperson
DuPont Citizens for Paramedics