



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908  
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**Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdcc.wa.gov](http://www.pdcc.wa.gov)**

January 8, 2020

Delivered electronically to “[rjt@robertjthompsonlawoffice.com](mailto:rjt@robertjthompsonlawoffice.com)”

Subject: Complaint filed by Dori Luzzo Gilmour, PDC Case 60143

Dear Bob Thompson:

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

As noted in the letter to Dori Luzzo Gilmour, 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.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), this serves as a formal written warning concerning your failure to comply with the filing requirements as noted in the enclosed letter sent to Dori Luzzo Gilmour. PDC staff expects you to timely and accurately disclose all contribution and expenditure activities in future years, including in-kind contributions from the candidate to the campaign. This is especially important during the time-sensitive period 21 days before the primary and general elections. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

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 [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

/s

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Tabatha Blacksmith  
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s

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Peter Lavalley  
Executive Director



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January 8, 2020

Delivered electronically to “[dluzzogilmour@gmail.com](mailto:dluzzogilmour@gmail.com)”

Subject: Complaint regarding Robert J. Thompson, PDC Case 60143

Dear Dori Luzzo Gilmour:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on November 12, 2019. The complaint alleged that Robert J. Thompson, a candidate for Richland City Council, position 1, in election year 2019 may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 & .240 for failure to timely and accurately file *Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions* reports (C-3 reports) and *Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure* reports (C-4 reports), disclosing contributions and expenditures undertaken by the campaign in 2019.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations and evidence you submitted; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Bob Thompson (the “Respondent”); the applicable PDC reports filed by the 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:

- RCW 42.17A.235 requires candidates to disclose all contributions received and expenditures made by filing periodic reports with the PDC. The due dates for these reports are based on the election cycle and are set forth in .235.
- With few exceptions, RCW 42.17A.240(2) requires candidates to disclose the name and address of each person<sup>1</sup> who made one or more contributions during the period covered by each report and the aggregate value of each person’s contributions. Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.240(4), candidates are also required to report all other contributions not otherwise listed or exempted, such as in-kind contributions from the candidate to their own campaign or other sources.
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> “Person” includes, but is not limited to, an individual, candidate, political committee, political party, organization, governmental agency, corporation, etc.

- The Respondent registered as a candidate with the PDC on June 4, 2019 and selected the full reporting option, obligating the campaign to file the reports indicated in RCW 42.17A.235.
- Upon being notified of the complaint on November 15, 2019, the Respondent's campaign quickly reached out to PDC staff the same day. The Respondent's campaign indicated its erroneous belief that it had selected the mini-reporting option on the *Candidate Registration* (C-1 report), which would have relieved it of having to file periodic reports with the PDC. The campaign confirmed that it did not receive contributions from any source other than the candidate himself; therefore, no C-3 reports are required. The Respondent's campaign subsequently worked closely with PDC staff to file the missing C-4 reports disclosing its expenditures and the in-kind contributions the candidate made to his own campaign.
- The Respondent's campaign had less than \$200 in contribution or expenditure activity to report for April through October 24, 2019 but was nonetheless required to file 21- & 7-day pre-primary, post-primary, and 21-day pre-general reports. These five reports were filed on November 15, 2019 and were therefore 31 - 122 days late. The reports were later amended to include additional expenditure and in-kind contribution description details (see reports # 100946459, 100946460, 100946461 & 10094646).
- The Respondent's 7-day pre-general report covering financial activity for 10/15/19 - 10/28/19 was received on November 15, 2019 - after the election - and 17 days late. The report was later amended to include additional expenditure and in-kind contribution description details (see report #100946463).
- In its December 4, 2019 written response to the allegation, the Respondent indicated that noncompliance was due to the retirement of his long-time legal assistant, who managed his election campaign reporting. The new assistant was not fully aware of the reporting requirements for a self-funded campaign.
- The Respondent's post-general C-4 report was timely filed on December 6, 2019 (see report #100947620).
- A good-faith omission and misunderstanding led to noncompliance. The Respondent's campaign was relatively small, and its total expenditures were modest. Despite selecting the full-reporting option in error, the campaign still qualified for mini-reporting because it raised and spent no more than \$5,000 and did not receive a contribution of more than \$500 from any source other than the candidate himself. The Respondent's filing history shows he was a mini reporter in all but one prior election cycle.
- Noncompliance occurred during the time-sensitive period immediately preceding an election. Although the Respondent made a good-faith effort to comply by filing five C-4 reports with the PDC within 24 hours of being notified, the campaign's reports were not submitted to the PDC until after the election and therefore deprived the public of critical information.
- The Respondent is an experienced candidate and has not been subject to prior PDC enforcement within the last five years.

Based on our findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to timely file five C-4 reports does not amount to a violation that warrants further investigation.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), Bob Thompson will receive a formal written warning concerning his failure to timely & accurately disclosure of all contributions and expenditures, including in-kind contributions from the candidate himself. The formal written warning will include staff's expectation that Bob Thompson timely file all required reports in future years. The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

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 [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

/s

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tabatha Blacksmith  
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s

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Peter Lavalley  
Executive Director

cc: Bob Thompson