



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

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

December 23, 2019

Delivered electronically to "jterwilliger05@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint filed by Robin Carl Johnson, PDC Case 60162

Dear North Snohomish County Union Firefighters Local 4033:

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

As noted in the letter to Robin Carl Johnson, 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.

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of timely and accurately reporting independent expenditures and providing detailed expenditure descriptions on PDC reports. Failure to properly disclose independent expenditures may deprive the public of critical information when noncompliance occurs during a time-sensitive period immediately preceding an election. PDC staff expects that, in the future, you will timely and accurately report independent expenditures in accordance with PDC laws and 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

Sincerely,

/s

Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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December 23, 2019

Delivered electronically to "rob8029@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding North Snohomish County Union Firefighters Local 4033, PDC Case 60162

Dear Robin Carl Johnson:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on October 23, 2019. The complaint alleged that North Snohomish County Union Firefighters Local 4033 (the "Respondent"), an independent expenditure sponsor, may have violated RCW 42.17A.255, .260 or .305 for failure to timely and accurately report, and provide sufficient details for, independent expenditures supporting candidate Jeff Sinker.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; and the applicable PDC reports filed by North Snohomish County Union Firefighters Local 4033 (the "Respondent") to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.255, the sponsor of an independent expenditure¹ is required to report any independent expenditure(s) equaling \$100 or more within five days of being incurred; this information may be reported by filing a C-6 report with the PDC.
- Per RCW 42.17A.260, the sponsor of political advertising that 1) qualifies as an independent expenditure; 2) has a value or cost of \$1,000 or more; and 3) is published, mailed or presented to the public within twenty-one days of an election is required to report the expenditure to the PDC within twenty-four hours of, or on the first working day after, its publication/distribution. The statute also requires independent expenditure sponsors to provide "a detailed description of the expenditure" on PDC reports.
- On October 16, 2019, the Respondent made an expenditure of \$1,482.75 to Woodinville Print for postage for a postcard mailer that supported candidate Jeff Sinker.
- On October 17, 2019, the Respondent made an expenditure of \$1,424.46 to Woodinville Print for a postcard mailer that supported candidate Jeff Sinker.

¹ An expenditure, in support of or opposition to a candidate for public office, that is made independently by an entity other than the candidate or its authorized committee and without the candidate's approval or encouragement.

- The postcard mailer and postage were first presented/mailed to the public on October 17, 2019, which is within 19 days of an election.
- Due to its proximity to the election, the postcard expenditure was due to be reported to the PDC by October 18, 2019 and was therefore 33 days late.
- The Respondent reported the independent expenditure for postage on a C-6 report filed October 26, 2019 with a description of “print shop.” However, based on its proximity to the election, the expenditure was due to be reported no later than October 18, 2019 and was therefore 8 days late.
- Upon being notified on November 15, 2019 that its postcard mailer expenditure had not been reported to the PDC, the Respondent amended its C-6 report within five days to 1) report the postcard mailer; and 2) provide detailed expenditure descriptions. Per the PDC’s request, the Respondent amended its report again on December 12, 2019 to provide additional, numerical details (see report #9934).

Noncompliance appears to be the result of a good-faith omission. The Respondent is a first-time filer and has not been subject to previous PDC enforcement. However, failure to timely and accurately report, and fully describe, independent expenditures that occur within 21 days of an election may deprive the public of critical information.

Based on our findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to timely and accurately report and sufficiently describe independent expenditures does not amount to a violation that warrants further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding North Snohomish County Union Firefighters Local 4033 about the importance of timely and accurately reporting independent expenditures and providing detailed expenditure descriptions in accordance with PDC laws and 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

Sincerely,

/s

Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: North Snohomish County Union Firefighters Local 4033