



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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February 14, 2020

PDC CASE 65093

Sent Electronically to **MARIO BROWN** at “mario@wmea.org”

**MARIO BROWN
19707 64th Ave W
Lynnwood, WA 98036**

ENFORCEMENT HEARING NOTICE

Respondent:	MARIO BROWN
Hearing/meeting date:	Friday, February 28, 2020
Time:	9:30 a.m.
Place:	Evergreen Plaza Building 711 Capitol Way, Room 206 Olympia, WA 98504
Presiding Officer:	David Ammons, Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission
Authority:	RCW 42.17A and WAC 390

On the above date, the Public Disclosure Commission will hold a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) in accordance with RCW 42.17A.110 and RCW 42.17A.755 to determine whether MARIO BROWN violated RCW 42.17A.615 by failing to file one or more monthly Lobbying Expense reports (L-2 reports), due by the 15th day of each calendar month, disclosing activity in the previous calendar month.

According to PDC records, in calendar year 2019 you are missing L-2 reports for:

September

Under the Brief Enforcement Hearing rules, the Presiding Officer has the authority to assess civil penalties in accordance with WAC 390-37-143, a penalty schedule adopted by the Commission (see enclosed Brief Enforcement Hearings FAQ).

TO AVOID THE HEARING

In order to avoid the Brief Enforcement Hearing, please ensure that the following items are received by the PDC no later than **12:00 p.m. Monday, February 24, 2020:**

1. Completed and submitted L-2 reports;
2. A signed Statement of Understanding (blank copy enclosed); and
3. A check or money order for \$100, made payable to Washington State Treasurer.

Mail all three items to the following address:

Public Disclosure Commission
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

You are not required by law to personally attend. However, the PDC recommends that respondents personally appear whenever possible, which includes participating at the hearing by telephone conference. If there are circumstances you wish to have considered at the Brief Enforcement Hearing, you may attend the hearing in person, or participate by telephone.

For your information, most Respondents who participate at the Brief Enforcement hearings participate by telephone or in writing. If you cannot participate either in person or by telephone at the Brief Enforcement Hearing, you may provide a written response describing the facts of your case and any circumstances or mitigating factors you would like the Presiding Officer to consider.

If you plan on participating at the Brief Enforcement hearing or have questions about the hearing process, please contact PDC Staff by email at pdcc@pdc.wa.gov – and be sure to reference your case number in the subject line of the email. Please contact PDC staff if you would like to appear in person or by telephone conference, and submit any written response or documentation, no later than **12:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2020.**

Respondent and Complainant Notice Rights:

In accordance with WAC 390-37-060(5), the respondent is being provided notice at least 10 days in advance of the enforcement hearing. The Presiding Officer has the discretion to allow comment by a person other than the respondent during their consideration of the complaint. Any person who wishes to comment should notify staff no later than **Friday, February 21, 2020.**

WAC 390-37-030 also allows a complainant or any other person to submit documentary evidence and/or written factual or legal statements to the staff at any time up to and including the fifth calendar day before the date of any enforcement hearing or proceeding. Such information should be sent electronically to pdcc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

PDC Staff
Compliance and Enforcement Division

Enclosures (3):

- Lobbyist Instructions
- Statement of Understanding
- Brief Enforcement Hearings FAQ



Reporting

Report compensation and expenses on an accrual basis. That is, report them for the month in which each was incurred or earned, not necessarily when received. (If reported amounts differ from what is actually received from the employer, file an amended report reflecting the correct amounts.)

Completing the Monthly Expenditure Report (L2) Overview

Expenditure reports are due for all months in which the lobbyist/firm is registered, regardless of activity level.

1. Login to the Lobbyist Electronic Filing system using your user account.
2. Under Lobbyists I File For, choose the name of the lobbyist/firm who the expenditure report will be filed for.
3. On the page for the lobbyist/firm, find the Lobbyist Menu and choose the New Monthly Filing option.
4. On the following page, entitled Create a new L2 filing, you can select to bring forward data from a previous filing or you can start from scratch. Once you have indicated your choice, click the Submit icon to proceed. Caution – if you use the "bring forward" option keep in mind that any activity which is date specific will cause problems when you attempt to submit the report. For example, if you bring forward activity such as entertainment or contributions from a previous report, it will have that activity with the date it appeared previously. The "bring forward" option works best when choosing information which is non-date specific such as compensation and sub-contract compensation.
5. In the following screen there are a series of tabs listing different categories of lobbying activities. Review information on each tab where you will indicate, through a series of yes or no questions, whether you have reportable activity. If there is activity, continue on that tab to provide the requested information.
6. Once you have completed all tabs and are ready to submit, click the Submit to PDC icon at the bottom of the screen. The report will now validate for errors or incomplete entries. If this happens, return to the tab in question to correct or enter the information and then re-submit. You will now see the report you have just completed listed under the heading Submitted Monthly Reports (L2) with the date and time submitted.

Completing the Monthly Expenditure Report (L2) Detailed Instructions

Identify the lobbyist

Report compensation and expenses on an accrual basis. That is, report them for the month in which each was incurred or earned, not necessarily when received. (if reporting amounts differ from what is actually received from the employer, file an amended report reflecting the correct amounts). Expenditure reports are due for all months in which the lobbyist/firm is registered, regardless of activity level.

- Login to the Lobbyist Electronic Filing system using your user account.
- Under Lobbyists I File For, choose the name of the lobbyist/firm who the expenditure report will be filed for.

Identify the reporting period

- On the page for the lobbyist/firm, find the Lobbyist Menu and choose the New monthly filing option.
- Choose your reporting period from the drop-down field
- You can select to bring forward data from a previous filing or you can start from scratch. Once you have indicated your choice, click the submit icon to proceed. **Caution** – if you use the "bring forward" option, keep in mind that any activity which is date specific will cause problems when you attempt to submit the report. For example, if you bring forward activity such as entertainment or contributions from a previous report, it will have that activity with the date it appeared previously. The "bring forward" option works best when choosing information which is non-date specific such as compensation and sub-contract compensation.

The lobbyist (or person filing the report) will see a series of tabs on the monthly report page; Personal, Compensation, Entertainment, Contributions, Advertising, Other and Lobbying. For more detailed instructions on these tabs, please see our instructions at: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/learn/publications/lobbyist-instructions/reporting>

Amending Reports

Although every effort should be made to file complete and accurate reports, mistakes do happen. If you discover an omission or mistake in a previous report, file an amended report.

Complete an amended L-2 report as follows: log in to the lobbyist/form page, find the report in question listed in the Submitted Monthly Reports area and click Amend (under the Actions column).

Amended L-2 reports should be filed as soon as the error is discovered.

Amendments to any of the information on the L-1 form are to be filed within one week of the change prompting the revision and the entire form must be completed (not simply the new information).

Public Disclosure Commission Statement of Understanding
MARIO BROWN: PDC Case 65093

I hereby acknowledge that I, _____,
(Printed Name of Respondent)

did not timely file the required Monthly Lobbying Expense reports (L-2 reports) with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) that were due to be filed by the 15th day of each calendar month, disclosing activity in the previous calendar month, thereby violating RCW 42.17A.615. In calendar year 2019, these reports include:

September

I want to avoid the time and expense resulting from a Brief Adjudicative Hearing (Brief Enforcement Hearing) before the Presiding Officer. Therefore, I am filing the L-2 reports, completing the Statement of Understanding, and enclosing a check or money order in the amount of \$100 for the missing reports, in lieu of a February 28, 2020, Brief Enforcement hearing being held.

I understand that this will resolve all issues with the PDC regarding my failure to timely file the L-2 reports, provided that a check or money order for \$100, the completed missing report(s), and this signed Statement of Understanding are all received by **Monday, February 24, 2020.**

I further understand that Commission staff will not be scheduling a Brief Enforcement hearing before the Presiding Officer regarding my obligation to timely file the L-2 reports that were due for calendar year 2019.

Signature of Representative Date Signed

Be sure to file your L-2 reports, and make your check or money order payable to "Washington State Treasurer." Mail or deliver this Statement of Understanding, and your payment to the following address:

Public Disclosure Commission
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

BRIEF ENFORCEMENT HEARINGS – INFORMATION FOR FILERS

You have received a letter or email from the PDC scheduling a Brief Enforcement Hearing before a PDC Commissioner. Here are the answers to some Frequently Asked Questions about these brief hearings. This FAQ is informational only and should not be considered legal advice.

What is a Brief Enforcement Hearing?

The PDC is responsible for enforcing the State's campaign finance laws. We may schedule what is called a Brief Enforcement Hearing (also known as a "Brief Adjudicative Proceeding" under the Administrative Procedure Act) to address compliance with campaign finance reporting requirements when evidence shows the following types of alleged violations may have occurred:

- Failure to file or timely file required reports of financial affairs, campaign contributions and/or expenditures, independent expenditures, or funds spent on lobbying;
- Improper use of public facilities or resources in election campaigns when the value of public funds expended or facilities used was minimal; and
- Infractions of political advertising laws regarding sponsor identification or political party identification.

Brief Enforcement Hearings may be scheduled on other matters as well, if the basic facts are agreed to or are not being contested, and it is anticipated that the likely penalty imposed (if a violation is found) will be \$1,000 or less. The Commission has adopted a penalty schedule for Brief Enforcement Hearings which can be found in the Washington Administrative Code [WAC 390-37-143](#).

A Presiding Officer, who is a PDC Commissioner, will conduct the hearing. PDC staff will present the case to the Presiding Officer, and you will have an opportunity to explain the circumstances related to the alleged violations. You may do this in person, by telephone, or in writing by email or letter.

Who are the parties involved?

The PDC Staff initiates and investigates possible violations, and brings cases forward to the Commission or its Presiding Officer. The person who is alleged to be out of compliance with the law is referred to as the "Respondent."

What can I do to avoid the hearing?

If you received a hearing notice, you still have the opportunity to come into compliance by filing the missing report(s), paying the stated penalty, and completing a Statement of Understanding stipulating to the violation(s). If you would like to take this approach, please contact PDC Compliance and Enforcement Staff at pdcc@pdc.wa.gov.

What do I do to prepare for the hearing?

The brief hearings are informal in nature. You are not required to have an attorney for this hearing. Hearings take place in the PDC meeting room where Commission meetings are held. You need to let the Staff know at least five business days before the hearing whether you will be participating in-person or by phone, or prefer not to participate.

In-person participation. If you are attending in-person, bring all of the written information that you want the Presiding Officer to consider in making a decision. You will need to bring three copies of any document — one for you, one for PDC Staff, and one for the Presiding Officer. Alternatively, you may submit one copy to PDC Staff and they'll provide a copy to the Presiding Officer, as long as it is received five business days before the day of the hearing.

If you are having other people (witnesses) testify on your behalf, they must be available at the hearing, and Staff needs to be informed of the number of witnesses and time needed for their testimony when you notify the Staff of your participation. The scheduled hearing starting time is the start time for several matters that will be heard by the Presiding Officer, and your case may not be the first one heard. So you will need to remain available to participate until your case is called.

Participation by telephone. If you wish to participate by phone, please let PDC Staff know five business days before the hearing the number where you can be reached and the timeframe you are available. You must be available at the designated time and telephone number. As mentioned above, the hearing time is an estimate, and you must be available until your case is called.

Participation in-writing. If you are participating only by submitting written materials, make sure any written materials you want the Presiding Officer to consider are delivered to the PDC office no later than five business days before the hearing.

Waiving your right to participate. If you have submitted nothing in writing prior to the hearing, have made no other arrangements, and you do not appear in person, by phone, or through your legal counsel at the hearing, it will be presumed that you have decided to waive your right to participate at the hearing.

What happens at the hearing?

The Presiding Officer will introduce the participants and explain the procedure for the hearing. The hearing will be audio-taped.

The Presiding Officer will swear-in PDC Staff for them to present information regarding the alleged violation of law. You will then have an opportunity to testify, which is your opportunity to present information. All testimony by Staff, Respondents, and witnesses is given under oath, but you are seated at a regular meeting table with a microphone, not in a courtroom. The Presiding Officer may ask you some questions about the information you, PDC Staff, or witnesses have presented. If you have decided to participate in writing instead of in person or by phone, your written information will be considered by the Presiding Officer as part of the hearing materials.

If at any time the Presiding Officer believes the alleged violations are serious enough to merit penalties greater than \$1,000, the Presiding Officer will adjourn the hearing and direct that the matter be scheduled for a hearing before the full Commission at a later time.

How is the decision made?

After considering all the information presented at the hearing, the Presiding Officer will make a decision about the allegation(s) and any appropriate penalty amount. The decision is typically announced orally at the hearing.

The Presiding Officer will use the penalty schedule referred to above that has been adopted by the Commission in rule to determine the appropriate penalty for certain types of violations, taking into account aggravating and mitigating factors. The penalty schedule is below.

What happens after my hearing?

A written decision, called an Initial Order, laying out the Presiding Officer's ruling, including the findings and the penalty, will be sent to you. The PDC tries to get orders issued within 10 days if possible, and not later than 30 days. If a monetary penalty is imposed in the Initial Order, the penalty must be paid to the Washington State Treasurer, and mailed to the address listed in the Order cover letter within the time frame stated in the Order.

Along with your Initial Order, you will also receive information about your appeal rights, including how to request review or reconsideration by the full Commission if you disagree with the Initial Order. Follow these procedures carefully if you wish to appeal. If there is no appeal before the PDC, the Initial Order becomes a Final Order, and further appeals must be made in Superior Court.

What are the rules that apply to the procedures of my hearing?

The PDC’s laws and rules are available on the PDC’s website at www.pdc.wa.gov. The laws are in the Revised Code of Washington ([RCW Chapter 42.17A](#)). The rules are in the Washington Administrative Code ([WAC Title 390](#)). Brief Adjudicative Proceedings are described at [WAC 390-37-140](#) through [390-37-150](#) and in the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) at [RCW 34.05.482-494](#).

Penalty Schedule [\[WAC 390-37-143\]](#):

The Presiding Officer may assess a penalty up to one thousand dollars upon finding a violation of chapter [42.17A](#) RCW or Title 390 WAC.

(1) Base penalty amounts:

Violation	1st Occasion	2nd Occasion	3rd Occasion
Failure to timely file an accurate and complete statement of financial affairs (F-1):			
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150	\$150 - \$300	\$300 - \$600
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250	\$500	\$1,000
Candidate's failure to timely file an accurate and complete registration statement (C-1)/statement of financial affairs (F-1):			
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150 per report	\$150 - \$300 per report	\$300 - \$600 per report up to \$1,000
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150 per report	\$300 per report	\$600 per report up to \$1,000
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250 per report	\$500 per report	consideration by full commission
Failure to timely file an accurate and complete lobbyist monthly expense report (L-2):			
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150	\$150 - \$300	\$300 - \$600

Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250	\$500	\$1,000
Failure to timely file an accurate and complete lobbyist employer report (L-3):			
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150	\$150 - \$300	\$300 - \$600
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250	\$500	\$1,000
Failure to timely file accurate and complete disclosure reports:			
Political committee registration (C-1pc).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Statement of contributions deposit (C-3).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Summary of total contributions and expenditures (C-4).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Independent expenditures and electioneering communications (C-6).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Last minute contribution report (LMC).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Out-of-state committee report (C-5).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Annual report of major contributors (C-7).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failure to timely file accurate and complete reports disclosing lobbying activities:			
Lobbyist registration (L-1).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Public agency lobbying report (L-5).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Grass roots lobbying report (L-6).	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failure to file electronically.	\$350	\$650	\$1,000
Exceeding contribution limits.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Exceeding mini reporting threshold.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failure to comply with political advertising sponsor identification requirements.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failure to include required candidate's party preference in political advertising.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failure to comply with other political advertising requirements, RCW 42.17A.330 through 42.17A.345 .	\$150	\$300	\$600

Use of public facilities to assist a campaign for election or promote a ballot measure.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Treasurer's failure to timely file an accurate and complete annual treasurer's report (T-1):			
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Provided written explanation or appeared at hearing to explain mitigating circumstances. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$0 - \$150	\$150 - \$300	\$300 - \$600
Filed report after hearing notice, but before enforcement hearing. Did not enter into statement of understanding.	\$150	\$300	\$600
Failed to file report by date of enforcement hearing.	\$250	\$500	\$1,000

"Occasion" means established violation. Only violations in the last five years will be considered for the purpose of determining second and third occasions.

(2) In determining the appropriate penalty, the presiding officer may consider the nature of the violation and aggravating and mitigating factors, including:

- (a) Whether the respondent is a first-time filer;
- (b) The respondent's compliance history for the last five years, including whether the noncompliance was isolated or limited in nature, indicative of systematic or ongoing problems, or part of a pattern of violations by the respondent, or in the case of a political committee or other entity, part of a pattern of violations by the respondent's officers, staff, principal decision makers, consultants, or sponsoring organization;
- (c) The respondent's unpaid penalties from a previous enforcement action;
- (d) The impact on the public, including whether the noncompliance deprived the public of timely or accurate information during a time-sensitive period, or otherwise had a significant or material impact on the public;
- (e) The amount of financial activity by the respondent during the statement period or election cycle;
- (f) Whether the late or unreported activity was significant in amount or duration under the circumstances, including in proportion to the total amount of expenditures by the respondent in the campaign or statement period;
- (g) Corrective action or other remedial measures initiated by respondent prior to enforcement action, or promptly taken when noncompliance brought to respondent's attention;
- (h) Good faith efforts to comply, including consultation with PDC staff prior to initiation of enforcement action and cooperation with PDC staff during enforcement action, and a demonstrated wish to acknowledge and take responsibility for the violation;
- (i) Personal emergency or illness of the respondent or member of his or her immediate family;
- (j) Other emergencies such as fire, flood, or utility failure preventing filing;
- (k) Sophistication of respondent or the financing, staffing, or size of the respondent's campaign or organization; and
- (l) PDC staff, third-party vendor, or equipment error, including technical problems at the agency preventing or delaying electronic filing.

(3) The presiding officer has authority to suspend all or a portion of an assessed penalty under the conditions to be determined by that officer including, but not limited to, payment of the nonsuspended portion of the penalty within five business days of the date of the entry of the order in that case.

(4) If, on the third occasion, a respondent has outstanding penalties or judgments, the matter will be directed to the full commission for consideration.

(5) The presiding officer may direct a matter to the full commission if the officer believes one thousand dollars would be an insufficient penalty or the matter warrants consideration by the full commission. Cases will automatically be scheduled before the full commission for an enforcement action when the respondent:

(a) Was found in violation during a previous reporting period;

(b) The violation remains in effect following any appeals; and

(c) The person has not filed the disclosure forms that were the subject of the prior violation at the time the current hearing notice is being sent.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [42.17A.110](#)(1) and 2018 c 304. WSR 18-24-074, § 390-37-143, filed 11/30/18, effective 12/31/18. Statutory Authority: RCW [42.17A.110](#)(1) and [42.17A.570](#). WSR 18-10-088, § 390-37-143, filed 5/1/18, effective 6/1/18. Statutory Authority: RCW [42.17A.110](#). WSR 17-03-004, § 390-37-143, filed 1/4/17, effective 2/4/17.]