



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.pdcc.wa.gov

December 2, 2020

Sent electronically to David Snell at dsnell@sswc-law.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Hans Zeiger, PDC Case 79164

Dear Mr. Snell:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on October 19, 2020. The complaint alleged that Hans Zeiger, a 2020 candidate for County Council Member (Position 2) in Pierce County, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely and accurately report the Summary Full Report Receipts and Expenditures (C-4) reports and RCW 42.17A.240 for failure to properly break down and describe expenditure details, as required in WAC 390-16-037 and WAC 390-16-205.

PDC staff reviewed your allegation(s); the applicable statutes, rules, the three attachments/exhibits attached to the complaint and the reporting requirements; the C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Friends to Hans Zeiger (Campaign); and the November 11, 2020, response to the complaint provided by Senator Hans Zeiger on behalf of the Campaign.

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

- On August 30, 2019, Hans Zeiger timely filed a Candidate Registration (C-1) report for the 2020 County Council Member (Position 2) race in Pierce County and selected the Full Reporting Option. Mr. Zeiger has been filing statutory reports with the PDC since 2010.

Alleged failure to file timely and accurate report of Summary Full Report Receipts and Expenditures (C-4) reports – (RCW 42.17A.235) and RCW 42.17A.240 for failure to properly breakdown and describe expenditure details, as required in WAC 390-16-037 and WAC 390-16-205

- Staff reviewed the description of the payments/expenditures made by the Campaign on the June, July, August and September 2020 C-4 reports and found that some of the expenses lacked proper description(s) and breakdowns required by law/rule. For example, the Campaign did not breakdown and/or include the number of items purchased for the \$5,285.22 paid to *Mailer* on July 30, 2020, or the \$20,000 and \$5,000 for media buys paid to *Media+* on July 9, 2020. The Campaign failed to include the breakdown information such as dates and/or sub-vendor information. The Campaign also failed to include the details/number of items for the payments made to *Print NW* for \$2,384 and \$2,651 on July 10 and 13, 2020, respectively. The

same applies to all the other individual expenses/expenditures paid in the months mentioned supra to vendors such as *Dave's Campaign and Business, The News Tribune, Print NW and Media+*. A more detailed description that includes the number of items bought, dates (for media buys) and sub-vendor information/identity should have been included in the June, July, August and September 2020 C-4 reports by the Campaign.

- On November 11, 2020, the Campaign amended the pertinent C-4 reports and included detailed description/breakdown of expenditures made and the number of items bought. In its response to this complaint, the Campaign, by way of Senator Hans Zeiger, stated: "When this was brought to my attention with the complaint, I immediately took steps to update our reports. Accordingly, I have now updated C4s for the current campaign (Pierce County Council, 2020) to provide detailed descriptions and subvendor details on a number of expenditures. It is my intent to continue to provide this level of detailed reporting in all future expenditure reports."

While staff found the Campaign's reporting deficient, Mr. Zeiger fully acknowledged the violations and fully cooperated with the PDC staff by timely responding to the complaint and taking responsibility for the deficiency in reporting by amending the C-4 reports to provide additional description and breakdown of Campaign expenditures.

Based on the above staff has determined that, in this instance, the Campaign's failure to file accurate C-4 reports and the failure to properly break down or describe monetary campaign expenditures do not warrant further investigation.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), Hans Zeiger will receive a formal written warning concerning the failure to file accurate Summary Full Report Receipts and Expenditures (C-4) reports, including failure to properly break down or describe monetary campaign expenditures in the 2020 election year. Mr. Zeiger will be informed that 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 has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina, Compliance Officer at (360) 586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/ _____
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer

s/ _____
Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Hans Zeiger