



**23rd Legislative
District
Republicans**

23rd Legislative District Republicans
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December 11, 2020

Enclosures:

- (1) Declaration of April Ferguson, Chairman, 23rd Legislative District Republican Committee
- (2) Statement of Mark DeBenon, Former Treasurer
- (3) Statement of David Lindquist, Current Treasurer
- (4) Minutes of 23rd Legislative District Republican Committee meeting, December 9, 2020

Subject: PDC Case Number 80600

Ms. Hansen,

Greetings. On November 20, 2020 your office sent the 23rd Leg Dist Republican Committee (the Committee) notice of complaints from Elaina Gonzales-Blanton on November 9th & 10th, 2020, which has been assigned PDC Case Number 80600. The complaints allege violations of three certain requirements related to the PDC. This letter is a response from the Committee (See Encl (4)). It contains results of our investigation, describes our corrective actions, and points out mitigating factors.

Allegations One and Two: The year 2020 presented the Committee with two challenges in regard to meeting the requirements for PDC depositing and reporting. 1. The Committee was hampered by the resignation of our treasurer in early March. The electing committee was not able to supply an immediate replacement because they were prohibited from meeting by Washington State's COVID-19 restrictions. 2. Even after the replacement treasurer was elected in June, it was impracticable to start turning over the Committee's bank account and treasurer responsibilities until about September 11, 2020. This was caused by the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and our bank's branch closures. (See mitigating factors in Encl (2) and Encl (3) section 2).

The result was that between March and mid-October, efficient treasurer operations were curtailed. During that time, in an election campaign season, the Committee continued to operate by obtaining contributions and making authorized expenditures. The Committee fell behind in the timely depositing and reporting of some of the contributions and expenditures. See mitigating factors in Encl (1), para 4&5; Encl (2) and Encl (3), section 2.

The Committee began taking up action to make late reports in September 2020 (Encl (3) section 2.a). See Encl (3) sections 1 and 2 for mitigating factors. The time frame suggests that this corrective action would also be considered a mitigating factor. Ongoing action with the treasurer to amend the reports is currently progressing in close coordination with a PDC Filer Assistance Specialist (Encl (3) para 2.c). Further corrective action was approved by the Committee on December 9, 2020 to obtain an independent compliance review by a qualified individual following completion of the amendments activity that is now in-progress. (Encl (4)).

The compliant raised a question regarding fundraising deposits from 8/29/20 to 9/18/20 (PDC form C-3, 101002579). Enclosure (1), paras 4-5 indicate that all contributions were deposited (with exception of the error noted in Encl (1), para 5). In addition, the Committee has performed a fundraising to inventory comparison. The comparison validates that the amounts are correctly reported.

Allegation Three:

1. The committee denies the allegation that it failed to fully comply with the request for inspection of books. See Narrative 1 below.
2. The Committee denies that it was aware of the inspection party's intention to include a third person to the inspection as is alleged in the complaint description. See Narrative 2 below.
3. The subject complaint on page 35 alleges: "Mr Lindquist was asked where the rest of the records were and he said, 'this is all April would let me have.'" Mr. Lindquist denies that he made any statement(s) to that effect. (Encl (3), para 3.b)
4. Ms Ferguson and Mr Lindquist did not request to see identification because Gonzales-Blanton and Madden-Boyer were personally know to both of them.

Narrative 1: At the appointed time and place April Ferguson and Treasurer David Lindquist were ready to receive the two inspectors. Two table were arranged about three feet apart and a third table across the top. This was intended to accommodate the inspection party and allow for comfortable separation greater than 6 feet during the inspection. An appropriate place was provided for Ferguson's infant son close to his Mother in a car seat. One of the inspectors stated that an auditor would also be coming to the meeting. They were told an added person would not be allowed since it was not prearranged. The inspectors were informed before the meeting that recording and photos would not be allowed. The inspectors were confronted for recording the meeting and told to stop since it was not prearranged. Even so, Madden-Boyer attempted to photograph documents and was confronted and told to stop. Mr Lindquist denies that any threats were made by himself or Ferguson. The meeting became contentious over the inspection party's pressing for the above requests that were not prearranged. The meeting was terminated after about 15 minutes by one of the inspectors (Madden-Boyer). See Encl (1), paras 8 & 9; and Encl (3), section 3.


Narrative 2: Page 40 of the subject complaint is a copy of an email indicating that a request was made on Oct 29, 2020 3:03 PM from Elaina Gonzales-Blanton for herself and Pam Madden-Boyer to inspect the Committee's books on October 30, November 1, or November 2, 2020. No other persons were listed as inspectors or observers on the request. After several emails between April Ferguson and Gonzales-Blanton (See Complaint pages 39, 37 & 36) an agreement was reached to meet at 3 PM on November 3, 2020 at a certain location in Silverdale, WA (See Complaint page 36). There is no evidence in the emails of a third person participating in the inspection. It must be noted that the email address katiemadden2018@gmail.com appeared in the address section of the Gonzales-Blanton of email of Nov 2, 2020 04:32 PM (Complaint page 39). This appears to be the name or alias of a third person claimed to be part of the inspection party. However, there was no explicit indication given to the Committee, verbal or writing, of a request to add a third person to the inspection party.

Conclusion:

Upon review of other information contained in the complaint, the Committee's assessment is that it represents a scurrilous attack on the Committee and its chairman and is not pertinent to the areas of law identified in the allegations. In conclusion, we hope that the information contained in our response is helpful to your evaluation of the complaint. Please contact us if you need additional information.

Sincerely yours,


April Ferguson, Chairman
12/9/2020


David Lindquist, Treasurer
12/9/2020

ENCLOSURE 1

DECLARATION OF APRIL FERGUSON IN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST THE 23RD
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT REPUBLICANS

I April Ferguson state the following:

I am over the age of 18 and of sound mind and competent to testify in this matter and I state as follows:

SUPPORTING EXHIBITS:

Exhibit A ... Communications with the PDC

Exhibit B ...Communications with the PDC

Exhibit D... Communication with Elaina Blanton

Exhibit E... Layout of room during public inspection of records

Exhibit F...Email communications with PDC

Exhibit G...Email Communication with Mark

BACKGROUND/ROLE CONCERNING PDC FILINGS

1. I am the Chairman of the 23rd Legislative District Republicans and was elected in January of 2019. Until October 2020, I did not have prior involvement in reporting to the PDC for the committee. I acted solely as the chairman. My only involvement in the funds with the 23rd was in making expenditures, receiving contributions, and depositing them. I was one of three signers on the account which were myself, the treasurer, and a former member of the committee.
2. To my knowledge from the period that David Lindquist was elected until the transfer was made September 11th we had fallen behind in reporting and I worked to help get the new and old treasurer to meet together. My goal as chair was to facilitate the transfer. I have read the facts mentioned in Mark DeBenon's statement and I incorporate by reference those facts concerning the transfer and the contributing factors behind some of the difficulties with the transfer as correct.
3. I took on the responsibility during the transfer to review the treasurer's work and help find any discrepancies that needed to be corrected. I took the exhibit attached to the complaint called "2020 Discrepancies" and performed a thorough review looking for discrepancies for the entire year. I then listed them and communicated with the PDC for filing assistance. When discussing about making the corrections myself, they requested that David Lindquest perform the corrections. This would allow him to get "on-the-job" training with the help of a filing assistant. We are currently in the process of amendments. I have attached the email communications with the PDC showing our

efforts to work on the corrections both prior to the complaint being placed and after. Attached as **exhibit A**. This email history shows our attempt to correct the problems and our open communication with the PDC concerning the missing filings all the way back to October.

FACTS CONCERNING MAKING DEPOSITS

4. During the transfer of treasurers, I continued assisting by making deposits. I know that we did make late deposits due to the complications caused by COVID-19 restrictions. Our closest bank branch closed and only local branch that is open is over 40 minutes away from my residence. We are in the process of determining how to make this easier.
5. I also discovered another error because I mistakenly believed I could keep a portion of our fundraising monies to pay our vendor instead of depositing all the money first. When discussing this with the PDC, they instructed me to deposit the money and pay him later. This only happened once back in Sept. and the PDC is helping us correct this error in our amendments. **Exhibit A and B** shows my communication with the PDC concerning the depositing of money and errors as well as instructions on what to do about those errors. All contributions were deposited other than that.

FACTS CONCERNING INSPECTION OF RECORDS

6. On October 29th Elaina requested a public inspection of records and listed herself and Pam Madden Boyer in the body of the email saying "for myself and Pam Madden-Boyer". This is substantiated by **Exhibit D**. Elaina and Pam had requested on their behalf within the time of open inspection of records. On the 1st there was a schedule concern, so we rescheduled for the following day the already scheduled inspection for Pam and Elaina. Elaina then sent a communication the day prior with Katie Madden copied but did not list her or mention her as going to be in attendance and the communication was just a reschedule. I was not even questioning why she would copy my communications to Katie Madden because I knew Katie Madden was with a radio show that had been making shows about my performance as a chair and my candidacy. Elaina gave no communication to even suggest that Katie would be coming. Then the following day when they arrive Pam comes in the room first and is going to sit down at the table. Elaina comes in following. I told them "No recording or taking of pictures will be permitted today". Pam started to go through the records but divided it up to have Elaina go through a portion of the months. At that time Pam stated "An auditor is going to be coming today to audit the records" I being two tables away from them and sitting down told them that would not be permitted that she would have had to be in the scheduling email that was initially made on prior to the ending of the period to request inspection which we had now passed. Pam then said that she had included her and listed her. I questioned that because I had received no such list and they had made the arrangement with me and our treasurer David was attached in those communications, so I had been under the impression that David and I were on the same page. I then learned from David that the night prior he had received an email from one of them listing a lady's name called Katie Kuzkin. This immediately concerned us because of the fact that they were doing two different scheduled appointments and the one they requested Katie Kuzkin at was for 9:00am that morning and then at the same time they were scheduling with me at 3:00pm and not 9:00am and not mentioning anything of Katie Kuzkin. Neither of us even knew who Katie Kuzkin was but later learned they were using a different name

for Katie and we are thinking maybe a former name. I did not make the connection yet, but it was Katie Madden because Pam had told me "an auditor is coming" and referred to this person as a professional auditor. We told them that the auditor would have to make a separate appointment that it had not been done per RCW. It was at this time Elaina became very nasty in my opinion and started saying "put on your big girl panties April" and then told us "just in case you did not understand me clear enough I am recording". Both David and I recognized that she had been recording because the phone had been held up and that it was ongoing recording and we told her "you mentioned nothing of recording, and we do not give you permission it is illegal to record and I am asking you to stop". David who was standing in the space between the tables between us also asked her to stop as he was standing right by her. It is incorrect that I stood up over her I could have not because there were two tables between us and a space as well, so I was about 8 feet from Pam and 10 feet from Elaina.

7. The next issue arises when Pam tried to take pictures of the documents and I asked her to stop. Pam then asked that we please leave the room to continue the inspection and we said we would not leave the financial records alone and we are not required to be out of the room. She claimed that not leaving would be considered harassment and implied a threat of the allegation if we would not leave her alone with the records. We declined to leave the room. During the inspection they kept using it more like an opportunity to conduct a deposition or something with interrogating type questions against us the officers of the committee which resulted in me repeatedly telling her we were not there to answer all her questions and that she needed to inspect the records which she was there for. Then I caught her trying to sneak pictures and that is when I said "If you are not going to be able to follow the rules, we will have to end the inspection" but I never actually ended the inspection. Instead Pam told Elaina "she is not going to let us doing anything" and Elaina said "Should I call the police" and Pam said "we could use it for the complaint" or something very similar that implied they were going to use something in a false light against us. David and I both looked at each other and I said, "We probably better call the police and make sure the record is correct and report this ourselves". We then discussed who would make the call and I had agreed that I would. When I did that, I asked David if he would give the baby the bottle who had just started to fuss and so he did. The police showed up and during that time with the police we learned that the show up was not in response to their call but to ours because ours involved a possible crime which was the illegal recording. The police told us that Elaina had claimed to delete the recording and that if it showed up, he would know that she had lied. We said we did not want to take it any further we just wanted the record to be made straight to protect ourselves from what seemed like threats against us. **Exhibit E** is a drawn layout of the room.
8. On November 4th, I contacted the PDC and informed them of these things that had happened at the inspection of records and asked them if I had done anything wrong by saying if they cannot follow the rules the inspection would have to end. PDC responded saying that both parties are required to follow the rules and referencing an RCW. This communication is attached as **exhibit A pg 6**. PDC response is attached as **Exhibit F**

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS IN RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS ALLEGED FACTS

9. The report claims that they repeatedly raised concerns over having no treasurer's reports. This is incorrect. They first raised the concern the last week of September when they demanded a treasurer report that would account for all the money raised at the fundraising events. I explained due to the change in treasurers there was a delay and that a treasurer report would be provided at the next business meeting (Oct. 13th). It was. In good faith, I also requested that Mark DeBenon, the previous treasurer, send a ledger to Pam Madden-Boyer. That also happened on Oct. 13th. See **Exhibit G**
10. It is my observation through all of this that David Lindquest was put into adverse circumstances while learning the treasurer's responsibilities. He was placed under frequent pressure by the complainants to turn over Committee financial information. It appears that they had a personal agenda related to obtaining more money from the 23rd Legislative District Republican Committee. Our committee acted with transparency concerning the transfer of the treasurer roles and had communicated this information during our committee meetings. Elaina and Pam both attended those meetings and were aware of the issues with the transfer of treasurer role and both were candidates that were receiving contributions from the committee and were constantly pressuring the committee to let them know exactly how much the committee had so that they could influence the committee members to give them the money that belonged to the 23rd republicans.
11. In response to the several allegations that I feel are an attack on my character and integrity, I want to say that they are false or said in such a false light they are slanderous. The most distressing fact is that the individuals submitting this complaint did not follow our party policies in addressing such a matter. The purpose of a PDC complaint is to ensure that we are following PDC laws and to ensure transparency to the public. It is not for the purpose of a "he said, she said forum" to go back and forth at each other. It is my belief that our committee has provided the necessary detail regarding the pertinent RCW's that have been cited to us by the PDC (as relevant to the complaint) and that we have shown the good faith of our desire to be in compliance. Despite these slanderous statements against me, as the chair of our committee I am under an ethical obligation to deal with the matters regarding the slander by following our internal processes.
12. I believe that Mark, the past treasurer, worked with dedication and cared very much about following the law and public disclosure. In my reviews, I found very few discrepancies during the time period that he was the treasurer. They were honest mistakes or omissions and that he kept his records and books in order. I have observed that David, our new treasurer, has approached his new role with the same dedication even under the adverse circumstances these past few months. I know that with the help and training he is receiving from the PDC specialist our committee will be in his safe hands going forward. I as the chair will continue to facilitate his success in this position.

I SWEAR UNDER THE PENALTY OF PERJURY OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

SIGNED AND DATED THIS DAY OF DECEMBER 9th 2020 IN SUQUAMISH WASHINGTON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'April Ferguson', is written over a horizontal line.

April Ferguson

Chairman 23rd Legislative District Republicans

april@wa23rdrepublicans.com

EXHIBIT A

Reporting assistance

7 messages

April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 4:23 PM

To: COLIN.PEOPLES@pdc.wa.gov, COLIN.PEOPLES@pdc.wa.gov, David Lindquist <1963dbi@gmail.com>

Bcc: Tony Stephens <kcrcpchair@gmail.com>

Colin, and David,

The purpose of this email is to facilitate a door opening for David to have support for help with the PDC. David when I first started working with PDC there were a lot of questions and some of my reports with my campaign were late. PDC has always worked timely with me and worked to help me with compliance. Out of government, I would say PDC is the best at helping the people they serve.

Background explained to Colin is that our Treasurer gave his intent to resign in March. We had a central committee meeting planned to elect a new Treasurer which did not take place because of Covid. We met finally I believe in July for the Central Committee meeting where David was elected. David is trying to take over the PDC requirements but could use some assistance but due to this transfer of position, there is some reporting errors made. David has reached out for help from different people and was unable to get their assistance. I am sending this in an attempt to try to get David connected with PDC and help facilitate him having some PDC support.

I called Colin today and explained that there is a small fundraiser that totaled around 1,000 (in the paperwork I gave to you on the day you did the filing). I mentioned that it is not showing up and my confusion around that as well as several expenditures. I also mentioned that you have been trying to take over this role and that we have about 3,000 - 4,000 in expenditures not reported. He suggested that it is possible that you are not seeing the correct reporting dates because the Committee is not set up for "participating in General elections". He can help us with this but has given me a quick rundown so if we get together we can fix it and get the items reported. We have made no large contributions to anyone so not as worried about the contributions when it comes to reporting last-minute contributions to candidates. We have made no contribution over 250.00 but we did make some mailers and sent out a small limited amount of them so we really need to get that in the system as soon as possible. Most of the expenditures were made after the first week of October. He said we have missed likely two reporting dates. This is what I understand from talking with Colin.

Your report you made was from 8/31 until like mid-October

- 23RD is not set up for participating in the General election and we need to fix that by going onto Orca and doing the following:
- Click - FILE
- Click - COMMITTEE INFORMATION
- THEN AFTER THAT CLICK ON C4 REPORTING PERIODS
- HIS HUNCH IS THAT IT IS NOT SELECTED AS PARTICIPATES IN GENERAL BALLOT SO SELECT THAT THEN CLICK OKAY
- THERE SHOULD BE TWO THAT ARE LATE
- THE EXPENDITURES MAY BE IN THERE BUT IF NOT SELECTED AS GENERAL BALLOT THAT WOULD BE THE ISSUE
-
- THIS WOULD OPEN UP TWO MORE C4 THAT WOULD NEED to be FILED and we will be late on those.
-
- C3 WAS FILED OCTOBER 2ND so we are just behind for October only but I am very sure that the roughly 1,000 small fundraiser event is not showing on the reporting and I see a place where it shows a contribution report for like .05 and I am thinking that was likely you attempting to report but made an error because you would have reported that on the day with the rest of the small fundraisers.
- ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OCTOBER 2ND UNTIL THEN NOW ARE NOT IN COMPLIANCE
- PDC WANTS TO BE ABLE TO HELP OUT SO LETS

Colin can help you and we can meet up and if we do it early morning then if there is any issue I can contact PDC or you and have it fixed probably same day.

April Ferguson
Chairman 23rd Legislative District Republicans

postmaster@pdc.wa.gov <postmaster@pdc.wa.gov>
To: aprilforthewin@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 4:23 PM



Your message to COLIN.PEOPLES@pdc.wa.gov couldn't be delivered.

COLIN.PEOPLES wasn't found at pdc.wa.gov.

aprilforthewin
Action Required

Office 365

COLIN.PEOPLES
Recipient

Unknown To address

How to Fix It

The address may be misspelled or may not exist. Try one or more of the following:

- Send the message again following these steps: In Outlook, open this non-delivery report (NDR) and choose **Send Again** from the Report ribbon. In Outlook on the web, select this NDR, then select the link "**To send this message again, click here.**" Then delete and retype the entire recipient address. If prompted with an Auto-Complete List suggestion don't select it. After typing the complete address, click **Send**.
- Contact the recipient (by phone, for example) to check that the address exists and is correct.
- The recipient may have set up email forwarding to an incorrect address. Ask them to check that any forwarding they've set up is working correctly.
- Clear the recipient Auto-Complete List in Outlook or Outlook on the web by following the steps in this article: Fix email delivery issues for error code 5.1.10 in Office 365, and then send the message again. Retype the entire recipient address before selecting **Send**.

If the problem continues, forward this message to your email admin. If you're an email admin, refer to the **More Info for Email Admins** section below.

Was this helpful? Send feedback to Microsoft.

More Info for Email Admins

Status code: 550 5.1.10

This error occurs because the sender sent a message to an email address hosted by Office 365 but the address is incorrect or doesn't exist at the destination domain. The error is reported by the recipient domain's email server, but most often it must be fixed by the person who sent the message. If the steps in the **How to Fix It** section above don't fix the problem, and you're the email admin for the recipient, try one or more of the following:

The email address exists and is correct - Confirm that the recipient address exists, is correct, and is accepting messages.

Synchronize your directories - If you have a hybrid environment and are using directory synchronization make sure the recipient's email address is synced correctly in both Office 365 and in your on-premises directory.

Errant forwarding rule - Check for forwarding rules that aren't behaving as expected. Forwarding can be set up by an admin via mail flow rules or mailbox forwarding address settings, or by the recipient via the Inbox Rules feature.

Recipient has a valid license - Make sure the recipient has an Office 365 license assigned to them. The recipient's email admin can use the Office 365 admin center to assign a license (Users > Active Users > select the recipient > Assigned License > Edit).

Mail flow settings and MX records are not correct - Misconfigured mail flow or MX record settings can cause this error. Check your Office 365 mail flow settings to make sure your domain and any mail flow connectors are set up correctly. Also, work with your domain registrar to make sure the MX records for your domain are configured correctly.

Original Message Details

Created Date: 10/29/2020 11:23:07 PM
Sender Address: aprilforthewin@gmail.com
Recipient Address: COLIN.PEOPLES@pdc.wa.gov
Subject: Reporting assistance

Error Details

Reported error: 550 5.1.10 RESOLVER.ADR.RecipientNotFound; Recipient COLIN.PEOPLES@pdc.wa.gov not found by SMTP address lookup
DSN generated by: DM8PR09MB7255.namprd09.prod.outlook.com

Message Hops

HOP	TIME (UTC)	FROM	TO	WITH	RELAY TIME
1	10/29/2020 11:23:18 PM		mail-wm1-f47.google.com	SMTP	11 sec
2	10/29/2020 11:23:18 PM	rmail-wm1-f47.google.com	BL0GCC02FT008.mail.protection.outlook.com	Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384)	*
3	10/29/2020 11:23:18 PM	BL0GCC02FT008.eop-gcc02.prod.protection.outlook.com	DM5PR09CA0017.outlook.office365.com	Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384)	*
4	10/29/2020 11:23:19 PM	DM5PR09CA0017.namprd09.prod.outlook.com	DM8PR09MB7255.namprd09.prod.outlook.com	Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384)	1 sec

Original Message Headers

Received: from DM5PR09CA0017.namprd09.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:4::27) by DM8PR09MB7255.namprd09.prod.outlook.com (2603:10b6:5:2f0::23) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.3499.18; Thu, 29 Oct 2020 23:23:19 +0000
Received: from BL0GCC02FT008.eop-gcc02.prod.protection.outlook.com (2a01:111:f400:7d05::207) by DM5PR09CA0017.outlook.office365.com (2603:10b6:4::27) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.3499.18 via Frontend Transport; Thu, 29 Oct 2020 23:23:18 +0000
Authentication-Results: spf=pass (sender IP is 209.85.128.47) smtp.mailfrom=gmail.com; pdc.wa.gov; dkim=pass (signature was verified) header.d=gmail.com;pdc.wa.gov; dmarc=pass action=none header.from=gmail.com;compauth=pass reason=100
Received-SPF: Pass (protection.outlook.com: domain of gmail.com designates 209.85.128.47 as permitted sender) receiver=protection.outlook.com; client-ip=209.85.128.47; helo=mail-wm1-f47.google.com;
Received: from mail-wm1-f47.google.com (209.85.128.47) by BL0GCC02FT008.mail.protection.outlook.com (10.97.10.85) with Microsoft SMTP Server (version=TLS1_2, cipher=TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384) id 15.20.3520.17 via Frontend Transport; Thu, 29 Oct 2020 23:23:18 +0000
Received: by mail-wm1-f47.google.com with SMTP id w23so1321523wmi.4; Thu, 29 Oct 2020 16:23:18 -0700 (PDT)
DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=gmail.com; s=20161025; h=mime-version:from:date:message-id:subject:to; bh=twI5jbJhEeCKKFvBNP/GaU6yo86XvMy0XbRTNGk2ohk=; b=CtBkFxJheQOQoXox0PqqFyF0+RqYj0SPbmsy17W6pidoaFD7pgun3Wf21bwzODktWJ2nbdY2/LGpyqEQ1UCRksToZmbsQo04SmGXjHaqW0Qus9tFx1D05XFfZvaV2cv5EsrvAVa5LHXuTXKPN0QIV0y8vEPawVoLCvoI0f7gr+mpJ+ErXKf34quGyx/AooY/IFi4q8umFsdccQDPcNUweGw4rxawSH1siVo6sXtk9mFuv2VW25hV/cDAYCjdGKQWFW4sL9ysnaGr1R73F4GD14xqkKqVYyy9Q005aD0Z7f60YJkd+f944W6x51mH8nQLwgoeHBuTRVoy8uIMAXVW==
X-Google-DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=1e100.net; s=20161025; h=x-gm-message-state:mime-version:from:date:message-id:subject:to; bh=twI5jbJhEeCKKFvBNP/GaU6yo86XvMy0XbRTNGk2ohk=; b=dgxfahRLEGpwJzkCzH7box4Uve1WktAxJaq4PaczjffFTf1G1aQ1NabMIGkv5bULz

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X-Google-Smtp-Source: A8dHPJxbpNXcDlFT4IyOkINSXq/bz9185u02TRHuOmHb9NZHFu0zjDHC653AAvtavKVwjnyGdjs+XyGM17nQW23T0c=
X-Received: by 2002:a7b:c085:: with SMTP id r5mr1294671wmh.17.1604013796494;
Thu, 29 Oct 2020 16:23:16 -0700 (PDT)
MIME-Version: 1.0
From: April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, 29 Oct 2020 16:23:07 -0700
Message-ID: <CAOGUj0t+GjwCzNNbinBSDMqFvidqSk7RXiScaBCy2qhqcqWfg@mail.gmail.com>
Subject: Reporting assistance
To: COLIN.PEOPLES@pdc.wa.gov, COLIN.PEEPLES@pdc.wa.gov,
David lindquist <1963dbi@gmail.com>
Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary="0000000000008e107205b2d790ca"
Return-Path: aprilforthewin@gmail.com
X-EOPTAttributedMessage: 0
X-EOPTenantAttributedMessage: c76ee947-bb67-4cfc-97d1-511342745035:0
X-MS-PublicTrafficType: Email
X-MS-Office365-Filtering-Correlation-Id: bc838b5d-2434-42e6-117d-08d87c619e52
X-MS-TrafficTypeDiagnostic: DM8PR09MB7255:
X-MS-Obj-TLC-OOBClassifiers: OLM:8882;
X-Microsoft-Antispam: BCL:0;
X-Microsoft-Antispam-Message-Info:
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CIP:209.85.128.47;CTRY:US;LANG:en;SCL:1;SRV:;IPV:NLI;SFV:NSPM;H:mail-wm1-f47.google.com;PTR:mail-wm1-f47.
google.com;CAT:NONE;SFS:(4636009)(3480700007)(33964004)(58800400005)(86362001)(7116003)(336012)(76482006)(73392003)
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(42186006)(8676002)(82202003)(54886005)(67856001);DIR:INB;
X-MS-Exchange-CrossTenant-OriginalArrivalTime: 29 Oct 2020 23:23:18.2695
(UTC)
X-MS-Exchange-CrossTenant-Network-Message-Id: bc838b5d-2434-42e6-117d-08d87c619e52
X-MS-Exchange-CrossTenant-Id: c76ee947-bb67-4cfc-97d1-511342745035
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BL0GCC02FT008.eop-gcc02.prod.protection.outlook.com
X-MS-Exchange-CrossTenant-AuthAs: Anonymous
X-MS-Exchange-CrossTenant-FromEntityHeader: Internet
X-MS-Exchange-Transport-CrossTenantHeadersStamped: DM8PR09MB7255

Final-Recipient: rfc822:COLIN.PEOPLES@pdc.wa.gov

Action: failed

Status: 5.1.10

Diagnostic-Code: smtp;550 5.1.10 RESOLVER.ADR.RecipientNotFound; Recipient COLIN.PEOPLES@pdc.wa.gov not found by SMTP address lookup

----- Forwarded message -----

From: April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>

To: COLIN.PEOPLES@pdc.wa.gov, COLIN.PEEPLES@pdc.wa.gov, David lindquist <1963dbi@gmail.com>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Thu, 29 Oct 2020 16:23:07 -0700

Subject: Reporting assistance

Colin, and David,

The purpose of this email is to facilitate a door opening for David to have support for help with the PDC. David when I first started working with PDC there were a lot of questions and some of my reports with my campaign were late. PDC has always worked timely with me and worked to help me with compliance. Out of government, I would say PDC is the best at helping the people they serve.

Background explained to Colin is that our Treasurer gave his intent to resign in March. We had a central committee meeting planned to elect a new Treasurer which did not take place because of Covid. We met finally I believe in July for the Central Committee meeting where David was elected. David is trying to take over the PDC requirements but could use some assistance but due to this transfer of position, there is some reporting errors

David has reached out for help from different people and was unable to get their assistance. I am sending this in an attempt to try to get David connected with PDC and help facilitate him having some PDC support.

I called Colin today and explained that there is a small fundraiser that totaled around 1,000 (in the paperwork I gave to you on the day you did the filing). I mentioned that it is not showing up and my confusion around that as well as several expenditures. I also mentioned that you have been trying to take over this role and that we have about 3,000 - 4,000 in expenditures not reported. He suggested that it is possible that you are not seeing the correct reporting dates because the Committee is not set up for "participating in General elections". He can help us with this but has given me a quick rundown so if we get together we can fix it and get the items reported. We have made no large contributions to anyone so not as worried about the contributions when it comes to reporting last-minute contributions to candidates. We have made no contribution over 250.00 but we did make some mailers and sent out a small limited amount of them so we really need to get that in the system as soon as possible. Most of the expenditures were made after the first week of October. He said we have missed likely two reporting dates. This is what I understand from talking with Colin.

Your report you made was from 8/31 until like mid-October

- 23RD is not set up for participating in the General election and we need to fix that by going onto Orca and doing the following:
- Click - FILE
- Click - COMMITTEE INFORMATION
- THEN AFTER THAT CLICK ON C4 REPORTING PERIODS
- HIS HUNCH IS THAT IT IS NOT SELECTED AS PARTICIPATES IN GENERAL BALLOT SO SELECT THAT THEN CLICK OKAY
- THERE SHOULD BE TWO THAT ARE LATE
- THE EXPENDITURES MAY BE IN THERE BUT IF NOT SELECTED AS GENERAL BALLOT THAT WOULD BE THE ISSUE
-
- THIS WOULD OPEN UP TWO MORE C4 THAT WOULD NEED to be FILED and we will be late on those.
-
- C3 WAS FILED OCTOBER 2ND so we are just behind for October only but I am very sure that the roughly 1,000 small fundraiser event is not showing on the reporting and I see a place where it shows a contribution report for like .05 and I am thinking that was likely you attempting to report but made an error because you would have reported that on the day with the rest of the small fundraisers.
- ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OCTOBER 2ND UNTIL THEN NOW ARE NOT IN COMPLIANCE
- PDC WANTS TO BE ABLE TO HELP OUT SO LETS

Colin can help you and we can meet up and if we do it early morning then if there is any issue I can contact PDC or you and have it fixed probably same day.

April Ferguson
Chairman 23rd Legislative District Republicans

Kim Bradford <kim.bradford@pdc.wa.gov>
To: "aprilforthewin@gmail.com" <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>, "1963dbl@gmail.com" <1963dbl@gmail.com>
Cc: Colin Peeples <colin.peeples@pdc.wa.gov>

Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 4:37 PM

Hi April and David,

I'm glad to hear that Colin has been helpful, but I think at this point we need to get you in touch with our filer assistance specialist team. David, please submit your questions to pdc@pdc.wa.gov so that the team can begin assisting.

Kim Bradford
Communications and Outreach Director
Public Disclosure Commission

[Quoted text hidden]

April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>
To: Kim Bradford <kim.bradford@pdc.wa.gov>
Cc: "1963dbl@gmail.com" <1963dbl@gmail.com>, Colin Peeples <colin.peeples@pdc.wa.gov>

Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 4:48 PM

That works also I just wanted to make sure that David works with someone who is familiar with the situation so he can get the help he needs in his new role and able to bring us into compliance.

Familiarity can make the learning process easier. Everyone at the PDC has always been helpful so we can't go wrong with anyone on the assistance team.

April Ferguson

[Quoted text hidden]

Kim Bradford <kim.bradford@pdc.wa.gov>
To: April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>
Cc: "1963dbl@gmail.com" <1963dbl@gmail.com>, Colin Peeples <colin.peeples@pdc.wa.gov>

Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 10:09 AM

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/2?ik=5bea7a568b&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-a%3Ar-6925438311934037753&simpl=msg-a%3Ar-78952137...> 5/6

Thanks, April. Submitting to pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov allows PDC staffers to collaborate on assisting the committee and track the issues that you're having.

David, in addition to one-on-one help, there are some resources available to help you learn more about ORCA. We have a class coming up on Nov. 18: <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/training/online-orca-training-candidates-political-committees-6>. We also have a video of class material that is available for viewing at any time: <https://youtu.be/QenalJ3Dbhm>

Kim

[Quoted text hidden]

Kim Bradford <kim.bradford@pdcc.wa.gov>
To: April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>
Cc: "1963dbi@gmail.com" <1963dbi@gmail.com>, Colin Peeples <colin.peeples@pdcc.wa.gov>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 4:19 PM

David, have you had a chance to connect with our filer assistance team? We need to get the committee's reports up to date.

Kim

[Quoted text hidden]

April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>
To: Kim Bradford <kim.bradford@pdcc.wa.gov>
Cc: "1963dbi@gmail.com" <1963dbi@gmail.com>, Colin Peeples <colin.peeples@pdcc.wa.gov>

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 5:57 PM

Kim,

I worked with David and we worked updating but I am thinking there is a couple of contribution that needs to be amended so our next day will be working on those together. We also saw the PDC said after we entered everything that we have 450.00 that we should have in the bank but we only have 250.00 so think there are a few errors. I am going through it with a fine-tooth comb trying to find the errors. We have a few mistakes I think that we go through it with a fine-tooth comb we could get them amended and going forward we should be in complete compliance. We have created some forms for filing out by the treasurer as he receives contributions and receipts for expenditures that include on the forms the upcoming filing dates and requires him to check the date it must be filed so on a filing date he will be able to just pull the forms and know what gets entered in and what does not and then check the forms in the checkbox to show they have been reported to the PDC and on which dates (this is a good method for tracking and having reminders to when things must be filed). I also am helping David until it is all corrected because it is much easier to learn on something if you are not trying to fix prior mistakes or build up. You will hear from me as well as him over the next week as we work on correcting.

You should also know that there is an individual that asked for a public inspection. This individual's behavior has been out of control. When they arrived for inspection we asked for no video recording or pictures to be taken. They started going through the documents and then informed us an auditor is showing up to audit the records. We told them that was not acceptable because by law they must state everyone participating in the inspection of records. They then informed us they had been recording us which we informed them was illegal. During the visit we tried to not engage where not necessary but this was made nearly impossible as they would try to question us beyond the scope of the purpose of inspection of records and throw remarks like "April put on your big girl panties" I informed them we were not there to be questioned and that they needed to proceed with their inspection. They then started asking us to leave the room and let them inspect alone. When we said we would not they said that it was harassment for us to remain in the room. They tried to ask us questions and interrogate us as well and I informed them an inspection of records is not a time to do a verbal questioning of the committee (not a deposition or something). They then started trying to sneak pictures of the records by trying to hide the fact they were taking pictures. When this happened I told them "the examination will have to end if they cannot follow rules". We did not actually end we just asked them to comply with our rules and I stated RCW concerning the examination of records. When this happened the one individual told the other "she is not going to let us do anything" and the other said "should we call the police" the other responded "yes" and then said something to "we could use the police report for our court case". When this happened we had to contact the police concerning the inspection of records and inform them the illegal recording was taking place and the threats which seemed like they were trying to intimidate us and in my opinion extort us into allowing them to do more than they were allowed to do. Police took the report and did inform us that the individual had claimed to delete the illegal recording of the inspection of records but did admit to its existence and it taking place.

We had our books in an order other than a few PDC errors we had on us the necessary records, from bank statements, ledgers, receipts, documentation of transactions and contributions like the Paypal history and more but they wanted in addition things we do not keep such as the last four digits of the debit card number for each contributor. Can you correct me in case I am wrong? Are we required to have the last four digits of the credit card numbers on the list of contributors?

On top of the issue, we are dealing with on trying to get our PDC in compliance we are dealing with someone that appears to have a bad motive and in my opinion exploiting the fact that our treasurer is learning and trying to ensure we come into compliance in the areas we fell behind. Are we in the right to ask them to comply with the rules concerning the inspection of records? Was there anything wrong with the fact we did not have the last 4 digits of debit card numbers with each contributor? Is there any PDC violation in these two things? I would appreciate some clarity

April Ferguson

[Quoted text hidden]

EXHIBIT B

Re: PDC - Question

3 messages

PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>

Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 11:24 AM

Reply-To: PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>

To: aprilforthewin@gmail.com

Good morning April,

Thank you for reaching out with your inquiry regarding depositing funds. Please be advised that RCW 42.17A.220 requires that all contributions be deposited in your campaign depository (bank account) within five business days of receipt. Expenditures should then be made from that account, not using cash directly.

If you are currently out of compliance with the timeliness requirement, you should immediately deposit those funds and report the late deposit on a C-3 report in accordance with RCW 42.17A.235.

Thank you,

Mx. Fox Blackhorn**Compliance Coordinator 2****Pronouns: They/Them/Their****360.753.1980 | 360.753.1111****Public Disclosure Commission**

Shining Light on Washington Politics Since 1972

Washington State law established email as the PDC's official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055). Filers have a duty to amend their reports within 10 days of any material changes, such as new email addresses. Please ensure your email address is up to date.

To respond, please reply to this email.

Washington Public Disclosure Commission

<http://www.pdc.wa.gov>

1.360.753.1111

On Tue, 17 Nov at 11:03 AM, April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com> wrote:

I cannot find in the laws if it is okay if a political committee keeps cash on hand instead of depositing and pays a vendor with contributions received. There was Trump sales. I kept on me the cash to pay the vendor but I reported the contributions resulting from the Trump sales but kept on hand the cash. Is this an issue?

Should have I deposited and then paid. I still have the funds and am paying the vendor tomorrow? Would it be better to deposit and then pay the vendor or can I pay the vendor with the cash?

Would like some clarification if I made an error on this and would it be better to deposit late and still make the payment or not deposit at all and just make the payment?

April Ferguson

April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 11:39 AM

That is the problem I think it was reported as deposited but it was not actually so the only issue is I need to actually deposit it . It's not too much but I am trying to find any place where we did not follow and get corrected: I was mistaken on this about keeping money on hand to pay vendors .

Thanks we will deposit and see if there is a way to amend date deposited .

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 17, 2020, at 11:24 AM, PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>

Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 12:11 PM

Reply-To: PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>

To: aprilforthewin@gmail.com

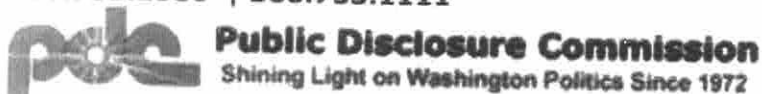
April,

Absolutely, thank you for reaching out and clarifying. The C-3 report has a date for contributions received, a date for the deposit, and a date that it's filed. If you've already reported the contribution being received, then you filed a report with an incorrect deposit date. Please deposit the funds and amend your C-3 report to reflect the actual deposit date.

If you need any assistance making the amendments call us at 1-360-753-1111, and when you get to the robot select option 1. They can walk you through the steps of amending or help you if you run into any filing issues.

Have a great day,

Mx. Fox Blackhorn
Compliance Coordinator 2
Pronouns: They/Them/Their
360.753.1980 | 360.753.1111



Washington State law established email as the PDC's official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055). Filers have a duty to amend their reports within 10 days of any material changes, such as new email addresses. Please ensure your email address is up to date.

To respond, please reply to this email.

Washington Public Disclosure Commission
<http://www.pdc.wa.gov>
1.360.753.1111

[Quoted text hidden]

EXHIBIT C

EXHIBIT D

Public Inspection of Committee Financial Records

Elaina Gonzales <elainaluz@yahoo.com>

Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 3:03 PM

Reply-To: Elaina Gonzales <elainaluz@yahoo.com>

To: April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>, Ralph Adamson <ralphad@comcast.net>, Lindquist David <1963dbl@gmail.com>, Daniel Hodun <dhodun@comcast.net>, Rick Kuhns <rgkuhns@juno.com>, Rick Kuhns <rick.kuhns.wa@gmail.com>, Autumn Bennett <autumnbennett2009@gmail.com>

Hello,

This is a formal request from myself and Pam Madden-Boyer for the 23rd LD Committee Financial Records. As per PDC regulations, we are requesting a public inspection of the committee's financial records and this request must be honored.

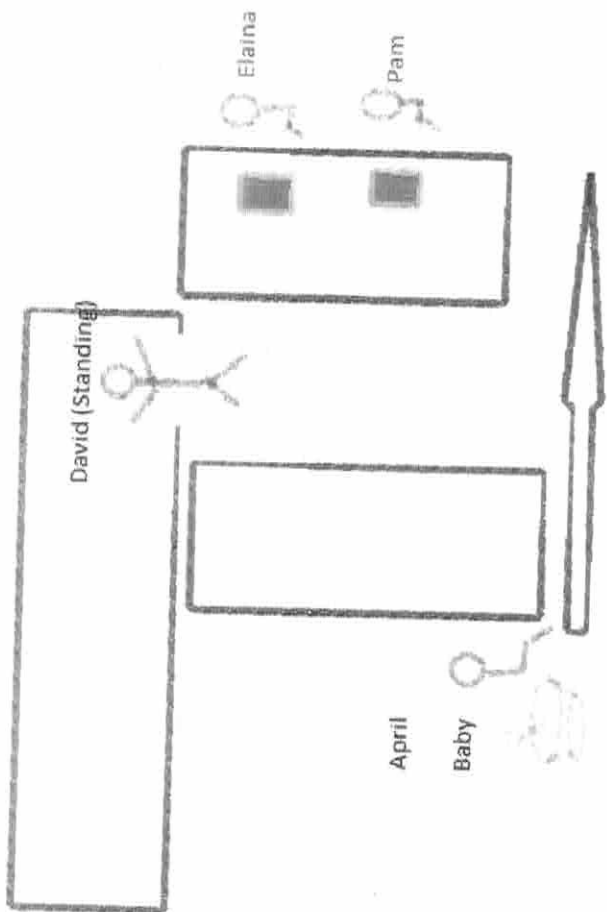
We request that this viewing occur on Friday, October 30th, Sunday, November 1st, or Monday, November 2nd at KCRP Headquarters in Silverdale. Pam and I are available any time Friday, Sunday and Monday.

Please bring to this viewing the bank statements for the entire year of 2020.

Thank you,

Elaina Gonzales-Blanton, and Pamela Madden-Boyer

EXHIBIT E



9 feet

EXHIBIT F

Re: PDC - 23rd LD

3 messages

PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>
Reply-To: PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>
To: aprilforthewin@gmail.com
Cc: 1963db1@gmail.com

Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 6:36 PM

Hi April,

Both the requester and the campaign are required to comply with the rules of campaign books inspection, as outlined in WAC 390-16-043 (<https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=390-16-043>). That rule also details what records must be provided.

Kim Bradford

--
Washington State law established email as the PDC's official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055). Filers have a duty to amend their reports within 10 days of any material changes, such as new email addresses. Please ensure your email address is up to date.

To respond, please reply to this email.

Washington Public Disclosure Commission
<http://www.pdc.wa.gov>
1.360.753.1111

On Wed, 4 Nov at 6:34 PM , April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com> wrote:
Kim,

I worked with David and we worked updating but I am thinking there is a couple of contribution that needs to be amended so our next day will be working on those together. We also saw the PDC said after we entered everything that we have 450.00 that we should have in the bank but we only have 250.00 so think there are a few errors. I am going through it with a fine-tooth comb trying to find the errors. We have a few mistakes I think that we go through it with a fine-tooth comb we could get them amended and going forward we should be in complete compliance. We have created some forms for filing out by the treasurer as he receives contributions and receipts for expenditures that include on the forms the upcoming filing dates and requires him to check the date it must be filed so on a filing date he will be able to just pull the forms and know what gets entered in and what does not and then check the forms in the checkbox to show they have been reported to the PDC and on which dates (this is a good method for tracking and having reminders to when things must be filed). I also am helping David until it is all corrected because it is much easier to learn on something if you are not trying to fix prior mistakes or build up. You will hear from me as well as him over the next week as we work on correcting.

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informed them we were not there to be questioned and that they needed to proceed with their inspection. They then started asking us to leave the room and let them inspect alone. When we said we would not they said that it was harassment for us to remain in the room. They tried to ask us questions and interrogate us as well and I informed them an inspection of records is not a time to do a verbal questioning of the committee (not a deposition or something). They then started trying to sneak pictures of the records by trying to hide the fact they were taking pictures. When this happened I told them "the examination will have to end if they cannot follow rules". We did not actually end we just asked them to comply with our rules and I stated RCW concerning the examination of records. When this happened the one individual told the other "she is not going to let us do anything" and the other said "should we call the police" the other responded "yes" and then said something to "we could use the police report for our court case". When this happened we had to contact the police concerning the inspection of records and inform them the illegal recording was taking place and the threats which seemed like they were trying to intimidate us and in my opinion extort us into allowing them to do more than they were allowed to do. Police took the report and did inform us that the individual had claimed to delete the illegal recording of the inspection of records but did admit to its existence and it taking place.

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April Ferguson

PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>
Reply-To: PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>
To: aprilforthewin@gmail.com

Fri, Nov 6, 2020 at 7:16 PM

Thank you for contacting the Public Disclosure Commission regarding "23rd LD".

We hope that your request was handled to your satisfaction.

We would appreciate your feedback regarding the resolution of this request.

Please tell us what you think of your support experience.

☐ Awesome

☐ Just Okay

☐ Not Good

EXHIBIT G

23rd Data

6 messages

Mark DeBenon <debenon@gmail.com> Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:19 PM
 To: Pam <pammadboy@gmail.com>, Tony Stephens <kcrpchair@gmail.com>, April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>, Dave Lindquist <1963dbl@gmail.com>

Pam,

Here is the bank register from January 1st through September 28th, when I was removed from the account.

To the best of my knowledge, the PDC reporting was complete through mid-September, when I sat down with David Lindquist and he made the entries as I helped him.

Mark

PS

In looking at the data, I just realized that I had accidentally used the 23rd's POS card at Starbucks. My personal account is with the same bank and the cards look the same. The highlighted entry was the mistake - I will return this amount ASAP.

 **202023rdBank.xlsx**
 15K

Tony Stephens <kcrpchair@gmail.com> Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:21 PM
 To: Mark DeBenon <debenon@gmail.com>
 Cc: Pam <pammadboy@gmail.com>, April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>, Dave Lindquist <1963dbl@gmail.com>

That is not a problem. You did not violate the PDC. Just pay back the 23rd. If the board has no problem, there is no problem.

Tony

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark DeBenon <debenon@gmail.com> Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:25 PM
 To: Tony Stephens <kcrpchair@gmail.com>
 Cc: Pam <pammadboy@gmail.com>, April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com>, Dave Lindquist <1963dbl@gmail.com>

Repaid via website.

[Quoted text hidden]

April Ferguson <aprilforthewin@gmail.com> Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:32 PM
 To: Tony Stephens <kcrpchair@gmail.com>
 Cc: Mark DeBenon <debenon@gmail.com>, Pam <pammadboy@gmail.com>, Dave Lindquist <1963dbl@gmail.com>

Sounds like an accident but I do remember you did say once you were meeting with I think it was Ralph to discuss something and you were like meeting for coffee. I thought that you met to discuss 23rd business but not sure. I had seen that purchase once when checking on history and was not alarmed because I believed you met with Ralph.

On Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 2:22 PM Tony Stephens <kcrpchair@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

ENCLOSURE 2

Mark DeBenon
PO BOX 879
Keyport, WA 98345

December 4th, 2020

Washington 23rd Legislative District Republicans
2916 NW Bucklin Hill Rd. #175
Silverdale, WA 98383

Committee,

I am very pleased to be given an opportunity to help address any aspect of the spurious and malign allegations against the 23rd LD Committee.

Here are the events, to the best of my recollection, which occurred between March 6th, 2020, and September 11th, 2020 as regards the transfer of Treasurer duties between myself and David Lindquist.

On March 6th, 2020, I resigned as Treasurer of the 23rd Legislative district. My understanding was that Washington State RCWs require that a Legislative District would dissolve if there was no active Treasurer, so therefore I committed to "staying on" until a replacement was elected.

As everyone is aware, Governor Jay Inslee began "Lock downs" of society and enterprise on March 23rd 2020, making the possibility of a Kitsap County Republican Party Central Committee (KCRP) meeting (as per the by-laws of the KCRP and the 23rd LD requiring officers of the 23rd LD be elected during Central Committee meetings of the KCRP) impossible. In fact, the 23rd LD committee was precluded from holding meetings during this time-frame as well.

During the June 6th 2020 Central Committee Meeting, David Lindquist was elected as my replacement as Treasurer. I immediately began to request a "transfer" of duties between myself and David. During this time, the Bank of record for the 23rd LD closed ALL branches in the area due to Covid-19, and left a single branch open – in Port orchard – over 15 miles away. It is obvious that with the conflict of schedules, and the Covid-19 restrictions placed upon us, it was many weeks before I was able to remove myself from responsibility over the LD's bank account, and transfer that responsibility to the newly-elected Treasurer. During this period, I was unaware of any transactions within the 23rd, apart from the monthly storage unit rent, and two \$500 donations from the KCRP and the BIRW which were duly reported to the PDC.

I need to state unequivocally the neither the newly-elected Treasurer of the 23rd LD, David Lindquist, nor the Chair of the 23rd LD, posed any incumbrance to getting the banking changes done. It was a matter of distance, work schedules, and Covid-19 restrictions. After transferring control of the 23rd LD Bank account to David Lindquist, he and I were finally able to meet on September 11th, 2020 to transfer the Treasurer duties to him, and hand-off Treasurer data.

On September 11th, 2020 I provided Treasurer Lindquist a binder, containing print-outs all previous C3 and C4 reports, an annotated Bank Ledger, and a USB drive with files such as a back-up of our PDC files, the PDC report-filing token, Donor Envelope graphics, Foreign Entity forms, Logos, and many other items.

On that September 11th meeting at the KCRP offices between myself and David Lindquist I installed the ORCA software on a PC there, and had David enter the transactions reflected in the Bank Ledger (which I had transferred and annotated as I was able) to the PDC, and current as of 9/11/20. There was a single further transaction – monthly rent for the 23rd LD storage unit, the next day which fell under my tenure. On September 12th, 2020, I was satisfied that the 23rd LD PDC requirements had all been met, and the LD was up-to-date with all of their reporting.

Permit me to say at this point, since there are personal allegations against April Ferguson, I want assure the committee that in the past 2 years that I have known the Chair of the 23rd Legislative District, April Ferguson has at no time suggested, hinted, or directly asked that I do anything even remotely corrupt in order to enrich herself personally. Ever. It is my opinion that these allegations against the 23rd have their roots in long-seated personal, as opposed to professional, resentments against April and further I contend that these allegations were nothing more than “performance art” to ensure that April Ferguson is not re-elected as Chair of the 23rd at the 2020 Republican Party Re-Organization meeting. I would like to add that it is my firm belief through personal observation that April Ferguson has done more for the Republican Party as Chair of the 23rd LD, and by extension the KCRP, than anyone else in the KCRP and by a wide margin.

The mission, people, and existence of the 23rd LD is very important to me. I have consistently endeavored to make reports which were both timely and accurate, so that the 23rd LD could effectively advance Republican candidates and causes.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to clarify these events. I attest that I have detailed, to the best of my recollection, everything of importance that transpired between March 6th, 2020, and September 11th, 2020 as regards the transfer of Treasurer duties between myself and David Lindquist.

If you have any further questions, or requests for documents from me, please contact me via email at debenon@startmail.com.

Best Regards,



Mark DeBenon
PCO 105

ENCLOSURE 3

I, David Linquist (the current 23rd LD Treasurer) state the following:

1. Regarding Allegation #1: Failure to timely deposit funds

- a. I have a full time job that makes it difficult to conduct treasurer business for the 23rd LD.
- b. Due to my work hours, I cannot make it to the bank during normal business hours. COVID-19 restrictions have added further difficulties. Our local bank branch has been closed and the only open branch in our area now is located an additional 30 minutes away from our local branch and about 45 minutes from where I live.
- c. I'm working with the 23rd LD committee on finding better methods to ensure deposits are completed in a timely fashion.

2. Regarding Allegation #2: Not timely reporting contributions & expenses

- a. I didn't become a fully active Treasurer until September 11th. The previous treasurer and I met at the KCRP office on that day for a turnover of the treasurer duties. I was given a binder, containing print-outs of all previous C3 and C4 reports, an annotated Bank Ledger, along with a USB drive with files. The previous treasurer installed the ORCA software on a PC there and he helped me enter some transactions reflected in the Bank Ledger to the PDC. We also went over information & keys to the mailbox for the 23rd LD.
- b. I have no computer or printer. So, I currently have to use the computer at the KCRP office. This is very cumbersome due to the distance and gaining access to the office. We are currently working on finding an easier method in order to ensure data required for the PDC is entered in a timely fashion.
- c. The PDC is made aware of our infractions regarding reporting contributions & expenses as previously stated. I have no "formal" training in the "ORCA" program. PDC personnel are currently providing me on-the-job training for this program as I amend and enter data into the program.
- d. I do not have any training in accounting or being a treasurer but am learning more about how to be a treasurer every day.
- e. NOTE regarding on the expense of \$21.58 on 5/10/20 identified in the complaint: My further review of our records revealed that this was actually repaid to the account on 10/13/2020. Our PDC records are being amended to reflect this.

3. Regarding Allegation #3: Failure to fully comply with request for inspection of books

- a. On Nov. 3rd, Pam Madden-Boyer and Elaina Gonzales-Blanton met April Ferguson and me at the KCRP office to inspect the Treasurer's books.
- b. They started to look at the books and divide them up. When asked about the treasurer books, at no time did I say "That is all she (April) gave me." They also mentioned that an auditor would also be coming to the meeting. We told them that it wouldn't be allowed as it wasn't in the original email to April that set up the meeting. (This auditor never actually showed up to the meeting.)

- c. Elaina also mentioned she was recording from the time they walked in the room. We told them that we did not agree to that & told them to stop recording.
- d. At no time did April or I threaten Pam or Elaina. However, they displayed anger in a threatening manner when we denied their requests as they were not in compliance with the RCW.
- e. When the conversation became adversarial, Pam got up abruptly and told me to put the books away.
- f. Due to the increased hostility, April said we should call the police and I agreed. They left and April called 911. An officer showed up to take our statements. A police report was filed documenting this incident.



David B. Lindquist
23rd LD Treasurer
PCO 450
12/9/2020

ENCLOSURE 4



23rd Legislative District Republican Committee Meeting Minutes – Dec 9, 2020

Call to order: The 23rd LDR Committee was called to order in executive session at KCRP HQ by the Chair April Ferguson at 7:10 pm.

Purpose of the meeting was to review and approve the report submitted by the Special Committee to respond to PDC complaints from Elaina Gonzales-Blanton on November 9th and 10th, which have been assigned PDC Case Number 80600. See minutes of Dec 2, 2020

Roll Call: Present April Ferguson (Chairman), David Lindquest (Treasurer), members, Rick Kuhns, Ralph Adamson, Absent Autumn Starre Bennet, Excused Daniel Hodun

Minutes of 12/2/2020 are approved without corrections

Treasurer Report: Treasurer is working on amendments with the PDC

Chair requests a statement to PCOs in regard to the PDC complaint to be issued by 6 PM 12/10/2020

New Business:

Motion carried to accept the report forwarded from the Special Committee (filed with minutes). Response to be forwarded to the PDC not later than close of business 12/11/2020.

Motion carried that this committee obtain an independent PDC compliance review for 2020 (up to the start date of the review) by a qualified individual following completion of the PDC amendments activity that is now in-progress.

Motion carried to approve the above minutes of this meeting.

Adjourned by chair at 8:10 pm

Ralph Adamson - Secretary

12/9/2020
Date of Approval