

Respondent Name

Retain Sheriff Hatcher

Complainant Name

Kathlen Wierschke

Complaint Description**Kathlen Wierschke**

(Mon, 11 Jan 2021 at 10:23 PM)

This letter is to provide information for actions that I believe to be in violation of PDC rules and regulations. These violations have been committed by the group Retain Sheriff Hatcher, which filed with the PDC on 1 December 2020. The purpose of this group is to oppose the current recall effort against Sheriff Hatcher.

The first violation deals with soliciting and collecting donations prior to filing with the PDC and which have still not been reported. Figure 1 shows a screenshot from Facebook that was taken on 6 August 2020. In this post, Lisa Thomas solicits funds by asking for "Donations and checks". The account associated with the fundraising is named "Citizens for Sheriff Hatcher" which is not a group that has filed with the PDC. The association between this account and the Retain Sheriff Hatcher group is shown in Figure 2 which is a Facebook post dated August 19th and was posted by Patrick Bauguess, who is the one who is the treasurer on the PDC filing. Figure 3 shows a screenshot of a Facebook post that was taken on 6 August that shows Lisa Thomas donating to a fundraiser for Patrick Bauguess, confirming that he is connected with the fundraiser. Figure 4 then shows that Patrick recognizes that these donations needed to be reported as donations.

Another name associated with the Citizens for Sheriff Hatcher fundraising effort is Kevin Morton. Figure 5 shows a Facebook post dated August 16th that was posted by Kevin Morton, an admin for the group, who is further soliciting their fundraising effort. His name is important because later, he is the one involved in their procurement and distribution of signs. Figure 6 shows another Facebook post by Kevin Morton, dated September 20th that shows they were continuing to solicit for funds at the end of September.

In addition to soliciting donations, the group has also been selling shirts to raise money. Figure 7 shows a Facebook post from Patrick, dated September 29th where he is selling the shirts. There is no filing for any money raised from the shirts nor expenses for getting the shirts made.

Another expense that the group has incurred is in signage. Figure 8 shows a Facebook post dated December 16th where Kevin Morton announces that they are getting signs together for people to put up. Figure 9 shows signs that have been put up after the comment in Figure 8 was posted. Figure 10 – Facebook post from December 26th announcing a rally where shirts and signs will be available. Figure 11 – Facebook post from December 27 showing they are collecting money from shirt sales

Other expenditures or in-kind donations that I am aware of include:

Banners

Figure 12 – Facebook post dated October 1st showing a banner and individuals wearing the shirts they are selling

Petitions

As Figure 11 shows, the group has printed petitions and they are collecting signatures on those petitions. They have not filed any expenses for the printing of the petitions. Figure 13 further shows that these petitions have been printed and in use since before September 1st.

Website

The group is also running a website <https://supportsheriffhatcher.com/>. This website is not reported and has a place to collect donations. Figure 14 shows a screenshot of the websites donation page, showing the association with the group Citizens for Sheriff Hatcher.

It is my contention that this group has violated PDC rules by soliciting donations and raising funds through the sales of shirts, as well as making expenditures, all without filing a PDC Filing. After filing late, they still have not reported any income or expenditures. It is also my contention that these rules were broken knowingly. Evidence for this is found in Figure 4 where they recognize back in August that they need information from donors to file. It is also evidenced in Figure 15 which shows that another group member Lisa Thomas ran a campaign for election in 2019 in which she filed with the PDC. Lisa Thomas is aware of PDC rules as evidenced by the two reminders that she was given by the group as evidenced above in Figure 4. and also given that another group member, Lisa Thomas, ran her own campaign and filed with the PDC in 2019 as shown in Figure 15. Further evidence of their knowing violation is that Lisa Thomas, who is part of this group has run her own campaign in 2019 and had her own PDC filing (Figure 15) and even received two reminders for violations (Figure 16). This is why I am filing this report.

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

They are willfully hiding the donors who are contributing donations and in-kind services and the expenses used to Retain Sheriff Hatcher. There is no transparency in this campaign.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found

Evidence can be found on their 3 Facebook pages, one page which has been deleted in recent months. Facebook Group: Support your local sheriff Facebook Page: Support Sheriff Hatcher. You can find signs in Benton City on 9th Ave, by Conoco, on Babs Ave across from the Storage unit. Other signs can be found in Richland(Barth Ave), Kennewick, West Richland and Prosser. They collect signatures every Sunday from 1-3pm at John Dam Plaza.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Jon Wierschke-734-845-9114

Certification (Complainant)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.