



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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June 21, 2021

Delivered electronically to "rcs99353@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Benton County Deputy Sheriffs Guild , PDC Case 87792

Dear Renee Slocumb:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on March 27, 2021. Your complaint alleged that Benton County Deputy Sheriffs Guild may have violated RCW 42.17A.405(3) by making over-limit contributions to the political committee, Recall Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher, a committee organized for the purpose of supporting the recall of Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statute; the response provided by Benton County Deputy Sheriffs Guild; the applicable PDC reports showing receipt of the contributions; and action taken by the Commission at its May 27, 2021 Commission meeting concerning allegations that Committee to Recall Jerry Hatcher accepted over-limit contributions from Benton County Deputy Sheriffs Guild, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- On November 6, 2020, Benton County Deputy Sheriffs Guild made a \$5,000 monetary contribution to Committee to Recall Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher in the amount of \$5,000, exceeding the contribution limit by \$4,000.
- Benton County Deputy Sheriffs Guild stated it was unaware contribution limits applied to a recall campaign since the recall committee did not support a specific candidate to replace the Sheriff who was the subject of the recall effort.
- On May 27, 2021, the Commission accepted a Stipulation as to Facts and Deferred Enforcement of Contribution Limits, signed by PDC staff and the Respondent. The Commission's action deferred enforcement upon adherence to the conditions set forth in the Stipulation for the over-limit contributions accepted by the committee.

- The Respondent's compliance with the conditions of the deferred enforcement will be used by the Public Disclosure Commission to assess any future complaint that alleges any violation of RCW 42.17A.405(3) and (14) by the Respondent in relation to its support for the recall of Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, making an over-limit contribution to Committee to Recall Jerry Hatcher does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation. The alleged violation of making an over-limit contribution is being dismissed, in part, because enforcement concerning the acceptance of over-limit contributions during a recall campaign is being deferred.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically Signed Philip E. Stutzman

Phil Stutzman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically Signed Barbara Sandahl

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Alan Harvey, Benton County Deputy Sheriffs Guild