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5 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**  
6 **OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

7 In Re: The Matter of Enforcement Action  
8 Against:

9 JAMES MOREM,  
10 Respondent.  
11

PDC CASE NO. 94061  
FINAL ORDER ON  
RECONSIDERATION

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13 This matter was heard at the Regular Meeting of the Washington State Public Disclosure  
14 Commission (Commission) on October 28, 2021, by telephonic and online streaming access.  
15 James Morem (Respondent) requested reconsideration of the Presiding Officer's Order, issued  
16 following a Brief Enforcement Hearing (Brief Adjudicative Proceeding) held July 15, 2021. The  
17 hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 and 42.17A RCW, and Chapter 390-37  
18 WAC.

19 Commissioners present were Fred Jarrett, Commission Chair (presiding); Nancy Isserlis,  
20 Commission Vice-Chair; and Commissioners William Downing and Allen Hayward. Also  
21 present both telephonically and online were Assistant Attorney General John S. Meader  
22 representing the Commission, Assistant Attorney General Chad Standifer, representing PDC  
23 Staff, and Tabatha Blacksmith, PDC Compliance Coordinator. The Respondent appeared on his  
24 own behalf. The proceeding was open to the public as limited by Governor's Proclamation 20-  
25 28 *et seq.* and recorded.

26 The Commissioners had before them the following materials:

1. Case memorandum dated October 28, 2021, prepared by Tabatha Blacksmith, PDC Compliance Coordinator;
2. Brief Enforcement Hearing Notice, served June 30 2021;
3. Initial Order Imposing Fine, issued August 12, 2021;
4. Financial Affairs Statement (CY 2020), filed October 14, 2021;
5. Respondent's written request for reconsideration, received October 14, 2021;
6. Reconsideration Hearing Notice, served October 18, 2021.

## I. FINDINGS OF FACT

This matter involves James Morem (Respondent), a City Council Member for the City of Buckley during calendar year 2020. His term ended on March 23, 2021. During a Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, Respondent was found to have violated RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 Report) no later than April 15, 2021. At the Brief Enforcement Hearing, an Order imposing a \$250 civil fine, with \$150 suspended, was entered. The Respondent has no prior violations of RCW 42.17A.700 with the PDC.

1. In March and April of 2021, PDC staff sent email reminders to all elected and appointed officials regarding the missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020.

2. On May 12, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a warning notice regarding the missing F-1 report. The notice was sent to Respondent's email address-of-record.

3. On June 30, 2021, PDC staff emailed a hearing notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to be held on July 15, 2021, to Respondent's email address-of-record.

1           4.       On August 17, 2021, PDC staff served the Initial Order memorializing the  
2 Commission's ruling, by email, to the Respondent's contact email address-of-record.

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4           6.       On October 8, 2021, PDC staff spoke to Respondent by telephone and learned the  
5 two personal emails used to notify the Respondent did not belong to him.

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7           7.       The Respondent filed the missing F-1 report on October 14, 2021;  
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9           8.       On October 14, 2021, Respondent submitted written materials to the PDC to  
10 appeal the August 12, 2021 Order based on his claim that he did not receive the hearing notice,  
11 he did not have access to emails sent to his official email address after he resigned his position,  
12 and the other emails on file for him were incorrect.

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14           9.       On October 18, 2021, PDC staff served Respondent, by email, with a hearing  
15 notice for an October 28, 2021 Reconsideration hearing before the Commission, along with  
16 instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely.

## 17 18                               **II.       CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

19           1.       The Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to Chapter  
20 42.17A RCW, the State campaign finance and disclosure law; Chapter 34.05 RCW, the  
21 Administrative Procedure Act; and Title 390 WAC.

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23           2.       Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, the Respondent was required to file an F-1 report  
24 disclosing financial information for the calendar year 2020 no later than April 15, 2021.  
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3. The Respondent violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to timely file the F-1 report for calendar year 2020 that was due no later than April 15, 2021.

## II. ORDER

The Request for Reconsideration is DENIED. This Order on Reconsideration will be the Final Order.

SO ORDERED this 16th day of November, 2021.

WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC  
DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

FOR THE COMMISSION:

~~Joe Cornett~~

Fred Jarrett,  
Chair, Public Disclosure Commission

*This order sent by email to:*  
James Morem, Respondent  
[Jamesmm2828@yahoo.com](mailto:Jamesmm2828@yahoo.com)

Tabatha Blacksmith,  
PDC Compliance Coordinator,  
[tabatha.blacksmith@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:tabatha.blacksmith@pdc.wa.gov)

I, Tabatha Blacksmith, certify that I emailed a copy of this order to the Respondent at his respective email address.

e-signed Tabatha Blacksmith  
Signed

November 16, 2021  
Date

**NOTICE: PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW**

You have the right to appeal this Final Order to Superior Court, pursuant to the Petition for Judicial Review provisions of RCW 34.05.542. Any Petition for Judicial Review of this Final Order must be filed with the court and also served upon both the Commission and the Office of the Attorney general within thirty (30) days after the date this Final Order is served upon you.