



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.pdca.wa.gov

Memorandum

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabitha Townsend, Compliance Coordinator 2

Date: October 6, 2021

Subject: Charles Knutson; PDC Case 94096; Reconsideration Hearing

Matter for Reconsideration:

At the Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, the Respondent was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to file the F-1 report no later than April 15, 2021, and was assessed a \$250 penalty, consistent with WAC 390-37-143, the Brief Enforcement Hearing penalty schedule adopted by the Commission. The Presiding Officer suspended \$150 of the \$250 penalty conditioned upon the Respondent filing the missing F-1 report and paying the non-suspended \$100 penalty within 30 days of the Initial Order being served.

Background:

- Charles Knutson (the “Respondent”) served as Professional Staff for the Office of Financial Management during calendar year 2020. His position/term ended December 22, 2020.
- The Respondent has no prior violations of RCW 42.17A.700 with the PDC.
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, an elected or appointed official, or as stated in RCW 42.17A.705 executive state officer and professional staff, who held office or required position in 2020 was required to file an F-1 report, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2020, no later than April 15, 2021.
- Between February and May of 2021, PDC staff sent email reminders to all elected, appointed officials and executive state officers and professional staff regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020
- On May 11, 2021, PDC staff sent email warnings to all elected, appointed officials and executive state officers and professional staff regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020.

Charles Knutson

PDC Case No. 94096

Reconsideration Hearing Memorandum

Page – 2 –

- On June 29, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a hearing notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to be held on July 15, 2021. The hearing notice was sent to the Respondent's email address-of-record charlesgknutson@hotmail.com.
- On August 17, 2021, PDC staff served the Initial Order memorializing the Commission's ruling, by email, to the contact email address-of-record charlesgknutson@hotmail.com.
- The Respondent filed his final F-1 report covering January 1 through December 22, 2020 activity on September 16, 2021.
- PDC Staff emailed the Reconsideration Hearing Notice to the Respondent on October 4, 2021.

Request for Reconsideration:

- On September 22, 2021, the Respondent submitted written materials to PDC staff to appeal the August 16, 2021 Order based on 1) his belief that the email account the PDC used to notify him is no longer functioning; and 2) his work on state's emergency response to COVID-19, which frustrated compliance.