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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 STEVEN LAWRENCE,
10 Respondent.
11

PDC CASE NO. 94107

FINAL ORDER ON REQUEST
FOR RECONSIDERATION

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13 This matter was heard at a Special Meeting of the Washington State Public Disclosure
14 Commission (Commission) on October 12, 2021, by telephonic and online streaming access.
15 Steven Lawrence (Respondent), requested reconsideration of the Presiding Officer's Order,
16 issued following a Brief Enforcement Hearing (Brief Adjudicative Proceeding) held July 15,
17 2021. The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 and 42.17A RCW, and Chapter
18 390-37 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 Jennifer Hansen, PDC Compliance Officer. The Respondent did not appear 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 1. Case memorandum dated October 12, 2021, prepared by Tabatha Blacksmith, PDC
2 Compliance Coordinator;
- 3 2. Brief Enforcement Hearing Notice, served June 29, 2021;
- 4 3. Respondent's email, dated June 29, 2021;
- 5 4. Financial Affairs Statement (CY 2020), submitted July 26, 2021;
- 6 5. Initial Order Imposing Fine, PDC Case #94107, entered August 12, 2021;
- 7 6. Respondent's email, dated August 19, 2021;
- 8 7. Respondent's request for reconsideration, dated September 29, 2021;
- 9 8. Reconsideration Hearing Notice, served October 4, 2021.

10 11 **I. FINDINGS OF FACT**

12 This matter involves Steven Lawrence (Respondent), a City Council Member for the City
13 of Airway Heights during calendar year 2020. His term expired December 31, 2020. During a
14 Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, Respondent was found to have violated RCW
15 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 Report) no later
16 than April 15, 2021. At the Brief Enforcement Hearing an Order imposing a \$500 civil fine,
17 with \$250 suspended, was entered. The Respondent has one prior violation of RCW 42.17A.700
18 with the PDC (Case #38788).

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20 1. Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, an elected or appointed official who held office in
21 2020 was required to file an F-1 report, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2020,
22 no later than April 15, 2021.

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

25 3. On May 12, 2021, PDC staff emailed a warning notice regarding the missing F-1
26 report for calendar year 2020. The notice was sent to the Respondent's email address of record.

1 4. On June 29, 2021, PDC staff emailed a hearing notice for a July 15, 2021 Brief
2 Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to Respondent's email address of record.

3 5. On June 29, 2021, Respondent emailed the PDC and stated he resigned from his
4 position on January 1, 2020. However, PDC records show his term did not end until December
5 31, 2020.

6 5. At the Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, the Respondent was
7 found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file the F-1 report no later than April
8 15, 2021. Respondent was assessed a \$500 penalty consistent with WAC 390-37-143, the Brief
9 Enforcement Hearing penalty schedule adopted by the Commission. The Presiding Officer
10 suspended \$250 of the \$500 penalty conditioned upon the Respondent filing the missing F-1
11 report and paying the non-suspended \$250 penalty within 30 days of the Initial Order being
12 served.

13 6. The F-1 report was filed covering calendar year 2020 on July 26, 2021.

14 7. On August 17, 2021, PDC staff served the Initial Order to the Respondent's email
15 address of record.

16 8. On August 19, 2020, Respondent emailed the PDC that he was unable to pay the
17 \$250 non-suspended penalty. PDC staff reminded him of his right to appeal and offered to set
18 up a payment plan for him.

19 8. On September 29, 2021, the Respondent submitted written materials to PDC staff
20 appealing the August 12, 2021 Initial Order based on financial hardship and his inability to
21 access his email account.

22 9. On October 4, 2021, PDC staff served the Respondent by email with a hearing
23 notice for a October 12, 2021, Reconsideration Hearing before the Public Disclosure
24 Commission along with instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely.

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II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

2. 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 GRANTED. This Order on Reconsideration will be the Final Order. The civil penalty of \$500, with \$250 suspended, assessed by the July 15, 2021 order is MODIFIED as follows:

1. Respondent Steven Lawrence is assessed a total civil penalty of \$500, with \$400 suspended, on the following conditions:

a. The \$100 non-suspended portion of the civil penalties due for violation of RCW 42.17A.700 is paid by the Respondent within 30 days of the date of this Final Order.

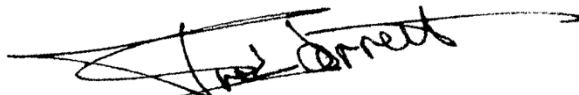
b. The Respondent remains in full compliance with all PDC reporting requirements and is not found to have committed any further violations of Chapter 42.17A RCW or Title 390 WAC within four years of the date of this Final Order. The suspended penalty shall not be assessed based solely upon any remediable violation, minor violation, or error classified by the Commission as appropriate to address by a technical correction.

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2 2. If the Respondent fails to make timely payment of the non-suspended
3 portion (\$100) of the 2020 calendar year civil penalties in full within 30 days of
4 this order, the suspended portion of the penalty (\$400) shall immediately become
5 due without further action by the Commission.
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7 SO ORDERED this 8th day of November, 2021.

8 WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC
9 DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

10 FOR THE COMMISSION:

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12 Fred Jarrett,
Chair, Public Disclosure Commission

13 *This order sent by email to:*
14 Steven Lawrence, Respondent
Stevenlawrence@wula.com

15 Jennifer Hansen,
16 PDC Compliance Officer,
jennifer.hansen@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 9, 2021
Date

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21 **NOTICE: PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW**

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