



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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Memorandum

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabatha Blacksmith, Compliance Coordinator

Date: October 12, 2021

Subject: Steven A. Lawrence; PDC Case 94107; Reconsideration Hearing

Matter for Reconsideration:

During a Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, Steven A. Lawrence was found to have violated RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) no later than April 15, 2021. At the July 15, 2021 Brief Enforcement Hearing, an Order imposing a \$500 penalty, with \$250 suspended, was entered, which Steven A. Lawrence now requests the Commission reconsider.

Background:

- Steven A. Lawrence (the “Respondent”) served as City Council Member for City of Airway Heights during calendar year 2020. His term expired on December 31, 2020.
- The Respondent has one prior violation with the PDC (PDC Case 38788).
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, an elected or appointed official who held office in 2020 was required to file an F-1 report, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2020, no later than April 15, 2021.
- In March and April of 2021, PDC staff sent email reminders to all elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020.
- On May 12, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a warning notice regarding the missing F-1 report for calendar year 2020. The notice was sent to the Respondent’s email address-of-record.

- 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.
- On June 29, 2021, the Respondent emailed the PDC and indicated he stepped down from his position on January 1, 2020. However, PDC records show that the Respondent's term ended on December 31, 2020.
- 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 \$500 penalty, consistent with WAC 390-37-143, the Brief Enforcement Hearing penalty schedule adopted by the Commission. The Presiding Officer suspended \$250 of the \$500 penalty conditioned upon the Respondent filing the missing F-1 report and paying the non-suspended \$250 penalty within 30 days of the Initial Order being served.
- The Respondent filed the F-1 report covering calendar year 2020 activity with the PDC on July 26, 2021.
- On August 17, 2021, PDC staff served the August 12, 2021 Initial Order memorializing the Commission's ruling, by email, to the Respondent's email address-of-record.

Request for Reconsideration:

- The Respondent reached out to the PDC by email on August 19, 2021 indicating he was unable to pay the non-suspended \$250 penalty. PDC staff reminded the Respondent of his appeal rights and offered to set up a payment plan for the penalty.
- On September 29, 2021, the Respondent submitted written materials to PDC staff to appeal the August 12, 2021 Initial Order based on 1) financial hardship; and 2) inability to access email.
- On October 4, 2021, PDC staff served the Respondent, by email, with a hearing notice for an October 12, 2021 Reconsideration Hearing before the Public Disclosure Commission, along with instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely.