



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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Memorandum

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabatha Blacksmith, Compliance Coordinator

Date: January 27, 2022

Subject: Lenett James; PDC Case 94110; Reconsideration Hearing

Matter for Reconsideration:

During a Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, Lenett James was found to have violated RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to 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 \$250 penalty, with \$150 suspended, was entered, which Lenett James now requests the Commission reconsider.

Background:

- Lenett James (the “Respondent”) serves as School Director for Mary Walker School District 207 during calendar year 2020. Her term runs January 1, 2019 through the present.
- The Respondent has no prior violations with the PDC.
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, an elected or appointed official who held office in 2020 or took office in 2021 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. The notice was sent to the Respondent’s official email address.

- 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 addresses-of-record, including an official and personal email.
- 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 August 12, 2021 Initial Order.
- 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 addresses-of-record, which included an official and personal email.
- The Respondent filed the missing Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) on December 27, 2021.

Request for Reconsideration:

- On December 3, 2021, the Respondent spoke to PDC staff by telephone, at which time she indicated her belief that she was not required to file the F-1 report. The Respondent stated that her school district email address is no longer working and her home wi-fi coverage is poor. She also indicated that a family member was hospitalized.
- The PDC received a written request for an appeal of the August 12, 2021 Initial Order, by email, on December 3, 2021. The Respondent requested the penalty be reconsidered based upon "devastating medical circumstances."
- On January 13, 2022, PDC staff served the Respondent, by email, with a hearing notice for a January 27, 2022 Reconsideration Hearing before the Public Disclosure Commission, along with instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely. This notice was sent to the Respondent's personal and official email addresses.

Exhibit List:

Exhibit 1 – PDC Case 94110 – Brief Enforcement Hearing Notice, served June 29, 2021
Exhibit 2 – PDC Case 94110 – Initial Order Imposing Fine, entered August 12, 2021
Exhibit 3 – PDC Case 94110 – Respondent's F-1 report, filed December 27, 2021
Exhibit 4 – PDC Case 94110 – Written request for appeal email, received December 3, 2021
Exhibit 5 – PDC Case 94110 – Reconsideration Hearing Notice, served January 13, 2022