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8 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**  
**OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

9 In Re: The Matter of Enforcement Action  
10 Against:

11 MELVIN TAYLOR,  
12 Respondent.  
13

PDC CASE NO. 95410

FINAL ORDER ON REQUEST  
FOR REVIEW

14  
15 This matter was heard remotely by the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission  
16 (Commission) on October 12, 2021, by telephonic and online streaming access. Respondent  
17 Melvin Taylor requested review of the Presiding Officer's Order entered on September 13, 2021,  
18 following a Brief Enforcement Hearing (Brief Adjudicative Proceeding) on August 12, 2021, in  
19 this matter. The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 and 42.17A RCW, and  
20 Chapter 390-37 WAC.

21 Commissioners present both telephonically and online were Fred Jarrett, Commission  
22 Chair (presiding); Nancy Isserlis, Commission Vice-Chair; and Commissioners William  
23 Downing and Allen Hayward. Also present both telephonically and online were Assistant  
24 Attorney General John S. Meader representing the Commission, Assistant Attorney General  
25 Chad Standifer representing PDC Staff, and Tabitha Townsend, PDC Compliance Coordinator.  
26 Notice was provided to the Respondent and he appeared on his own behalf. The proceeding was

1 open to the public as limited by Governor's Proclamation 20-25 *et. seq.* and recorded.

2 The Commissioners had before them the following materials:

- 3 1. Case memorandum dated October 6, 2021, prepared by Tabitha Townsend, PDC  
4 Compliance Coordinator;
- 5 2. Brief Enforcement Hearing Notice served July 20, 2021;
- 6 3. F-1 covering the prior twelve months filed September 2, 2021;
- 7 4. C-1 Report filed September 2, 2021;
- 8 5. Initial Order Imposing Fine, served September 15, 2021;
- 9 6. Respondent's request for Review, dated September 22, 2021.

## 10 11 **I. FINDINGS OF FACT**

12 The matter involved Respondent's request that the Commission review an Initial Order  
13 entered on September 13, 2021, resulting from an Initial Hearing on August 12, 2021, regarding  
14 Melvin Taylor, a candidate for City Council Member for the City of Aberdeen during election  
15 year 2021. The Presiding Officer at the Brief Adjudicative Proceeding found the Respondent in  
16 violation of RCW 42.17A.205 for failure to timely file a Candidate Registration (C-1 Report)  
17 and RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1  
18 Report) with the Public Disclosure Commission no later than June 4, 2021. At the August 12,  
19 2021, hearing, the Presiding Officer imposed a \$500 penalty, with \$200 suspended, which the  
20 Respondent now requests the Commission review. The Respondent has no prior violations with  
21 the PDC.

- 22
- 23 1. In May and June of 2021, PDC staff sent email reminders to all candidates for  
24 election year 2021 regarding their missing C-1 Report, F-1 Report, or both.
- 25
- 26

2. On June 17, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a Warning Notice regarding the C-1 and F-1 Reports. The hearing notice was sent to the Respondent's email address of record.
3. On July 21, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a hearing notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to be held on August 12, 2021. The hearing notice was sent to the Respondent's email address of record.
4. At the Brief Enforcement Hearing held on August 12, 2021, the Respondent was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.205 and .700 for failure to timely file the missing C-1 and F-1 Reports no later than June 4, 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 \$200 of the \$500 penalty conditioned upon the Respondent filing the missing C-1 and F-1 reports and paying the non-suspended \$300 penalty within 30 days of the Initial Order being entered.
5. On September 15, 2021, the Respondent was served with the Initial Order memorializing the Commission's ruling to the Respondent's email address of record.
6. The Respondent filed the F-1 Report and the C-1 report on September 2, 2021.
7. On September 22, 2021, the Respondent submitted written materials appealing the September 13, 2021, order based on financial hardship. Respondent

1 testified he had lost his job, contracted COVID-19, and suffered from anxiety  
2 and depression.  
3

## 4 II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 5 1. The Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to Chapter  
6 42.17A. RCW, the State campaign finance and disclosure law; Chapter 34.05  
7 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act; and Title 390 WAC.  
8
- 9 2. Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.205, a candidate for election year 2021 was required to  
10 file a C-1 Report within two weeks of candidacy or no later than June 4, 2021.  
11
- 12 3. Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, a candidate for election year 2021 was required  
13 to file an F-1 Report, disclosing financial information for the prior twelve  
14 months, within two weeks of candidacy or no later than June 4, 2021.  
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## 16 III. ORDER

17 This Order on Review will be the Final Order. After consideration of the mitigating  
18 and aggravating factors, the Findings of Fact, and the Conclusions of Law, the Initial Hearing  
19 Order assessing a \$500 civil penalty, with \$200 suspended, is AFFIRMED.  
20

21 SO ORDERED this \_\_8th\_\_ day of November 2021.

22 WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC  
23 DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

24 FOR THE COMMISSION:

25 

26 Fred Jarrett,  
Chair, Public Disclosure Commission

1  
2 *This order sent by email to:*

3 Melvin Taylor, Respondent  
4 Meltaylor97@gmail.com

5 Tabitha Townsend,  
6 PDC Compliance Coordinator,  
7 pdc@pdc.wa.gov  
8  
9  
10

I, \_\_\_Tabitha Townsend\_\_\_, certify that I emailed and mailed a copy of this order to the Respondent at his respective email and mailing addresses.

Electronically Signed Tabitha Townsend  
Signed

11/9/2021  
Date

11 **NOTICE: RECONSIDERATION**

12 Pursuant to the provisions of RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 390-37-150, you may file a Petition for  
13 Reconsideration with the PDC within ten (10) days from the date this Final Order is served upon  
14 you. Any Request for reconsideration must state the specific grounds for the relief requested.  
15 Petitions must be delivered or mailed to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission,  
16 711 Capitols Way, Room 206, Box 40908, Olympia WA 98504-0908.

17 **NOTICE: PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW**

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