

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: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

September 29, 2021

Sent electronically to Lillian Randy Slovic at rslovic@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint regarding William McKay, PDC Case 98157

Dear Ms. Slovic:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on August 31, 2021. The complaint alleged that William McKay, a candidate for City Council Member, Position 4, for the City of Kennewick in 2021, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 for failure to timely disclose political radio advertisements sponsored by We Want Accountability PAC as in-kind contributions to his 2021 Campaign for City Council.

PDC staff reviewed your allegation; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; and the applicable C-4 report(s) filed by William McKay and We Want Accountability PAC, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Om May 10, 2021, William McKay filed a Candidate Registration (C-1) report and selected the Full Reporting Option and listed Charlotte Benjamin as Ministerial Treasurer.
- The complaint alleged that William McKay benefitted from radio ads paid for by the We Want Accountability PAC but failed to report the expenditures on the political ads by We Want Accountability PAC as in-kind contributions to his 2021 Campaign.
- Staff review found that We Want Accountability PAC paid for political ads in support of William McKay's Campaign that were aired/featured on Newstalk 870, Town Square Media, KONA 610 and Cherry Media. However, no evidence was provided to show that there was coordination/planning between We Want Accountability PAC and candidate McKay.
- In his response to the complaint, William McKay, by way of his treasurer, Charlotte Benjamin, stated: "He had absolutely no involvement in the formulation, development and airing of this political advertisement. He knew nothing about this advertisement so he could not report something he didn't know anything about. Yes, he did hear about the advertisement after its airing. He categorically was not consulted nor involved with this advertisement. I also spoke with a member of the Board of Directors of We Want Accountability

PAC. The PAC is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board plans, organizes, directs and controls the direction of the PAC without consulting or involving any candidates that the PAC supports or opposes. The PAC independently decides the direction and action chosen."

Based on these findings staff has determined that, in this instance, no evidence supports a finding of a violation warranting further investigation.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina at (360) 586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by email at pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Sincerely,	Endorsed by:
s/	s/
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer	Kim Bradford, Deputy Director For

cc: William McKay

