



**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: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdcc.wa.gov

December 10, 2021

Delivered electronically to mayorstevepeterson@yahoo.com

Subject: PDC Case 100848

Dear Steve Peterson:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Timothy M. Olsen concerning a complaint filed October 22, 2021 with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) alleging a violation of RCW 42.17A.335(1)(c) by sponsoring political advertising that falsely implies candidate endorsement, specifically the “Thank you Friends of Liberty Lake” advertisement published in The Splash magazine.

As noted in the letter below, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into the allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff reminds you about the importance of clearly stating the reason for political advertising in the future.

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

/s

Kim Bradford
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



**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

December 10, 2021

Delivered electronically to timothymolsen@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Steve Peterson, PDC Case 100848

Dear Timothy M. Olsen:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint you filed October 30, 2021. The complaint alleged Steve Peterson, a 2021 candidate for Liberty Lake Mayor, violated RCW 42.17A.335(1)(c) by sponsoring political advertising that falsely implies candidate endorsement, specifically the “Thank you Friends of Liberty Lake” advertisement published in The Splash magazine.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and interpretations, the evidence provided in the complaint, and a response from Steve Peterson, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

We found the following:

- According to PDC records, Steve Peterson registered with the PDC as candidate for Liberty Lake Mayor on June 9, 2021. Peterson was not elected to the position.
- As noted in the complaint, the advertisement appeared in the Splash posted online October 29, 2021, Peterson stated the advertisement was in the edition “to be on the display stand for the Month of November.” The 2021 general election was November 2, 2021. Peterson further stated, “This AD was not an Endorsement Ad and was intended just as a ‘Thank You’ after the election.”
- Peterson said the advertisement listed all who contributed to the campaign or allowed yard signs on their property, noting he was sorry for the misunderstanding and would copy his PDC response into a The Splash advertisement in the January edition.

Based on these findings, PDC staff has determined that, in this instance, sponsoring political advertising that falsely implies candidate endorsement does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Steve Peterson about the importance of clearly stating the reason for political advertising in the future.

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, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at fdc@fdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

/s

Kim Bradford
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director