



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re: Compliance with RCW 42.17A

PDC Case 105472

KNEZOVICH, OZZIE

Respondent.

Findings of Fact,
Conclusions of Law, and
Order Imposing Fine

Pursuant to the notice of brief enforcement hearing (brief adjudicative proceeding) sent to Ozzie Knezovich on October 27, 2022, a brief adjudicative proceeding was held on November 17, 2022, remotely from Olympia, WA by live audio and online transmission. The purpose of the hearing was to consider whether the Respondent violated: (1) RCW 42.17A.555 by using the public facilities of the Spokane County Sheriff's Office to oppose Amber Waldref, a candidate for Spokane County Commissioner in the 2022 election; and (2) RCW 42.17A.635(2) for engaging in prohibited indirect lobbying by encouraging members of the public to contact legislators regarding legislative changes.

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 RCW, 42.17A RCW and Chapter 390-37 WAC. Commissioner Fred Jarrett was the Presiding Officer. The Commission staff was represented by Compliance Officer Jennifer Hansen. The Respondent did not participate in the hearing or submit any written materials.

Having considered the evidence, the Presiding Officer finds as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent is the current Spokane County Sheriff and did not seek re-election in the 2022 election.
2. On March 7, 2022, PDC staff received a complaint filed by Paul Dillon alleging that Ozzie Knezovich had violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using the public facilities of the Spokane County Sheriff's Office to oppose Amber Waldref, a candidate for Spokane County Commissioner in the 2022 election. During the investigation, PDC staff added an additional violation of RCW 42.17A.635(2) for engaging in prohibited indirect lobbying by encouraging members of the public to contact legislators regarding legislative changes.

3. On March 17, 2022, Sheriff Knezovich submitted a written response to the original complaint filed by Paul Dillon alleging a violation of RCW 42.17A.555.
4. On August 18, 2022, Sheriff Knezovich submitted a written response to the second allegation added by PDC staff alleging a violation of RCW 42.17A.635(2).
5. The Respondent has no prior violations.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the above facts, as a matter of law, the Presiding Officer concludes as follows:

1. This matter was duly and properly convened, and all jurisdictional, substantive, and procedural requirements have been satisfied.
2. The Respondent violated: (1) RCW 42.17A.555 by using the public facilities of the Spokane County Sheriff's Office to oppose Amber Waldref, a candidate for Spokane County Commissioner in the 2022 election; and (2) RCW 42.17A.635(2) for engaging in prohibited indirect lobbying by encouraging members of the public to contact legislators regarding legislative changes.

ORDER

ON the basis of the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law,

1. **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent is assessed a total civil penalty of \$300, in accordance with the Brief Enforcement penalty schedule set forth in WAC 390-37-143.**
2. **It is further ordered that \$100 of the \$300 penalty is suspended on the following conditions:**
 - a. **The Respondent submits the signed Statement of Understanding (SOU) acknowledging violations of RCW 42.17A.555 and RCW 42.17A.635(2) within 30 days of the date of this Order.**
 - b. **The Respondent pays the \$200 non-suspended civil penalty within 30 days of the date of this Order.**
 - a. **It is further ordered that, if the Respondent fails to comply with any of the above conditions the full \$300 penalty shall immediately become due without further action by the Commission and PDC Staff is directed to refer the matter to collections and/or commence other legal proceedings as authorized by RCW 42.17A and 390 WAC.**

This is an **Initial Order** of the Public Disclosure Commission.

Entered this 15th of December, 2022.

Public Disclosure Commission

Electronically signed by Peter Lavallee
Peter Lavallee
Executive Director

I, Jennifer Hansen, certify that I emailed a copy of this order to the Respondent at their email address of record, on the date entered above.

Electronically Signed Jennifer Hansen

12/15/2022

APPEALS OF INITIAL ORDER

REVIEW OF INITIAL ORDER - BY THE COMMISSION

You may request that the full Commission review this initial order. To seek review, you must:

- Make the request by email, stating the reason for review, and identifying what alleged errors are contained in the initial order. *See* WAC 390-37-144(1).
- All requests for review must be submitted electronically to pdcc@pdc.wa.gov **REQUESTS FOR REVIEW MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION WITHIN TWENTY-ONE (21) CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE THIS INITIAL ORDER WAS ELECTRONICALLY DISTRIBUTED TO YOU.**

If review of this initial order is timely requested, the full Commission will hear the matter. If the Commission is unable to schedule a meeting to consider the request within twenty (20) calendar days, this initial order becomes a final order, and any request for review will automatically be considered a request for reconsideration of a final order. *See* WAC 390-37-144(4). The matter would then be scheduled for consideration and disposition at the next Commission meeting at which it is practicable to do so.

A Respondent does not need to pay a penalty until after the Commission rules on a request for review of an initial order.

FURTHER APPEAL RIGHTS – SUPERIOR COURT

If the Commission does not receive a request for review of this initial order within twenty-one (21) calendar days, the initial order shall be the FINAL ORDER. *See* WAC 390-37-142(7).

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL A FINAL ORDER TO SUPERIOR COURT, PURSUANT TO THE PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW PROVISIONS OF RCW 34.05.542.