



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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Memorandum

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabatha Blacksmith, Compliance Coordinator

Date: May 18, 2022

Subject: Charla Neuman Enforcement Hearing Memorandum: PDC Case 108250

Allegations:

Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) staff alleges that Charla Neuman, City Council Member for City of Sumner, violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file Personal Financial Affairs Statements (F-1 reports) for calendar years 2020 & 2021 that were due no later than April 15, 2021 and April 15, 2022, respectively.

Background:

- Charla Neuman (the “Respondent”) served as City Council Member for the City of Sumner for the term January 1, 2020 through the present, with a term end date of December 31, 2023.
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, an elected or appointed official who held office in 2020 and 2021 was required to file Personal Financial Affairs Statements (F-1 reports), disclosing personal financial information for calendar years 2020 & 2021, no later than April 15, 2021 and April 15, 2022, respectively.
- From March 3, 2021 through April 28, 2021, PDC staff emailed reminders to elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020.
- From March 10, 2022 through April 5, 2022, PDC staff emailed reminders to elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2021.
- On April 18, 2022, PDC staff sent the Respondent a warning notice, by email and mail, regarding the missing F-1 reports for calendar years 2020 and 2021. The email was sent to the Respondent’s official email address.

- On May 12, 2022, PDC staff served the Respondent, by email and mail, with a hearing notice for a May 26, 2022 Adjudicative Proceeding (Enforcement Hearing) before the full Public Disclosure Commission concerning the Respondent's failure to file the F-1 reports. The email was sent to the Respondent's personal email address.
- The emailed hearing notice, sent to a personal email address, later bounced. However, to date, the mailed notice has not been returned by USPS and is therefore considered to be served. As a courtesy, PDC staff forwarded a copy of the emailed hearing notice to the Respondent's official email address on May 17, 2022.
- As of May 18, 2022, the Respondent has not filed the F-1 reports for calendar years 2020 and 2021 that were due April 15, 2021 and April 15, 2022, respectively.

Prior Violation:

The Respondent has one prior violation of RCW 42. 17A.700 within the last five years:

Violation (PDC Case 80266)

- The Respondent, who was a candidate for City Council Member for the City of Sumner in 2019 and held that office in 2020, failed to file an F-1 report for calendar year 2019, which was due no later than April 15, 2020.
- At a December 17, 2020 Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing), the Respondent was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 and assessed a \$250 penalty for failing to file an F-1 report for calendar year 2019 that was due no later than April 15, 2020.
- To date, the Respondent has not filed an F-1 report covering calendar year 2019.
- To date, the Respondent has not paid the outstanding \$250 civil penalty for case 80266, which was sent to collections.

Additional Information:

- The Respondent's most recent F-1 report was filed on October 12, 2019 and disclosed financial activity for the twelve months preceding her 2019 candidacy (October 12, 2018 through October 11, 2019).
- On November 12, 2019, PDC staff issued the Respondent a formal written warning letter regarding the late F-1 report for the twelve months preceding her 2019 candidacy, in response to a complaint (PDC Case 58314).

Staff Recommendations:

- Staff recommends the Commission find that the Respondent violated RCW 42.17A.700 for failing to file F-1 reports for calendar years 2020 & 2021.

- Assess the Respondent a civil penalty, per [WAC 390-37-182](#) to be made payable within 30 days of the date of the Order.
- Require the Respondent to file the missing F-1 reports covering calendar years 2020 & 2021 within 30 days of the date of the Order.