



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

September 20, 2022

Sent electronically to Salvatore Militello

Subject: Complaint filed by Joe Hyer, PDC Case 111239

Salvatore Militello:

Enclosed is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Joe Hyer concerning a complaint he filed on August 2, 2022. The complaint alleged that the Sal Militello Campaign for Thurston County Auditor (Campaign) in 2022 violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to file Monetary Contributions reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contributions and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) disclosing contribution and expenditure activities.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), you are receiving this formal written warning concerning your lack of timeliness in filing C-3 and C-4 reports disclosing contribution and expenditure activities in support of your 2022 candidacy, in accordance with RCW 42.17A.235 and .240. This formal written warning includes staff's expectation that for the remainder of the 2022 election cycle, and any Campaigns in the future, you will timely and accurately file C-3 and C-4 reports disclosing contribution and expenditure activities as required by law.

The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules. The PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have any questions, please contact PDC Compliance Officer Kurt Young by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s

Electronically Signed Kurt Young
Compliance Officer

/s

Electronically Signed Peter Lavallee
PDC 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: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdcca.wa.gov

September 20, 2022

Sent electronically to Joe Hyer

Subject: Complaint filed against Sal Militello Campaign for Thurston County Auditor, PDC Case 111239

Joe Hyer:

Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) staff has completed its review of the complaint you filed on August 2, 2022, against Salvatore Militello, a candidate seeking election to the office of Thurston County Auditor in 2022. Specifically, your complaint alleged that the Sal Militello Campaign (Campaign) violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to file Monetary Contributions reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contributions and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) disclosing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken in support of his candidacy.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint; the applicable statutes, rules, and C-3 and C-4 reporting requirements for the 2022 election cycle; the C-3 and C-4 reports, and the amended C-3 and C-4 reports filed by the Campaign; and the emailed responses from Mr. Militello to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations. Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- On January 5, 2022, Salvatore Militello filed a Candidate Registration (C-1) registering as a candidate seeking election to the office of Thurston County Auditor in 2022, selecting the Full Reporting option, and listing Carlo Mata as Treasurer. Mr. Militello is a first-time candidate for public office in 2022.
- On April 16, 2022, the Campaign filed four monthly C-4 reports covering the period of January 1 through April 30, 2022, and one C-3 report. The C-3 and C-4 reports disclosed that \$1,000 in the candidate's personal funds was deposited into the Campaign account on April 23, 2022, and that no expenditures or orders placed had been made.
- On August 18, 2022, the Campaign filed three C-3 reports, and one amended C-3 report that disclosed the following: (1) three monetary contributions were received and deposited on June 27, 2022, totaling \$2,500 that included two contributions, a \$1,000 and a \$500 contribution from the Thurston County Republican Central Committee, and a \$1,000 contribution from C Duncan Lynn (Retired); (2) a \$1,000 candidate loan was made to the Campaign from Mr. Militello on May 27, 2022, with the funds deposited on June 27, 2022; and (3) a \$500 candidate loan was made to the Campaign from Mr. Militello and deposited into the Campaign account on August 8, 2022 (also disclosed on the amended C-3 report).

- On August 18, 2022, the Campaign filed two C-4 reports, and one amended C-4 report disclosing contribution and expenditure activities covering the period of May 1 through August 31, 2022. The expenditures disclosed on the C-4 reports included: (1) a \$1,319.04 expenditure made on May 21, 2022, for the candidate filing fee; and (2) a \$120.12 expenditure made to Pacific Printer to print “Campaign merchandise/paraphernalia: Contribution Envelopes.”
- On August 28-29, 2022, the Campaign filed three C-4 reports, and two amended C-4 reports disclosing contribution and expenditure activities for the months of January and May of 2022. In addition, on September 2, 2022, the Campaign filed an amended C-4 report for May of 2022 disclosing a \$116.13 expenditure the Campaign made to GoDaddy on May 20, 2022, for the website and domain name, that had incorrectly listed the expenditure date as May 20, 2021.

Mr. Militello’s Campaign filed the missing C-3 and C-4 reports after the 2022 primary election was held. However, those late filings are mitigated by the following factors: (1) Mr. Militello was a first-time candidate for public office in 2022; (2) there were only two candidates in the Auditor race, Mr. Militello and Mary Hall, so if it had been a non-partisan office, his name would not have appeared on the primary ballot; and (3) the Campaign to date has not had significant contribution and expenditure activities, having received \$4,500 in total contributions and spent slightly more than \$1,500 in total expenditures.

Based on these findings, PDC staff determined that these facts do not amount to a violation that would require conducting a more formal investigation into the complaint or pursuing enforcement action in this instance.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), however, the PDC is issuing a formal written warning to Salvatore Militello concerning the failure to timely file C-3 and C-4 reports disclosing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken in support of his candidacy. The formal written warning includes staff’s expectation that Mr. Militello will timely file the required C-3 and C-4 reports for the remainder of the 2022 election cycle, and for any future candidacies. Mr. Militello will be advised that the Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action, should there be future violations of PDC laws or rules.

The PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, please contact PDC Compliance Officer Kurt Young by e-mail.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s _____
 Electronically Signed Kurt Young
 Compliance Officer

/s _____
 Electronically Signed Peter Lavalley
 PDC Executive Director



cc: Salvatore Militello