

Email Response from Harry O. Bhagwandin to Elizabeth Rohr Complaint
Copied/Pasted into Word Document by PDC Staff
PDC Case 114223

(Wed, 23 Nov 2022 at 2:35 PM)

To:"PDC Support" <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>

External Email

Hi Kurt,

Please see my responses to your questions below in in BOLD CAPS. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for allowing me to respond.

Harry O. Bhagwandin

- Staff's review of the Summary Full Campaign Contributions and Expenditures reports filed by your Campaign for Lewis County Commissioner indicated that you made no expenditures to either the LCN or to Flannery Publications during 2022 for services and advertising. Is that correct?

THIS IS CORRECT

- If that is not correct, what services and advertisements were provided to your Campaign, and please provide the receipts, invoices and other supporting documentation for the expenditures, if any that were made.

N/A.

- Did Ms. Hoffman or Mr. Myers contact you about submitting a short bio or candidate information for publication?

MS. HOFFMAN DID CONTACT ME TO INTERVIEW ME AND LET ME KNOW THAT CANDIDATES COULD SUBMIT AN EDITORIAL WITH CANDIDATE INFORMATION IN THE LEWIS COUNTY NEWS, A LOCAL PUBLICATION THAT SHE IS A STAFF WRITER FOR.

- If yes, what was the nature of the conversations, and would you categorize it as an interview?

MS. HOFFMAN INTERVIEWED ME AND LET ME KNOW THAT I COULD ALSO SUBMIT AN EDITORIAL TO THE LCN IF I WANTED.

- When did you get contacted about that submittal, and by whom?

I WAS CONTACTED ON OR AROUND OCTOBER 14TH, A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE WEEK MY EDITORIAL WAS PUBLISHED.

- What was your understanding of what information about your candidacy would be published in the LCN?

IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE INTERVIEW AND/OR MY EDITORIAL WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE LCN TO INFORM HER READERSHIP OF LOCAL CANDIDATES.

- Finally, in looking at page 3 of the October 19, 2022, edition of the LCN that was provided by the complainant, were three “articles or bio’s” that provided information about three 2022 candidates, including about your candidacy. The candidate information on page 3 and a portion of page 5 appears to be written by you and the other two candidates and speak in the first person using “I.”

THE EDITORIAL I PROVIDED TO LCN AS A FOLLOW UP TO THE INTERVIEW WITH MS. HOFFMANN WAS WRITTEN BY ME.

- PDC staff is questioning whether that is an LCN bio, editorial comment, or paid advertising from your Campaign. Please explain.

I SUBMITTED AN EDITORIAL TO THE LCN THAT INCLUDED MY CONCERNS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES THAT I FELT MAY BE IMPORTANT TO VOTERS TO HELP INFORM THEIR DECISION. IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE PAID ADVERTISING, BUT RATHER EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM A CANDIDATE.