



**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

July 20, 2023

Delivered electronically to Vivian Eason at “vkeason@yahoo.com”

Subject: Complaint filed by Kenneth R. Olson, PDC Case 137622

Dear Vivian Eason:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Ken Olson concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

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

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of including sponsor identification on all written political advertisement. PDC staff expects in the future that, prior to sharing or disseminating ads, you will ensure that the political advertisement include the required sponsor identification in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Electronically signed

Kim Bradford
Deputy Director
For Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director



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July 20, 2023

Delivered electronically to Kenneth R. Olson at “kennro2@msn.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Vivian Eason, PDC Case 137622

Dear Kenneth Olson:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on May 4, 2023. The complaint alleged that Vivian Eason, a 2023 candidate for Thurston County Commissioner District No. 4, may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 for failure to include sponsor identification a political advertisement.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response provided by Treasurer Conner Edwards on behalf of the Respondent; and other relevant information, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff’s review, we found the following:

- On April 4, 2023, Vivian Eason submitted a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) declaring her candidacy for Thurston County Commissioner in the 2023 election, choosing the “Full Reporting” option, and listing Conner Edwards as Treasurer.
- RCW 42.17A.005(40) states that “political advertising” includes any advertising displays, newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids, flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, digital communication, or other means of mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support or opposition in any election campaign.
- RCW 42.17A.320(1) requires that all written political advertisement include the sponsor of the advertisement.
- The complaint included a link to a YouTube video supporting the 2023 Eason Campaign and alleged that it did not identify who paid for or sponsored the advertisement.
- In his response, Mr. Edwards stated that, although the Eason Campaign shared the advertisement via Facebook, the video referenced in the complaint was not produced by the Eason Campaign but by a volunteer. Mr. Edwards confirmed that the Eason Campaign will continue to include sponsor identification on political advertisements they produce.
- During the investigation, PDC staff found that the 2023 Eason Campaign included the required sponsor identification on the Campaign website and in online and other written political advertisements they sponsored.

It appears that the Respondent understands the requirement for sponsor identification on written political advertisements they sponsor or produce. Although the Eason Campaign shared the video referenced in the complaint and the video lacked the required sponsor ID, staff found no

evidence that the Respondent did so to conceal the actual sponsor or otherwise mislead the public.

Based on our findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to include sponsor identification on a political advertisement shared by the Respondent but produced by a separate person does not amount to a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Vivian Eason about the importance of ensuring that all political advertisement shared by the Eason Campaign includes the required sponsor identification prior to further disseminating it in the future, as required in accordance with PDC statutes and rules.

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, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Kim Bradford
Deputy Director
For Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Vivian Eason