

My name is Zach Smith, current Executive Chair and Treasurer for the Citizens for Ridgefield Schools non-profit setup to help promote the passage of school bonds and levies. This is in response to PDC Case Number 151075 regarding a failure to timely and accurately report contributions and expenditures.

The complaint specifically addressed insufficient supporting information for some expenses and discrepancies between the starting balance of our 2024 campaign and the ending balance of our 2022 campaign. I am pleased to report that the missing expenses have been identified and duly reported. We have also enhanced the details for expenditures requiring further clarification.

I joined this nonprofit in late 2023, amidst a period of turnover within our group due to members relocating or fulfilling other commitments. I have been deeply impressed by the dedication of the remaining committee members, who have consistently devoted their time and energy to the cause, even after the effort of multiple previous campaigns.

Due to the turnover, there have been instances where treasurers lacked experience in PDC procedures, accounting, or treasury functions. Even during this campaign, we experienced the departure of our treasurer, who could no longer dedicate the necessary time. In response, I undertook the role, acquiring the requisite skills to manage our finances and comply with PDC reporting requirements amid an active campaign and alongside my regular job.

This complaint has highlighted that during the years between campaigns, some expenses were inadvertently unreported, an issue we have now corrected.

We value any leniency the PDC can extend and assure you'll find nothing but hardworking, selfless, and inspiring citizens of our town working their tails off to help make our city better. After now experiencing a campaign firsthand myself, they are exhausting, tedious, and large undertakings made harder by outside groups spreading misinformation and sowing doubt about our intentions. The people who are a part of this campaign and organization are dedicated citizens doing their best and giving their all, year after year, in service to our wonderful city.

Thank you for considering our response as we continue to strive for transparency and compliance.

Regards,

**Zach Smith**

Executive Chair, Treasurer  
Citizens for Ridgefield Schools