



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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March 12, 2025

Delivered electronically to snohomishnaturals@gmail.com, cg.edwards53@gmail.com,
ldaarud4centralia@gmail.com and leahjean86@hotmail.com

Subject: PDC Case 151238 regarding Leah Sisemore (formerly Daarud)

Dear Leah Sisemore:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint filed by Conner Edwards on February 20, 2024. The complaint alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 for failing to timely and accurately disclose contributions and expenditures on PDC reports for election year 2023, specifically the 21-day pre-Primary, 7-day pre-Primary, and post-Primary C-4 reports.

Applicable Laws & Rules

- Candidates are required to register pursuant to [RCW 42.17A.205](#) by filing a *Candidate Registration* (C-1 report) with the PDC within two weeks of candidacy.
- A candidate that selects the Full Reporting option on their C-1 report is required to report contributions and expenditures to the PDC on *Cash Receipts Monetary Contributions* reports (C-3 reports) and *Campaign Summary Receipts & Expenditures* reports (C-4 reports) pursuant to [RCW 42.17A.235](#) & [RCW 42.17A.240](#). The due dates for these reports are based upon the election cycle, the candidate's election participation, and their financial activity.

Background & Findings

- Leah Sisemore (formerly Daarud) (the "Respondent") was a candidate for election year 2023 who ran for City Council Member of the City of Centralia and lost in the 2023 Primary Election. There was a \$36 candidate filing fee associated with the *Declaration of Candidacy* the Respondent submitted to Elections for this position on May 19, 2023.
- The Respondent registered as a candidate with the PDC on June 8, 2023, and selected the Full Reporting option on her C-1 report (*Candidate Registration*). She served as her own Treasurer.
- An Initial Hearing (Case Status Review) was held for this case on May 13, 2024.

- The Respondent first responded to the complaint by email on July 9, 2024, said she had not received a notice by “mail [sic],” asked what report was missing, and offered to file a report immediately. PDC staff subsequently reached out to the Respondent by email and provided additional information and instructions.
- On July 10, 2024, the Respondent emailed the PDC and said she selected the Full Reporting option on her C-1 report in error and had intended to select the Mini Reporting option. She said she filed to run for office but did not campaign or continue her candidacy and had not been checking her emails. She apologized for the oversight and for missing her Initial Hearing.
- The Respondent filed three C-4 reports on July 10, 2024, covering the period of 6/8/23 through 9/30/23, which included pre- and post-election reporting periods. The C-4 reports disclosed zero contributions received and expenditures made.
- PDC staff reached out to the Respondent by email on July 23, 2024, and asked her to report the \$36 candidate filing fee she paid to Elections by credit card on May 19, 2023, as an in-kind contribution to her campaign. Four additional attempts were made to reach the Respondent, three by email and one by phone, regarding her unreported candidate filing fee but, to date, there has been no response.
- The Respondent does not have previous warnings/violations of PDC requirements.

Summary and Resolution

Noncompliance appears to be the result of a good-faith error made when selecting a reporting option in ORCA.

Although you are not a first-time filer, the campaign’s minimal reportable contribution and expenditure activity in 2023 is a mitigating factor in this case. It is further noted that the minimal nature of the campaign’s financial activity would have qualified you to choose the Mini Reporting option¹ on the *Committee Registration* (C-1pc report), relieving you of the requirement to file C-3 and C-4 reports with the PDC in 2023.

Your violations of PDC laws and rules are remediable in nature and do not warrant further investigation or enforcement action. The expenditures and contributions involved totaled no more than the contribution limits set forth in RCW 42.17A.405(2) or \$1,000, were inadvertent and minor and otherwise have been cured, and did not materially harm the public interest beyond the harm to the policy of Chapter 42.17A RCW inherent in any violation.

You were a candidate who lost the election and did not receive aggregate contributions over the amount set forth in RCW 42.17A.005(46)(d)(ii)(B) per election during the campaign. The aggregate contributions received were unsubstantial.

¹ A candidate that raises and spends no more than \$7,000 (in addition to candidate filing fee) and receives no more than \$500 from any single contributor (other than the candidate themselves) can select the Mini Reporting option on their registration (C-1 report), which relieves them of the requirement to file C-3 and C-4 reports with the PDC disclosing their campaign’s contributions and expenditures. The \$7,000 limit was increased from \$5,000 effective April 1, 2023.

After consideration of the circumstances, further proceedings concerning the unreported \$36 candidate filing fee would not serve the purposes of this chapter. Under WAC 390-37-060, the executive director, at any time prior to consideration by the commission, may dismiss a complaint which on its face, or as shown by investigation, provides reason to believe that a violation has occurred, but also shows that the respondent is in substantial compliance with the relevant statutes or rules, or shows that further enforcement action is not warranted.

However, PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of disclosing your candidate filing fee as an in-kind contribution or campaign expenditure on a C-4 report if you register under the Full Reporting option in the future. Although it was not alleged in the complaint, we are also reminding you to timely register as a candidate with the PDC within two weeks of becoming a candidate in the future in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with [RCW 42.17A.755\(1\)](#). If you have questions, you may contact Tabatha Blacksmith at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed by Tabatha Blacksmith
Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed by Kim Bradford
Kim Bradford
Deputy Director
For Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Conner Edwards