

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 12, 2024

Delivered electronically to Kalei LaFave at kalei.lafave@yahoo.com

Subject: Complaint filed by Ramona Leber, PDC Case 154147

Dear Kalei LaFave:

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

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

However, per WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), this serves as a formal written warning concerning the requirement under RCW 42.17A.700 and RCW 42.17A.710 for failing to timely and accurately file the Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1). Staff expects you, moving forward, to follow all laws and rules regarding the Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1). If violations of PDC laws or rules occur in the future, the Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action.

If you have questions, you may contact Tanya Mercier by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s/ Electronically signed

Tanya Mercier Compliance Officer /s/ Electronically signed

Peter Frey Lavallee Executive Director



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July 12, 2024

Delivered electronically to Ramona Leber at <u>ramona.leber@cni.net</u>

Subject: Complaint against Kalei LaFave, PDC Case 154147

Dear Ramona Leber:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review and assessment of the complaint you filed on May 13, 2024. The complaint alleged that Kalei LaFave, a City of Longview council member, may have violated RCW 42.17A.700 and RCW 42.17A.710 by failing to disclose complete income information on the candidate Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1) and also by failing to timely file an annual F-1 for 2023.

PDC staff reviewed the allegation(s); the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response(s) provided by the Respondent; the applicable PDC reports filed by 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:

- Kalei LaFave ran for election to the City Council of the City of Longview in election year 2023. Ms. LaFave won the election, took office on January 1, 2024, and is presently the Mayor Pro-tem for the City of Longview Council.
- Ms. LaFave filed their candidate Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1), for the period of May 18, 2022, to May 17, 2023, on June 5, 2023. The original candidate F-1 filed by Ms. LaFave did not include complete income information as required by RCW 42.17A.710. On June 20, 2024, following the complaint, the F-1 was amended to include updated income information.
- Per RCW 42.17A.700, an annual F-1 for elected officials was due by April 15, 2024. Ms. LaFave filed that F-1 on June 20, 2024, after being notified by PDC staff the statement was past due.

• The respondent does not have other similar warnings or violations of PDC requirements.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, failure to include complete income information on the F-1 filed while Ms. LaFave was a candidate seeking office and the untimely filing of the annual F-1 once Ms. LaFave was elected to office does not amount a finding of a violation that calls for further investigation.

Per WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), however, Kalei LaFave will receive a formal written warning concerning the requirements under RCW 42.17A.700 and RCW 42.17A.710 for failing to include complete income information on their candidate F-1 and for failing to timely file the 2023 annual F-1. Staff expects Ms. LaFave, moving forward, to follow all laws, rules and PDC guidance about the Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1). If violations of PDC laws or rules occur in the future, the Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action necessary and has dismissed this matter per RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Tanya Mercier by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

<u>/s/ Electronically signed</u> Tanya Mercier Compliance Officer Endorsed by,

/s/ Electronically signed

Peter Frey Lavallee Executive Director

cc: KaLei LaFave