

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against:

Shaun Scott and The Fighting 43rd

Respondents.

Case No. 155771

STIPULATION AS TO
FACTS AND VIOLATIONS

The parties to this Stipulation, namely, the Public Disclosure Commission Staff, through its Executive Director, Peter Frey Lavallee, and Respondents, Shaun Scott and his campaign committee, The Fighting 43rd (the Committee), submit this Stipulation as to Facts and Violations in this matter. In lieu of a contested hearing, the parties jointly present this stipulation to the Commission for its review and approval. The parties agree that the Commission has the authority to accept, reject, or modify the terms of this Stipulation. The parties further agree that in the event the Commission suggests modification to any term of this agreement, each party reserves the right to reject that modification. In the event either party rejects a modification, this matter will proceed to hearing before the Commission.

JURISDICTION

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to Chapter 42.17A RCW, the state campaign finance and disclosure laws; Chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act; and Title 390 WAC.

FACTS

1. On March 14, 2024, Respondent Shaun Scott created the Committee. The Committee's purpose was to support Mr. Scott's campaign for State Representative of the 43rd Legislative District, Position 2. The Committee received contributions totaling \$147,304.57 during the period from March 20 through December 13, 2024, and expended

\$141,958.47 during the period from March 14 through December 10, 2024. As of December 2024, the Committee had \$33,498.06 in outstanding debt. The Committee's first Treasurer was Jay Plancich, and on or about October 21, 2024, Jason Bennett became the Committee's Treasurer. During the 2024 general election, Mr. Scott was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives.

2024 Primary Election Reporting Issues

2. The Committee included processing fees when reporting contributions on multiple C-3 reports at the beginning of the campaign in March 2024. The reports were amended, and the error corrected, on July 17, 2024. This error in reporting on the C-3 reports impacted the first C-4 report, submitted in March 2024, resulting in the appearance of more funds being received than actually were received. This created a carry-forward issue on multiple C-4 reports until corrected on February 25, 2025.
3. The Committee did not report the address for multiple vendors on C-4 reports for expenditures between April and July 2024. Expenditures for May 10, 18, and June 11, 2024, were amended on July 15, 2024. An expenditure for July 28, 2024 was amended on August 5, 2024. Expenditures for April 2, 5, and 16, 2024 were not amended until February 24, 2025.
4. The Committee did not timely report the quantity of printed campaign items paid for on April 10, 2024. The C-4 report was due on May 10, 2024 and was submitted timely, but then amended on February 25, 2025 to provide the quantity of printed campaign items. A second instance of this issue occurred when printed items were paid for on May 19, 2024, and the quantity was not disclosed until the report was amended on July 15, 2024. The original report was due June 10, 2024, and was submitted timely.
5. On or about July 15, 2024, a political advertising mailer (POLAD) was delivered to voters. Erin Schultz, with Northwest Passage Consulting, confirmed she authorized printing the POLAD, and Capitol City Press, per Invoice #158789, completed the work. Ms. Schultz

stated that she authorized the work on July 12, 2024. Capitol City Press confirmed they completed printing services for the 6x11 mailer on July 15, 2024. The billing shows an invoice date of July 22, 2024, a total of \$3,139.83, and a due date of August 21, 2024. This POLAD order should have been disclosed on the Committee's 21-day C-4 report as an order placed by July 16, 2024. If the bill was not paid by July 29, 2024, the POLAD order should have been disclosed as a debt on the 7-day C-4 report by July 30, 2024. The Committee did not disclose the POLAD order until February 25, 2025 and did not report any debt until March 12, 2025.

6. On or about July 17, 2024, a second POLAD was delivered to voters. Ms. Schultz again confirmed she authorized printing of the POLAD, and Capitol City Press, per Invoice #158781, completed the work. Ms. Schultz stated that she authorized the work on July 13, 2024. Capitol City Press confirmed they completed printing for the letter and envelopes on July 15, 2024. The billing shows an invoice date of July 22, 2024, a total of \$2,650.54, and a due date of August 21, 2024. This POLAD order should have been disclosed on the Committee's 21-day C-4 report as an order placed by July 16, 2024. If the bill was not paid by July 29, 2024, the POLAD order should have been disclosed as a debt on the 7-day C-4 report by July 30, 2024. The Committee did not disclose the POLAD order until February 25, 2025, and did not report any debt until March 12, 2025.
7. Staff confirmed with Ms. Schultz that she authorized work on a POLAD on July 24, 2024, outlined in Invoice #158902, to be completed by Capitol City Press. Capitol City Press confirmed they completed printing services for the POLAD outlined in Invoice #158902. The work was completed on July 30, 2024, and invoiced to Northwest Passage Consulting on July 29, 2024. The billing shows a total of \$3,293.66, and a due date of August 28, 2024. This POLAD order should have been disclosed on the Committee's 7-day C-4 report as an order placed. If the bill was not paid by August 5, 2024, the POLAD order should have been disclosed as a debt on the post-primary

C-4 report by September 10, 2024. The Committee did not disclose the POLAD order until March 12, 2025, and did not report any debt until March 12, 2025.

8. All the C-3 reports submitted by the Committee for March and April 2024 were originally filed timely and amended on July 17, 2024, to correct an error in reporting processing fees. The reports were amended again on February 24, 2025, with no significant changes. The total receipts filed for these periods were \$11,693.80, not including Small Contributions filed without a receipt date.
9. The Committee submitted nine C-3 reports for May 2024 with seven of those filed timely; one report filed five weeks late disclosing \$1,200 from Washington State Association of Justice; and one report filed 37 weeks late disclosing \$250 from Teamsters Local 117 Working Families PAC. All the May C-3 reports were amended on July 17, 2024, to correct an error in reporting processing fees. The May 2024 reports were again amended on February 25, 2025, mostly reflecting small adjustments to Small Contributions and the following substantive changes:
 - for the period of May 15, 2024, there was an increase of \$386;
 - for the period of May 16, 2024, a decrease of \$611;
 - for the period of May 22, 2024, an increase of \$225; and
 - for the period of May 29, 2024, an increase of \$1,150.Total receipts filed for this period were \$10,619.77, not including Small Contributions filed without a receipt date.
10. The Committee submitted 13 C-3 reports for June 2024 with seven of those filed timely; one report filed four weeks late for a total of \$18 from Small Contributions; one report filed 35 weeks late disclosing \$1,072 from Small Contributions and individual contributors; one report filed three weeks late disclosing \$720 from Small Contributions and individual contributors; one report filed two weeks late disclosing \$750 from individual contributors; one report filed 35 weeks late disclosing \$2,900 from NW Regional Council of SMART

SSF (\$500), SEIU Healthcare 1199 NW (\$1200), and SEIU 775 Quality Care Committee (\$1200); and one report filed 34 weeks late disclosing \$720 from Small Contributions and individual contributors. All these June reports were amended on July 17, 2024, to correct an error in reporting processing fees. The June 2024 reports were again amended on February 25, 2025, mostly reflecting small adjustments to Small Contributions and the following substantive changes:

- for the period of June 3, 2024, a decrease of \$250;
- for the period of June 17, 2024, a decrease of \$364;
- for the period of June 22, 2024, an increase of \$720; and
- for the period of June 24, 2024, an increase of \$113.

The report for the period of June 14, 2024, was initially filed 38 weeks late for a total of \$500 from UAW Region 5 Western States PAC. The total receipts filed for this period were \$12,150.36, not including Small Contributions filed without a receipt date.

11. The Committee filed six C-3 reports between July 1, 2024, and July 18, 2024, with five of the six reports filed timely. Two of the six reports were amended on July 16, 2024 due to an error in reported processing fees being corrected by the campaign. The one late filed report was filed 31 weeks late, disclosing \$200 from Small Contributions and individual contributors. The five timely filed reports were again amended on February 25, 2025, mostly reflecting small adjustments to Small Contributions and the following substantive changes:

- for the period of July 3, 2024, a decrease of \$960;
- for the period of July 3, 2024, an increase of \$1,007 from Small Contributions and individual contributors; and
- for the period of July 12, 2024, a decrease of \$2,330.

Total receipts filed for this period were \$13,948, not including Small Contributions filed without a receipt date. The C-3 reports submitted for the remainder of July were originally

submitted timely but then all were amended on March 13, 2025, reflecting an increase of \$7,350 from the original reports for July 2024. The total receipts for this period were \$13,904.48, not including Small Contributions filed without a receipt date.

12. In August 2024, up to the Primary Election, an original C-3 report submitted by the Committee on August 5, 2024, was submitted timely but then amended on March 13, 2025, reflecting a decrease of \$141 from the original report. The amended report was 31 weeks late. The total receipts for this period were \$6,748, not including Small Contributions filed without a receipt date.
13. The mandatory 21-day C-4 report covering June 1 through July 15, 2024, due July 16, 2024, was filed timely by the Committee and then amended February 25, 2025. The amended report reflected a decrease of \$979.90 in receipts received and an increase of \$500.80 for expenditures made during the reporting period.
14. The mandatory 7-day C-4 report covering July 16 through July 29, 2024, due July 30, 2024, was filed one day late by the Committee on July 31, 2024, and then amended August 6, 2024. The amended report did not reflect any material changes. The report was again amended on March 12, 2025, and reflected an increase of \$511.83 in receipts and an increase of \$484.15 for expenditures made during the reporting period.
15. The mandatory post-primary C-4 report covering July 30 through August 31, 2024, due September 10, 2024, was filed by the Committee on March 13, 2024, 26 weeks late. The report reflected \$14,896.35 for receipts received and \$31,479.43 for expenditures made during the reporting period.

General Election Reporting Issues

16. In August 2024, after the Primary Election, the Committee submitted eleven C-3 reports with six reports submitted timely but then amended on March 13, 2025. These amended reports reflected the following: for the period of August 1, 2024, an increase of \$250; for the period of August 2, 2024, a decrease of \$141; for the period of August 3, 2024, a

decrease of \$250; a report submitted for the period of August 14, 2024, a decrease of \$200; a report submitted for the period August 21, 2024, for no change; and a report submitted for the period of August 29, 2024, for an increase of \$410. There were three reports for the period of August 12, 2024, submitted on March 13, 2025, 29 weeks late, reflecting \$3,300 in contributions received. A report for the period August 6, 2025, submitted March 13, 2025, 30 weeks late, reflecting \$1,044 in contributions received. A report for the period August 23, 2024, submitted on March 13, 2025, 28 weeks late, reflected \$1,112 in contributions received. The total receipts for this period were \$12,789, not including Small Contributions, filed without a receipt date.

17. The C-3 reports submitted by the Committee on September 16, 2024, reflected contributions received on September 4, 5, and 11, 2024. The reporting of contributions received on September 11, 2024 was timely, but the reporting for contributions received on September 4 and 5, 2024 should have been submitted by September 9, 2024. All three reports were amended on March 13, 2025, and reflected \$10,140 in contributions received. A C-3 report for the period of September 13, 2024, was filed on March 13, 2025, 25 weeks late, reflecting \$600 in contributions received. C-3 reports for the periods of September 17 and 18, 2024 were filed on March 13, 2025, 24 weeks late, reflecting \$4,041 in contributions received. Three C-3 reports for the periods of September 24, 26, and 27, 2024 were filed on March 13, 2025, 23 weeks late, and reflected \$7,839 in contributions received. The total receipts for this period were \$20,228.96, not including Small Contributions filed without a receipt date.
18. There were 11 C-3 reports submitted by the Committee for October with only one of those reports filed timely. The report filed timely was for the period of October 25, 2024, and reflected \$0 contributions received. Reports for the periods of October 2, 7, 11, 17, 23, and 28, 2024 were filed on November 13, 2024, between one and five weeks late, and reflected \$12,812 in contributions received. Reports for the periods of October 7, 11, 17,

and 28, 2024 were filed on March 13, 2025, between 18 and 21 weeks late, and reflected \$10,950 in contributions received. The total receipts for this period were \$19,124.94, not including Small Contributions filed without a receipt date.

19. The C-3 report due on November 4, 2024, before the General Election on November 5, 2024, was filed by the Committee nine days late on November 13, 2024. The total receipts for this period were \$1,087, not including Small Contributions filed without a receipt date.
20. The C-3 reports submitted by the Committee, for the remainder of November 2024, on and as of the General Election included seven reports, due December 10, 2024. Five of the reports were filed timely for \$983 in contributions received, one other report was filed timely but then amended on March 13, 2025, for \$1600 contributions received, and one report was filed on March 13, 2025, for \$0.85 in Miscellaneous Receipts. The total receipts for this period were \$2,153.85, not including Small Contributions filed without a receipt date.
21. The mandatory 21-day C-4 report covering September 1 through October 14, 2024, due October 15, 2024, was filed by the Committee on March 13, 2025, 21 weeks late. The report reflected \$33,197.96 for receipts received and \$28,841.17 for expenditures made during the reporting period.
22. The mandatory 7-day C-4 report covering October 15 through October 28, 2024, due October 29, 2024, was filed by the Committee on March 13, 2025, 19 weeks late. The report reflected \$13,176.94 for receipts received and \$4,720.70 for expenditures made during the reporting period.
23. The mandatory post-general C-4 report covering October 29 through November 30, 2024, due December 10, 2024, was filed timely by the Committee on December 10, 2024, and amended on March 13, 2025. The amended report reflects a decrease of \$199.15 for receipts received and an increase of \$0.40 for expenditures made during the period.

Failure to Provide Campaign Books of Account Inspection

24. The Committee received a request via email to inspect the campaign books of account on November 2, 2024. The Committee did not respond to the request within 48 hours and failed to facilitate the inspection.

Issues Related to Sponsor Identification on Political Advertising

25. The Committee was registered with the PDC as “The Fighting 43rd”. The POLAD identified as a 6x11 (or 6x9) mailer stated “Paid for by the Fighting 43rd.” Rather than include the campaign’s mailing address, as is required, the mailer included the URL betterwashington.org. Better Washington is not a registered entity with the PDC. The POLAD also failed to conform to formatting requirements as outlined in statute.
26. The two POLADs, identified as “a Chopp letter”, delivered on July 17, 2024, and October 14, 2024, indicated “Paid for By A Better Washington” but did include the campaign’s mailing address. Mr. Scott confirmed on August 13, 2024, that “A Better Washington” was not the correct name to have used for sponsor identification and that it should have been “The Fighting 43rd”.

Impermissible Use of Campaign Funds

27. Mr. Scott incurred \$756 in campaign expenditures for haircuts from Supreme Cutz. This was a prohibited personal use of campaign funds, as this expenditure was not directly related to Mr. Scott’s election campaign.

Mitigating Factors

28. Mr. Scott’s 2024 campaign was the first in which he used the Commission’s Online Reporting of Campaign Activity (ORCA) system for campaign activity reporting.
29. On October 2, 2024, Mr. Scott notified PDC Staff that the Committee experienced staff turnover of the Treasurer, Jay Plancich. On October 21, 2024, Jason Bennett, of Argo Strategies, informed Staff that he had taken over Treasurer duties for the Committee and requested access to the campaign reporting in ORCA. There were technical difficulties

in ORCA granting Argo Strategies access to the Committee's reporting but on or about October 31, 2024, Mr. Bennet gained access to the ORCA records. Mr. Bennett became the Committee's primary contact with Staff and communicated proactively with Staff about his work to audit, amend, and bring into compliance the Committee's reporting.

Aggravating Factors

30. Mr. Scott's 2024 campaign was a contested race that raised \$147,304.57, expended \$141,958.47, and has \$33,498.06 debt remaining. Reporting throughout the Primary and General Election periods were consistently submitted late, with nearly all reports amended either in February or March 2025. Mandatory C-4 reporting for the post-primary period, and the 21-day and 7-day pre-general period, were not filed until March 13, 2025, reflecting \$61,271.25 in receipts, \$65,041.30 in expenditures, and \$53,352.57 in debt. The Committee's reporting was not finalized until March 2025.
31. Expenditures related to printed campaign materials and political advertising prior to the Primary Election were either not reported timely, or these reports were missing required details meant to inform the public about the Committee's advertising activities.
32. The name "A Better Washington" was first used as the sponsor identification on a political advertisement (POLAD) delivered on July 17, 2024. Mr. Scott informed PDC Staff on August 13, 2024, that "The Fighting 43rd" was the Committee's name and should be used for sponsor identification on POLADs. Despite this acknowledgement, on October 14, 2024, a second POLAD was delivered and identified "A Better Washington" rather than "The Fighting 43rd" as the Committee name for the sponsor identification.
33. When a member of the public requested to inspect the Committee's campaign books of account, the Committee did not provide the information or facilitate the inspection. This impeded the public's ability to understand what occurred with the Committee's financial activity.

34. Mr. Scott has acknowledged using campaign funds for a prohibited use and has not yet repaid those funds to the Committee.

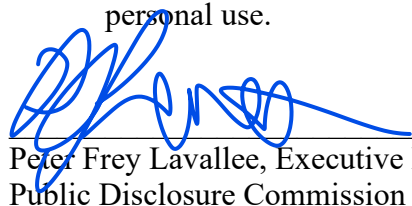
VIOLATIONS

Based on the Stipulation of Facts set forth above, the Committee stipulates to the following violations:


1. RCW 42.17A.235, RCW 42.17A.240, WAC 390-16-042, WAC 390-16-205, and WAC 390-16-043 by: (1) reporting incomplete or inaccurate information on pre-primary *Cash Receipts*, *Monetary Contribution (C-3)*, and *Receipts & Expenditure Summary (C-4)* reports and failing to timely file mandatory 21-day, 7-day, and post-primary C-4 reports; (2) failing to timely file mandatory 21-day and 7-day pre-general reports; (3) failing to timely and accurately report debt and receipt of contributions; and (4) failing to provide campaign books of account inspection.
2. RCW 42.17A.320 and WAC 390-18-010 by: (1) failing to include complete sponsor identification on political advertisements; (2) failing to conform to formatting requirements; and (3) using an assumed name for the sponsor identification on political advertisements.

Additionally, Mr. Scott stipulates to the following violation:

3. RCW 42.17A.445 and WAC 390-16-238 by: expending campaign funds for impermissible personal use.


Peter Frey Lavalley, Executive Director
Public Disclosure Commission

07/21/2025
Date Signed


Shaun Scott
The Fighting 43rd

7.21.2025
Date Signed