

155771 Scott_Shaun – Interview video from 12.06.2024, AI generated transcript, reviewed by PDC staff and corrected on 04.14.2025

0:04 – PDC Staff

OK, so I just have some formalities to go through here real quick and then we can dive into the questions.

0:10

This is an interview with Shaun Scott on December 6th, 2024.

0:16

The interview was scheduled for 10/30.

0:18

It is now 10:32 AM.

0:21

My name is Tanya Mercer and I am a compliance officer with the Public Disclosure Commission.

0:27

This interview is being conducted as part of the investigation into alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and .235(6) and WAC 390-16-043 and RCWs .240 and .240(8), WAC 390-16-205 and RCWs 42.17A.320 and .445.

0:59

The alleged violations have occurred by Shaun Scott for PDC case 155771.

1:06

There is no one else in this interview with me from the PDC.

1:11

Mr. Scott, would you like to introduce yourself and please spell your name?

1:16 – Shaun Scott

Absolutely.

1:16

I'm Shaun Scott was a candidate for 43rd Legislative District, State House position 2.

1:24

My name is spelled SHAUN SCOTT.

1:29 – PDC Staff

Thank you.

1:29

And is there anyone with you today for the interview?

1:32 – Shaun Scott

There is not.

1:33 – PDC Staff

All right.

1:36

So why don't we go ahead and dive into the questions.

1:39

Can you please confirm that your campaign committee registration name is the Fighting 43rd?

1:46 – Shaun Scott

That's correct.

1:49 – PDC Staff

Some of your literature assigned associated with your campaign identifies A Better Washington.

1:55

What is this entity and how are you associated with it?

1:59 – Shaun Scott

So I'm just trying to think of the best way to answer this.

2:05

A Better Washington is actually sort of the informal campaign theme.

2:13

It was sort of a title given to our campaign just as a way of decentering the individual candidate talking about the policies that we wanted to further.

2:24

Our campaign website wasbetterwashington.org.

2:27

Oftentimes, colloquially, I would refer to my campaign for the 43rd Legislative district as the Better Washington campaign.

2:35

That was more, I would say, of an informal designation.

2:41

The official campaign committee, as was indicated earlier, was titled The Fighting 43rd.

2:48 – PDC Staff

OK.

2:49

And just to confirm, A better Washington has not been registered with the PDC as a campaign committee?

2:55 – Shaun Scott

I do not believe so.

2:56 – PDC Staff

No, I have not found one.

2:59 – Shaun Scott

So yeah, yeah, I'm pretty sure it has it.

3:03 – PDC Staff

OK excellent.

3:04

Thank you.

3:05

Did the campaign committee pay for the mailer identified in the first Connor Edwards complaint?

3:12

The Mailer indicated paid for by the Fighting 43rd.

3:16 – Shaun Scott

That's correct.

3:17

It did.

3:18 – PDC Staff

OK, all right, let's see.

3:22

And then on July 13, 2024, well, sometime after July 13, 2024, a letter was sent out indicating that it was from Representative Frank Chop.

3:35

The letter date was July 13th, 2024.

3:39

And it also stated that it was paid for by a better Washington.

3:44

You have previously indicated the sponsor ID should have identified the letter as having been paid for by the Fighting 43rd, is that correct?

3:52 – Shaun Scott

That's correct.

3:54 – PDC Staff

And did your campaign committee pay for this mailer?

3:57 – Shaun Scott

Our campaign committee did pay for the mailer.

4:01

The funds that were resulted or funds that were dedicated towards the dispersal of the Mailer were fronted by a publishing servicing house and also by our campaign consultant and the process of recuperating those funds for the dispersal of the Mailer happened sometime after it was actually sent out.

4:32 – PDC Staff

OK, when you, when you say the funds were fronted, was that an in kind contribution?

4:38 – Shaun Scott

No, they were, there was some lag time.

4:42

What I mean to say is that there was some lag time between the time that the Mailer went out and when the actual payment for the services rendered actually occurred.

4:54 – PDC Staff

OK, so just so I'm understanding, the letter was ordered, it was printed, it was mailed and in some point you were billed for that mailing and then the it was paid for at a later date.

5:08 – Shaun Scott

That's correct.

5:09 – PDC Staff

OK, all right.

5:12

Do you know when the letter was produced and by what printing shop it was provided to?

5:20 – Shaun Scott

I can't say which day exactly it was produced, but the name of the printing house that put that out believe was Publishers Mailing Service.

5:38

I'm I'm sifting through my phone at the moment to find that really quickly.

5:42

It might take just a moment.

5:44 – PDC Staff

OK, go ahead.

6:00 – Shaun Scott

OK, here it is.

6:01

The name of the printing house was Publishers Mailing Service, and there's a apostrophe between the R and the S and publishers.

6:11

So Publishers Mailing Service.

6:13 – PDC Staff

OK And do you know if your campaign ever reported those costs as debt prior to paying the expenditure for them?

6:22 – Shaun Scott

No, I don't believe they were reported as debt.

6:25

I think we just paid.

6:28 – PDC Staff

OK, OK, let's see.

6:32

You have previously indicated that the expenditures to Jesus Barbershop were for haircuts for you to attend public presentations.

6:40

Does that sound about right?

6:42 – Shaun Scott
OK Yeah, that is correct.

6:44 – PDC Staff
All right.

6:45 – Shaun Scott
I should make a a correction here.

6:48
The name of the Barber at the barbershop was Jesus, but the shop itself was Supreme Cuts.

6:55
Just so there's no confusion.

6:57 – PDC Staff
OK, OK.

6:59
It's still is being reported as Jesus Barbershop.

7:03
So at some point you'll want to go in and amend that just to make sure that the correct vendor is provided.

7:13
OK, a couple of questions about that.

7:16
And I know they're probably going to sound a little silly, but I have to ask them. Prior to the campaign, had you used the services of, Supreme Cuts before?

7:28 – Shaun Scott
I had

7:30 – PDC Staff
OK, for what services and how often?

7:35 – Shaun Scott
Oh, I would say I would probably get my hair cut roughly once every six, six or so weeks somewhere thereabouts.

7:45
And those were just for regular run-of-the-mill individual just grooming.

7:54 – PDC Staff
OK.

7:55
And then during the campaign, how would you classify the services provided by Supreme Cuts?

8:02
Was it just haircuts?

8:05 – Shaun Scott
Right, They were just haircuts.

8:07
I would say that the nature to the extent that it changed, because I was getting my haircut much more frequently.

8:17
Often times they would be in anticipation of any variety of public campaign appearances, ranging from campaign photos to attendance at rallies, campaign forums, televised or otherwise recorded events.

8:35
Events where I could be expected to have to maintain, I believe, an appearance that is appropriate for a candidate who wants to come off as kempt and self-aware.

8:49
So the haircuts I believe took place at a cadence of about every two to three weeks generally and often times would coincide with any number of campaign public appearances.

9:07 – PDC Staff
OK.

9:08
Thank you for that clarification.

9:09
I appreciate that.

9:13
Did Jay Planches, did I, did I say his last name correctly?

9:18 – Shaun Scott
That's correct.

9:19 – PDC Staff
OK.

9:20

Did he provide more than just Treasurer services to your campaign?

9:26 – Shaun Scott

Our Treasurer, they do go by they them, or our former treasurer, I should say went by or still goes by, but in the capacity of, you know, the time that they worked for my campaign as treasurer, they went by they them pronouns.

9:42

They did not do more than providing treasury services.

9:49

It was for the most part making sure that transactions were, you know, being logged correctly and that was the extent of the other participation in the campaign.

10:00

They would be present at general campaign meetings, but the feedback that they may have provided their presence and their attendance at that meeting, the scope of their responsibilities are for the most part limited to their role as a treasurer for the campaign.

10:19- - PDC Staff

OK, thank you for clarifying their pronouns.

10:23

I appreciate that.

10:24

And then the reason that I asked the question about the services they provided in one of the complaints, I believe it was Connor Edwards kind of went over the amount of money that was being paid for treasury services and asked the question, were they providing other services to the campaign?

10:52

And so I just wanted to clarify that with you.

10:54

It sounds like they were providing treasury services and then attended campaign events, but the funds that were paid to them were meant for their treasury services.

11:05 – Shaun Scott

That's correct.

11:10 – PDC Staff

Let's see, there are a number of allegations against your campaign that it carried unreported debt.

11:16

Did the campaign carry any debt related to printing materials?

11:21 – Shaun Scott

No, Debt was never carried and was never filed and was never accrued in the course of the campaign as the PDC filings would reflect.

11:32 – PDC Staff

OK, I've been with the PDC just for a few years and I'm still learning a lot about our filing system. And if I understand it correctly, when something is reported as a debt, once that expenditure is paid, it comes off the report as debt. And it can be a little bit hard to keep track of.

11:53

So that's why I'm asking for the confirmation.

11:56

All right, in complaint #4 by Carl Larson, he provides evidence that SEIU Local 925 reported making contributions to your campaign on June 28th and August 16 for \$1200 each.

12:15

The August 16 contribution has not been reported by your campaign.

12:20

Do you know when it will get reported?

12:22 – Shaun Scott

Those I'm currently engaged in conversation with my new treasurer.

12:28

There was a staff turnover that happened at a pivotal, pivotal high volume moment in the campaign.

12:38

Our Treasurer is currently working to update our filings to reflect all campaign contributions that were made.

12:48

And I would expect that we will see those filings reflected of today's, the December the 6th.

12:55

I would expect that those filings will appear before Christmas Day.

12:59 – PDC Staff

OK.

13:00

And similarly, Mr. Larson's complaint also shows that Washington State Association of Justice for All

made a \$600.00 contribution on August 16th, also not reported. So can I assume that that will be reported in that tranche of reports that your Treasurer is going to be taking care of?

13:19 Shaun Scott

And you mentioned the organization that was alleged to have made that contribution one more time?

12:23 – PDC Staff

Washington State Association for Justice for All.

13:28 – Shaun Scott

That's correct.

13:30

Your, your characterization is correct.

13:32 – PDC Staff

OK.

13:33

And then Mr. Edwards in his complaint, identified as number six, provided 2 links to reports on our website that identify entities that made contributions to your campaign. And Mr. Edwards alleges your campaign has not yet reported on those contributions. Have you had a chance to review those two reports that he identifies in his complaint?

14:00 – Shaun Scott

What were the entities that made the contributions detailed by Edwards in that complaint?

14:07 – PDC Staff

They were if you clicked on the link and went to the reports, OK.

14:12 – Shaun Scott

So all campaign there were, there were a number of campaign contributions that were made during a moment in our campaign where there was staff turnover.

14:23

Our current treasurer is working to update all filings and I would expect that those will appear before the 25th of this month.

14:32 – PDC Staff

OK, thank you.

14:34

Let's see, I have reviewed your campaign reporting this morning and it looks like the last filing for expenses were for the July expenses.

14:44

So similarly, when are all the campaign expenses going to be filed on C4 reports?

14:50 – Shaun Scott

I would expect that those would be made before about the 25th of this year.

14:57 – PDC Staff

And then I just want to remind you that the post General C4 is due by December 10th, which will be early next week.

15:07 – Shaun Scott

OK, understood.

15:09 – PDC Staff

And if you don't want to incur another complaint, I would encourage you to get that report in on time because you are you've definitely attracted attention.

15:19

OK, And then has your campaign received contributions following the general election?

15:29 – Shaun Scott

I don't believe so, but I would have to go and review our Act Blue NC, but I'm under the understanding that we have not.

15:41 – PDC Staff

OK all right, just in case, if you have, do remember that the C-3s for the period after the general election are due also by December 10th.

15:52

OK, let's see.

15:54

The address for Adam Trattii is still missing from C4 reports for the period April 1 to April 30th and May 1 to May 31st.

16:08

Can you explain why Adam Trattii's address continues to be missing in the reporting?

16:15 – Shaun Scott

I would have believed that that that should have appeared.

16:18

That was an oversight and we can work to get that corrected pretty quickly.

16:25 – PDC Staff

OK.

16:26 – PDC Staff

And then similarly, the quantity of printed materials is still missing from an expenditure to trade printery for an April 10th, 2024, expenditure.

16:38

Similar reason?

16:39 – Shaun Scott

Similar reason.

16:41

Yeah.

16:41 – PDC Staff

OK, let's see.

16:44

And then in complaint #7 Connor Edwards provides evidence that he noticed your campaign making a campaign Books of Account Inspection request on November 2nd, 2024.

16:58

The e-mail he sent was sent to sean@betterwashington.org and organizedwithsean@gmail.com e-mail addresses.

17:09

Was the request received by your campaign?

17:11 – Shaun Scott

That may have been flagged as spam?

17:15

I don't recall any such request.

17:20 – PDC Staff

Do you do you maintain your spam account?

17:24 – Shaun Scott

I do.

17:26 – PDC Staff

I would appreciate if after this interview you could check to see if you did indeed get the e-mail from Mr. Edwards and just let me know if it was received.

17:39

OK, and then let's see. Mr. Edwards complaint also identified a potential second letter from Representative Frank Chop.

17:49

It was a little hard to read.

17:50

When I tried to blow it up, I couldn't see the date on that letter.

17:54

So that's why I said it's a potential second letter.

17:57

Was a second letter sent by your campaign?

18:01 - Shaun Scott

The explanation that I gave for the previous letter that was sent by Frank Chop in the primary election is the same for why this particular letter was not logged or reflected as yet.

18:17

But I would expect that that would happen and we're working to make that happen towards before the 25th of this year.

18:24 - PDC Staff

OK.

18:25

And just to confirm, there was a second letter?

18:30 - Shaun Scott

There was.

18:33 - PDC Staff

And again the sponsor identification on that letter also was a better Washington rather than the fighting 43rd just to confirm.

18:37 - Shaun Scott

Right, and that was incorrect.

18:40 - PDC Staff

OK.

18:41

I think that is all of my questions for the moment.

18:48

Once the reporting gets, you know completed, I'll be able to review it and if I have any additional questions I'll reach back out to you specific to the reporting, but I think that pretty much addresses all of the materials outside of the reporting, at least for the moment.

19:08 – Shaun Scott

Excellent.

19:09

Between the 10th and the 20th or so of this month, I believe that a number of the filing discrepancies will have been reconciled and all current expenditures contributions made the like will be reflected in the PDC at some point in that in that time range.

19:31 – PDC Staff

OK, if you would ask Jason Bennett to shoot me an e-mail just letting me know when he thinks the reporting is final and complete that will help me manage my time in reviewing the material.

19:46 – Shaun Scott

Excellent.

19:48 – PDC Staff

OK.

19:49

So following this meeting, I will expect to see a phone call or an e-mail from you identifying whether or not you did receive that notice for the campaign books of account from Connor Edward.

20:02

And then at some point, if Jason Bennett can let me know the reporting is finalized, I'll take a look at all of that.

20:09

Do you have any questions for me?

20:11 – Shaun Scott

I do not OK.

20:15 – PDC Staff

The process to move this forward can take some time.

20:20

So I do appreciate your time today in this interview.

20:24

And I am trying to get this wrapped up as quickly as possible, but we definitely have an administrative process that can take some time and I just want to prepare you for that.

20:36 – Shaun Scott

That's fine.

20:36

I appreciate it so much.

20:37

Thank you for letting me know.

20:39

OK.

20:41

All right.

20:42

Tanya, connect with you soon.

20:43 – PDC Staff

Thank you.

20:44

Take care, bye.