

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

October 21, 2024, 2024

Delivered electronically to Mark Mullet at info@mulletforgovernor.com

Subject: Complaint filed by Sam Hunt, PDC Case 157283

Dear Mark Mullet:

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

As noted in the letter to Mr. Hunt, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with <u>RCW</u> <u>42.17A.755(1)</u> and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

However, pursuant to <u>WAC 390-37-060(1)(d)</u>, this serves as a formal written warning concerning your failure to provide complete sponsor identification, to include party affiliation when a partisan office, on campaign advertising. Staff expects you to, in the future, comply with RCW 42.17A.320 about what to provide and how to provide complete sponsor identification on political advertising. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

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

If you have questions, you may contact Tanya Mercier, Compliance Officer, 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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October 21, 2024

Delivered electronically to Sam Hunt at huntsam@comcast.net

Subject: Complaint regarding Mark Mullet, PDC Case 157283

Dear Sam Hunt:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 16, 2024. The complaint alleged that Mark Mullet, a candidate for Governor of the State of Washington, may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to provide complete sponsor identification, to include party affiliation when a partisan office, on campaign advertising.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations and evidence you submitted; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the response(s) provided by Mark Mullet (the "Respondent"); and other relevant information to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Applicable Laws & Rules

Per RCW 42.17A.320, all written political advertising, whether relating to candidates or ballot propositions, shall include the sponsor's name and address. For partisan office, if a candidate has expressed a party or independent preference on the declaration of candidacy, that party or independent designation shall be clearly identified in electioneering communications, independent expenditures, or political advertising. The font size must be in at least ten-point type, or in type at least ten percent of the largest size type used in a written advertisement or communication directed at more than one voter, such as a billboard or poster, whichever is larger.

Background & Findings

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Mark Mullet filed a Candidate Registration (C-1) on June 1, 2023, under the Full Reporting option.
- Upon review of the evidence provided in this case, PDC staff were able to find complete sponsor identification, including party affiliation, was present on those campaign signs used by the Mullet campaign in the 2024 election.
- Staff did question the campaign about the font size used on the yard signs and found the largest font size used was 316-point. The text of the sponsor identification was a 24-point font which is smaller than the 10% required by statute.
- The candidate lost the election in which the campaign signs were used.
- Mark Mullet does not have other similar warnings or violations of PDC requirements.

Summary and Resolution

Based on our findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, failing to provide complete sponsor identification, to include party affiliation when a partisan office, on campaign advertising does not amount to a violation that warrants further investigation.

Pursuant to <u>WAC 390-37-060(1)(d)</u>, however, Mark Mullet will receive a formal written warning concerning failing to provide complete sponsor identification, to include party affiliation when a partisan office, on campaign advertising. The formal written warning will include staff's expectation that Mark Mullet, in the future, comply with RCW 42.17A.320 about what to provide and how to provide complete sponsor identification on political advertising. The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Tanya Mercier, Compliance Officer 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

cc: Mark Mullet