External Email

REGARDING CASE NUMBER 158645

Hello and thank you for reaching out to me.

In response to **Case Number 158645** over the two large banners. These banners were not purchased by me or my campaign, nor were they gifted to me in any way.

My understanding of the situation with those banners is that a private citizen in Mount Vernon had heard that the landowner who owns the property that the banners are located at was dealing with persecution from the County government. As a result of this, this private citizen wished to show his disapproval for the local government's actions by purchasing and erecting those banners as a method of free speech against the local government. This was done of his own accord and there was a verbal agreement between this citizen and the landowner. The banners were even erected using this private citizen's own equipment. I was invited to watch the banners be erected, as per the photo of me standing in front of it/them.

In short, the banners were neither a campaign expenditure, nor an in-kind donation.

My understanding is that the party preference is stated in the parentheses on the top right "(I)" for "Independent". However, this banner(s) is an act of free speech by a private individual (not me), so that RCW does not apply in this case.

As a result of this being an act of free speech by an individual (not me), the law does not require that the owner display a sponsor ID.

Thank you for your time, and reach out to me if you have further questions.

=Rylee Fleury=

Ryleeforskagit

replied

2 months ago (Tue, 10 Sep 2024 at 2:26 PM)

To:"PDC Support" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov>

External Email

REGARDING CASE NUMBER 158645

Attached is a signed affidavit by the purchaser and owner of the signs.

SEE DOCUMENT: 158645 Fleury_Rylee – Michael McDaniel Affidavit SIGNED

Tanya Mercier

replied

Mon, 16 Sep 2024 at 1:16 PM

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Hello Mr. Fleury,

We have received two more complaints related to your campaign and will include these complaints in case 158645. If you wish to provide a written response to each of the new complaints, please do so by **Monday**, **September 23, 2024**.

Thank you,

Tanya

Ryleeforskagit

replied

Fri, 20 Sep 2024 at 2:44 PM

To:"PDC Support" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov>

External Email

The two new complaints do not seem to have anything to do with me, and the complainant admits to such.

Thank you.

=Rylee Fleury=

Tanya Mercier

replied

Fri, 27 Sep 2024 at 4:28 PM

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Hello Mr. Fleury,

Regarding your email from 9/20/24, the complaints filed by Connor Edwards are against you and relate to late reporting of the 21-day report and the missing post-election report (for period 7/25/24-8/31/24) that was due on 9/10/24. I reviewed the reporting today and the post-election report is still missing. Please either file the report immediately or let me know a date in which the report will be filed.

Per the complaint by Keith Tacker, there is no implication in Mr. Tackers complaint that the person who paid for the signs creation and erection did not have a right to do so. Mr. Tacker is addressing the requirement that these sorts of expenditures be reported to the PDC so the public may know how campaign funds are expended and also who is expending funds in support or opposition of a candidate. The two large signs are considered political advertising per RCW 42.17A.005(40):

"Political advertising" includes any advertising displays, newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids, flyers, letters, radio or television presentations, digital communication, or other means of mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support or opposition in any election campaign.

If Mr. Michael McDaniel did not coordinate with your campaign in the creation and erection of the signs, he may still have a reporting requirement under RCW 42.17A.255 and .260 if the material is determined to be an Independent Expenditure and RCW 42.17A.260 if the material is Electioneering Communication. I would like to get into contact with Mr. McDaniel, please provide his contact information so I may reach out.

So that I can keep this case review moving forward, please respond no later than Wednesday, October 2, 2024.

Thank you,

Tanya

Tanya Mercier

replied

Thu, 3 Oct 2024 at 10:43 AM

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Cc:info@rylee1.com, ryleefleury@yahoo.com

Hello Rylee Fleury,

Attached is a notice for Initial Hearing (aka Case Status Review) scheduled on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. This is not an adjudicative proceeding and you are not required to attend.

Conducting this case status review meeting is part of our administrative process and causes a formal investigation to be opened into the allegations made by the Complainant. If, following the Initial Hearing, we do not see cooperation in bringing the investigation to a resolution you will be scheduled for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding before our Commission. For more information about our enforcement process, please see our <u>Enforcement</u> <u>Guide</u>.

The meeting is virtual and you can access the meeting space either through the internet or by phone.

TEAMS MEETING INFORMATION REDACTED

Do let me know if you, or your representative, will participate in this process so I can make arrangements. Reach out directly to me if you have any questions about the next steps in your case.

Regards,

Tanya Mercier

Tanya Mercier

replied *Tue, 8 Oct 2024 at 11:43 AM* To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com Cc:info@rylee1.com, ryleefleury@yahoo.com Rylee Fleury Per WAC 390-37-060, the PDC held an initial hearing (case status review) for case 158645. For more information about the Enforcement Procedure please see <u>WAC 390-37-071</u> or <u>https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-</u> enforcement/enforcement.

Please see the attached Initial Hearing Results letter for a record of today's proceeding.

As discussed in today's hearing, here are the reports that are missing and coming due.

- 1. The post-Primary C-4, for the period 7/25/24-8/31/24, was due 9/10/24 and is due immediately.
- 2. For primary and general elections between June and general election day, C-3 reports must be filed weekly on Mondays. If you received contributions in August and September those C-3 reports are currently missing and due immediately.
- 3. The September C-4 is due 10/10/24.
- 4. The October C-3 report for contributions received 9/30-10/6 was due on Monday 10/7/24.

If you need technical support to file or amend C-3 and C-4 reports, give our filer assistance staff a call at 360-753-1111.

Also, please provide me the contact information form Mr. McDaniel so that I may reach out to him and discuss the political advertising that he has deployed. Please provide me this information at your earliest convenience but no later than Friday, October 18, 2024.

Sincerely,

Tanya Mercier

Tanya Mercier

replied

Fri, 25 Oct 2024 at 9:38 AM

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Cc:info@rylee1.com, ryleefleury@yahoo.com

Hello Mr. Fleury,

Thank you for getting the missing reports submitted.

I also still need the contact information for Mr. McDaniel so that I may reach out to him and discuss the political advertising that he has deployed. Please provide me this information by Monday, October 28, 2024. I'll need to talk with Mr. McDaniel before I can close this case.

Tanya

Tanya Mercier

replied

Thu, 31 Oct 2024 at 1:39 PM

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Cc:info@rylee1.com, ryleefleury@yahoo.com

Rylee Fleury,

We have received another complaint from Conner Edwards, see attached. This complaint is combined into the case we have open against you.

If you have not already filed the 7-day pre-general report outlined in the complaint, please be sure you get the report submitted.

If you would like to provide a response to the complaint, submit your written response to me at your earliest convenience and it will be published on our Enforcement Cases website.

Tanya

Tanya Mercier

replied

Thu, 31 Oct 2024 at 2:30 PM

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Cc:info@rylee1.com, ryleefleury@yahoo.com

Hello Mr. Fleury,

I just had a chance to look at your campaign website (<u>https://rylee1.com/</u>) and it is missing sponsor ID. Please update your website to reflect sponsor ID as it is described here:

- <u>https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/guidelines-restrictions/sponsor-id-what-include</u>
- <u>https://www.pdc.wa.gov/rules-enforcement/guidelines-restrictions/sponsor-id-placement-and-size</u>

Since we are just a few days out from the election, do be sure you get the website updated no later than Monday, November 4, 2024.

Also it appears that you have used a picture of the banner, provided by Michael McDaniel, on your website as the header for a blog post from August 11, 2024. Is the picture below the same picture provided as evidence in the complaint? Please respond by Monday, November 4, 2024.



RYLEE FLEURY: WE DON'T NEED TO CHANGE OUR GOVERNMENT, WE NEED TO UPHOLD IT

Rylee Fleury · No Comments

In the ongoing debate about Skagit County's governance, Rylee Fleury takes a bold stance that might surprise some. While his opponent, a current Skagit County Commissioner, claims "We Don't Need to Change Our Government," Fleury agrees – but with a crucial caveat. The real issue, according to Fleury, isn't the structure of our government as [...]

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I'd also still like to get into contact with Mr. McDaniel, you've previously indicated that you would provide me his contact information but I have not yet received it, please provide me his phone or email no later than Monday, November 4, 2024.

Tanya

Tanya Mercier

replied

Thu, 31 Oct 2024 at 5:04 PM

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Cc:info@rylee1.com, ryleefleury@yahoo.com

Mr. Fleury,

It has come to my attention that the address, for where the signs are erected, may be owned by Larry Jensen, your campaign's assistant treasurer. Is this correct? If this is not correct, what is the address for where the signs are erected?

I have also learned that Michael McDaniels is the owner of Ideal Rent All in Mount Vernon, is this correct?

Please respond to these questions no later than Friday, November 1, 2024.

Tanya

Ry	leef	ors	kag	it

replied

Fri, 1 Nov 2024 at 2:46 PM

To:"PDC Support" <pdc@pdc.wa.gov>

External Email

I sent Michael McDaniels contact information the day we had the Teams meeting conference. I can send again though.

Michael McDaniel

425-328-0015

mike@idealrentall.com

Best regards,

=Rylee Fleury=

Tanya Mercier

replied

an hour ago (Fri, 1 Nov 2024 at 2:59 PM)

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Thank you for resending the contact information for Mr. McDaniel, I did not get it earlier.

Please also confirm the address, for where the signs are erected, may be owned by Larry Jensen, your campaign's assistant treasurer. Is this correct? If this is not correct, what is the address for where the signs are erected?

Thank you,

Tanya

Tanya Mercier

replied

12 days ago (Thu, 7 Nov 2024 at 3:59 PM)

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Hello Mr. Fleury,

I have previously requested some information from you and not received it yet. Please provide responses to the following questions, no later than **Monday, November 11, 2024**. If I do not hear from you, I will schedule you for a hearing before our Commission.

- 1. Please provide the address and name of the property owner, for where the signs are erected.
- 2. It appears the picture below is the same picture provided as evidence in the complaint. You have previously confirmed the picture provided as evidence in the complaint was taken at the unveiling of the campaign signs and it is of you. Please confirm the picture below, which was taken from your campaign website and is a header for a blog post from August 11, 2024, is the same picture provided as evidence in the complaint?



RYLEE FLEURY: WE DON'T NEED TO CHANGE OUR GOVERNMENT, WE NEED TO UPHOLD IT

Rylee Fleury · No Comments

In the ongoing debate about Skagit County's governance, Rylee Fleury takes a bold stance that might surprise some. While his opponent, a current Skagit County Commissioner, claims "We Don't Need to Change Our Government," Fleury agrees – but with a crucial caveat. The real issue, according to Fleury, isn't the structure of our government as [...]

READ MORE

Tanya

Washington State law established email as the PDC's official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055). Filers have a duty to amend their reports within 10 days of any material changes, such as new email addresses. Please ensure your email address is up to date. To respond, please reply to this email.

Washington Public Disclosure Commission

http://www.pdc.wa.gov

1.360.753.1111

Tanya Mercier

replied

6 days ago (Wed, 13 Nov 2024 at 2:43 PM)

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Hello Mr. Fleury,

I took a look at your campaign reporting and the 7-day general report was due on 10/29/24 and is missing. There are also no C3 filed for contributions received after 10/21/24. Even though the campaign is over, you still have a reporting requirement and because there is a complaint filed related to your reporting it is in your interest to file any outstanding reports immediately. You will also have a post election C4 due on 12/10/24 and an end of election C4 due on 1/10/25.

Thanks,

Tanya

Tanya Mercier

replied

in a few seconds (Tue, 19 Nov 2024 at 12:14 PM)

To:ryleeforskagit@gmail.com

Hello Mr. Fleury,

I have been in contact with Michael McDaniel and Larry Jensen, the people responsible for supplying the location and materials and constructing the signs associated in this case. Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Jensen confirmed they are the responsible parties but they have refused to provide me with the cost/value information for those signs.

In that Mr. Jensen is your campaign's assistant treasurer, an officer for your campaign, we have determined there was consultation prior to the display of the signs between the campaign, through the assistant treasurer, and Mr. McDaniel. As well, we have determined that at the point in which you were at the erection and unveiling of the signs, and did not object prior to their implementation, you cooperated with Mr. McDaniel. These matters are aligned with the current allegations of RCW 42.17A.235, .240, and .320 under which this case was opened. Your campaign, and you as the candidate, had a responsibility to ensure the reporting was completed for the costs/valuation of the signs as an in-kind contribution, per <u>WAC 390-16-207</u>, to your campaign. This information has not been reported to date.

I am reaching out to you in a last effort allowing you to bring your campaign into compliance before I begin the subpoena process to obtain the requested information from Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Jensen. If I do not see the cost/valuation information reported in our ORCA system by close of business on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, I will subpoena Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Jenson for the information.

If you need assistance with our ORCA filing system, you can reach out to our Customer Service at 360-753-1111, Monday through Friday, 8am - 5pm. If you have questions about these issues, you can reach out to me between the hours of 10am and 4pm Monday through Friday, at 360-586-4746.

Thank you,

Tanya Mercier

Compliance Officer Public Disclosure Commission Office Phone Number: (360) 753-1111 pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Please use **Reply when responding to this email

Washington State law established email as the Public Disclosure Commission's (PDC) official means of communication as of June 7th, 2018 (RCW 42.17A.055), and this is how we primarily communicate with people outside of the agency. Person's required to file reports with the PDC have a requirement to maintain their information, within 10 days, for all material changes. Changes to contact information, including a valid email address, is a material change to the information kept on record by the PDC. Please ensure your email address is up to date.