



State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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February 6, 2025

Sent electronically to Conner Edwards at cg.edwards53@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Edward Cale IV, PDC Case 162854

Dear Conner Edwards:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on October 3, 2024. Your complaint alleged that Edward Cale IV, a 2024 candidate for Governor in the State of Washington, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235, and .240 by failing to disclose contributions and expenditures and RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to include full sponsor identification on his political campaign website.

To determine whether a formal investigation or enforcement action is warranted, PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint; the applicable statutes, rules and reporting requirements; the Summary, Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) reports filed by Edward Cale IV; the December 4, 2024, response to the complaint submitted by Edward Cale IV on behalf of his campaign (Campaign); the statutory requirement(s) pertinent to the sponsor identification section of the statute; and all other relevant information to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- On May 7, 2024, Edward Cale IV filed a Candidate Registration with the PDC declaring his candidacy for election to the position of Governor, selecting the "Full Reporting" option and listing himself as Treasurer.
- You alleged that the Campaign failed to file the statutory required reports and include the required sponsor identification on the campaign's website. Specifically, you noted in your complaint that: "It appears the campaign failed to include 'paid for by' statement on the website" and that on the website, the Campaign noted that: "\$1,982.57 was raised, indirectly, thanks to generous support – with a link to a GoFundMe account which has now been taken down. Yet, on his C-4 covering the relevant period, he lists that the filing fee was paid for by himself. It appears that he failed to disclose the people who donated this money to him."
- In its response, pertinent to the failure to disclose the contributors to his campaign, the Campaign by way of the candidate, Edward Cale IV, stated: "I did not obtain any funds, unfortunately, from anyone. My website does not claim that I was not attempting to obtain fund raising donations, however as my filing states the initial fee paid to Washington State for filing was paid for by my own personal funds. I disclosed that I did

not receive any other funds. Had I received funds from the public through donations I would have filed receipts.”

- Regarding the allegation about failure to include “paid for by” statement on the Campaign’s website, staff noted the Campaign failed to include a complete sponsor identification language to include the sponsor’s name and full mailing address on its campaign website.

While our review found that Edward Cale IV failed to include a complete sponsor identification to include the sponsor’s name and full address on the Campaign website, it appears that it was an oversight on his part. Edward Cale IV is a first-time candidate for a political office. Additionally, Mr. Cale IV acknowledged the shortcoming and took responsibility by responding to the complaint in a timely manner.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), Edward Cale IV will receive a formal written warning concerning his Campaign’s failure to include a complete sponsor identification on the Campaign’s website, as required by the statutory scheme. Edward Cale IV will be informed the Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of the PDC laws/rules.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina, Compliance Officer at (360) 586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

/s _____
Erick O. Agina, Compliance Officer

/s _____
Peter Frey Lavallee, Executive Director

cc: Edward Cale IV

