

## State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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March 19, 2025

Delivered electronically to Cory Burden on behalf of Cedar House Printing at cory@cedarhousemedia.com

Subject: PDC Case 166245 regarding Cedar House Printing

Cedar House Printing:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint filed by Conner Edwards on January 9, 2025. The complaint alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.345 by failing to timely provide complete commercial advertiser books of account upon request.

## Applicable Laws & Rules

RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050 require commercial advertisers to make their documents and books of account open for public inspection during normal business hours for five years following the election to which the records pertain. Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.345, the documents and books of account shall specify: 1) the names and addresses of persons from whom it accepted political advertising or electioneering communications; 2) the exact nature and extent of the services rendered; and 3) the total cost and the manner of payment for the services.

WAC 390-18-050(3) states that commercial advertisers can provide such information to the requester in person during normal business hours or by email or online publication.

## Background & Findings

- Cedar House Printing is a commercial advertiser based in Beaverton, Oregon, that is listed in the PDC expenditure database as providing political advertising services.
- The complainant stated they sent an email to Cedar House Printing on January 8, 2025, stating: "Per RCW 42.17A.345, I am requesting to view your (Cedar House Media's) commercial advertising books of account."
- In the complaint, the complainant stated they received a response denying his request to inspect your commercial advertising books of account and attached an email from you denying his request for inspection.
- On January 31, 2025, the PDC staff contacted you to provide guidance and clarification regarding the statutory requirement(s) related to the commercial advertiser law and what to produce in the event you receive a commercial advertiser request for inspection of books of account.

• On or about February 4, 2025, you responded to the complainant and produced the responsive documents related to the commercial advertiser request.

## Summary and Resolution

It appears that, prior to the complaint, you were not fully aware of the requirement to make books of account available for public inspection. After being informed about the law, however, you did respond to the complainant's request and provided responsive documents/materials pertinent to the inspection of books of account request.

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of adhering to the statutory scheme, specifically as it relates to RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050. The staff expects you, in the future, to respond timely to public requests to review your books of account pursuant to the statutory requirements associated with commercial advertisers and political advertisements.

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

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

<u>Electronically signed by Erick Agina</u> Erick O. Agina Compliance Officer <u>Electronically signed by Kim Bradford</u> Kim Bradford Deputy Director For Peter Frey Lavallee Executive Director

cc: Conner Edwards