

## State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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March 4, 2025

Delivered electronically to phil@seattlecfo.com

Subject: PDC Case 166814 regarding People for Responsible Social Housing

People for Responsible Social Housing:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint filed by Naishin Fu on February 3, 2025. The complaint alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.320 for failing to provide adequate sponsor identification on campaign advertising.

## Applicable Laws and Rules

- RCW 42.17A.320 requires that, unless otherwise exempt, all written political advertisement shall include the sponsor's name and address and if the political advertisement is undertaken as an independent expenditure, the advertisement must also include the statement "No candidate authorized this ad. It is paid for by (name, address, city, state)." In addition, if the sponsor is a political committee, the ad must also include the statement "Top Five Contributors," followed by the names of the largest contributors to the committee, and, if necessary, the statement "Top Three Donors to PAC Contributors" followed by the names of non-PAC donors.
- WAC 390-18-030 identifies exemptions from sponsor identification and alternatives for online advertising stating that "small online advertising may provide the required disclosures by using an automatic display with the advertising that takes a reader directly the required disclosures" with one click.

## **Background and Findings**

- The complaint included static copies of a digital political advertisement opposing Prop 1A, a ballot measure in the February 11, 2025, City of Seattle special election, that appeared in the Seattle Times from December 31, 2024, through February 2, 2025. The complaint alleged that the sponsor identification at the bottom of the advertisements is blurred and almost illegible.
- Your response to the complaint indicated that all advertisements linked to a website that had the top five contributors in at least a 10-point font.
- PDC staff confirmed the website, <a href="https://socialhousing1b.com/">https://socialhousing1b.com/</a>, includes sponsor identification information with the top five contributors as required by RCW 42.17A.320.

## Summary and Resolution

It appears that, although the sponsor identification included on the online advertisements sponsored by People for Responsible Social Housing included sponsor identification information that was not legible, the advertisements satisfied the exemption for small online advertising by including a link that directed viewers to a website containing the required disclosures upon being clicked once.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, no evidence supports a finding of a violation warranting further investigation.

The PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Casey Gayman at 1-360-753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed by Casey Gayman

Casey Gayman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed by Kim Bradford

Kim Bradford Deputy Director

For Peter Frey Lavallee Executive Director

cc: Naishin Fu