

Genipher Youngblood reported via email
(Wed, 9 Apr 2025 at 11:40 AM)

To: "PDC Support" pdcc@pdc.wa.gov
Cc: iglitzin@workerlaw.com

External Email

Good afternoon:

Attached please find responsive correspondence from Dmitri Iglitzin on behalf of Erika Evans.

Sincerely,

Genipher Youngblood

GENIPHER A. YOUNGBLOOD | *Lead Paralegal* (she/her) | Barnard Iglitzin & Lavitt LLP

DIR: 206.257.6018 | **FAX:** 206.378.4132

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Dmitri Iglitzin
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Sent via e-mail

April 9, 2025

Tabatha Blacksmith
Public Disclosure Commission
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504
pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Re: Complaint No 166903

Ms. Blacksmith:

I am writing in response to the complaint alleging potential violations of RCW 42.17A.205, RCW 42.17A.700, and RCW 42.17A.235 that was submitted by Maxwell Villella on March 23, 2025. I would like to provide the following clarifications and context in response to each of the points raised.

I. Although a domain registration was purchased for Erika Evans in early February, Ms. Evans had not yet decided to run for office, and it therefore did not start the two-week period for her to file a statement of organization.

It is true that Ms. Evans was considering a run for office in early February of 2025. However, she had not made a final decision regarding whether to do so as of February 4, 2025, when the domain name ELECTERIKAEVANS.COM was purchased. More specifically, Ms. Evans did not at that time have any expectation of receiving contributions in any election campaign.

Ms. Evans did not make her decision to become a candidate until February 26, 2025, when she signed a contract with her strategist. Consistent with this, although the domain name was purchased in early February, a website was not actually or publicly launched until after the filing of the C-1 form, which occurred five days later, on March 3, 2025. The F-1 was filed two weeks later, on March 17, 2025, within the requisite time period.

The simple purchase of a domain name, without an adjoining development or public launch of a website, does not and should not hold the same meaning as the actual and public launch of a campaign. Thus, it should not properly be deemed to automatically trigger the two-week period within which a statement of organization must be filed.

II. Similarly, although a domain registration was purchased for Erika Evans in early February, Ms. Evans was not yet a “candidate” on that date, as defined by RCW 42.17A.005(8); thus, that did not start the two-week period for her to file her F-1 form.

Because, as noted above, Ms. Evans had not yet decided to run for office on the date the domain registration was purchased, she had not yet received contributions or made expenditures or reserved space or facilities with intent to promote her candidacy for office, or announced publicly or filed for office, or purchased commercial advertising space or broadcast time to promote her candidacy; or given her consent to any other person to take any of those actions on her behalf. Under the plain language of RCW 42.17A.005(8), she was therefore not a candidate as of the date the domain registration was purchased, and that purchase therefore did not start the two-week period for her to file her F-1 form (per RCW 42.17A.700(2)).

III. The other allegations in the complaint are equally without merit.

The complaint specifically suggests that the \$200 threshold would have been surpassed in February by payment for “a website platform” and/or for professional photography.

The allegations regarding the website platform and professional photography lack merit. The website platform that the strategist utilized for initial design templates, in February, was a free WordPress version. The photos submitted as a part of the complaint, which are currently on the website, are photos that Erika had professionally taken *after she formally filed her C-1 and finally decided to run*. Those photos were taken on March 9, 2025.

The campaign has kept thorough records of all expenditures and will file C-4 reports in compliance with RCW 42.17A.235 once the relevant thresholds and timelines are met. Additionally, as mentioned above, the campaign has also filed C-1 and F-1 forms, and a modification request related to those forms.

IV. At most, the PDC should resolve this matter through an alternative response.

Rather than perform an investigation or adjudicative proceeding, the PDC recognizes alternative responses may represent a more efficient and effective use of public funds in certain circumstances involving minor violations. WAC 390-37-061(1). At most, such an alternative response would be appropriate here, for the following reasons:

- A. If there was noncompliance, it resulted from a good-faith error, omission, or misunderstanding.

As noted above, the simple purchase of a domain name, without an adjoining development or public launch of a website, does not and should not hold the same meaning as the actual and public launch of a campaign. Thus, it should not properly be deemed to automatically trigger the two-week period within which a statement of organization must be filed. To the extent that the

Commission disagrees, Ms. Evans' failure to have filed the statement of organization within two weeks of the date the domain name was purchased by the strategist was an unintentional lapse, committed by a first-time filer, and was not the result of any intent to evade the requirements of the law.

B. The impact of the noncompliance on the public was minimal.

At worst, Ms. Evans' error resulted in some very minimal information that should have been disclosed in March, but instead was disclosed in April. Given that the primary election is not until August, and (again) given the very minimal amount of information that arguably should have been disclosed earlier, it is clear that the public's ability to be fully informed about candidates for public office was not materially impacted by this alleged error.

This campaign takes compliance with Washington State campaign finance laws seriously and has acted in good faith throughout the formation of this campaign. If the Commission determines that a correction or amendment is necessary, we will promptly comply.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond. Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dmitri Iglitzin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dmitri Iglitzin
Counsel for Erika Evans