

Jennifer Hansen  
Compliance Officer  
Public Disclosure Commission  
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360-586-4560  
**PDC Case Number 169775 7/17/2025**

Dear Ms. Hansen:

We were embarrassed to learn this week that since April 2 you have been trying to get a response from us regarding a complaint filed by Kelly Cruz on Mar 21, 2025 with the PDC. The respondent named in the complaint is “Indivisible Spokane Mary Ellen Gaffney-Brown.” Our group is “Spokane Indivisible”, although, confusingly, there is another group “Indivisible Spokane” with a non-overlapping membership. Mary Ellen Gaffney-Brown has never been a spokesperson for our group, although around the middle of March 2025 she attended two of our meetings and was for a short time the administrator of our Facebook page. We have had no communication with her since the end of March. It was only this week that your third email was received by Sami Perry, who has been the administrator of our Facebook page except for the brief tenure of Mary Ellen Gafney-Brown.

Indivisible ([indivisible.org](http://indivisible.org)) is a national 501c4 nonprofit social welfare group with thousands of affiliated local groups in all states and congressional districts. There are several affiliates in Washington’s 5th Congressional District, including Spokane Indivisible and Indivisible Spokane. As a recognized affiliate of Indivisible (national), Spokane Indivisible is permitted to raise money for projects using the services of Act Blue, with the requirement that no money raised in this way may be used to support or oppose any candidate for office or ballot measure. This is the only way we have ever raised money, so the requirement ensures that Spokane Indivisible is not a “political committee” as described in RCW 29B.10.420. Thus, we do not see a requirement for us to report our fundraising to the PDC.

In March we learned from our CD 5 Representative, Michael Baumgartner, that he intended to hold a town-hall meeting for constituents at Whitworth University on April 17, 2025. We also learned from him the process by which tickets could be obtained. This information was posted on Facebook, where it was visible to some ~3000 members of our Facebook page. Although we urged people to attend and ask questions, we did not engage in “dirty tricks” to pack or commandeer Baumgartner’s town hall as Cruz claims. Even had we done so, we do not see how we would have violated a law or RCW statute.

Given this background we see no merit in Mr. Cruz’s complaint and hope you will agree with us.

Sincerely,

William F. Siems, Member of Spokane Indivisible