

Re: PDC - Erb, James: Alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240 for failure to timely report debts and expenditures for mailers (EY 18, Aug 18)

[James Erb](#) (Mon, 10 Sep at 2:11 PM)

To: pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Cc: jessgood86@gmail.com, nataliebham@gmail.com

Good afternoon Mr. Blackhorn:

Thank you for allowing me to respond to Mr. Chester Dow's complaint that our campaign allegedly violated RCW 42.17A.235 and RCW 42.17A.240 by failing to timely and accurately report debts and expenditures for mailed political advertising.

First, the C4 report due two weeks before the primary was filed on time, however, due to a software malfunction, the report did not appear on the PDC's web-site until July 25. This was the subject of a previous complaint that has already been resolved (see attached closing letter).

Second, Mr. Dow alleged that the C4 report omitted the cost for printing a direct mail piece that our campaign distributed prior to the Primary Election. He is correct. That expense was inadvertently omitted from the C4 because I failed to timely provide the invoice to my campaign treasurer for inclusion in the report. The mistake was mine. I have since provided the invoice to our treasurer and she has prepared an amended C4 which includes that expense as incurred debt. However, and unfortunately, the amended C4 reports were rejected when Mrs. Good attempted to file them using our reporting software. We have an open support ticket with Blue Utopia and they are working to correct the issue (see attached).

Finally, we have changed our workflow following receipt of this complaint to ensure that our treasurer is copied on all invoices from vendors prospectively. This will not happen again.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

James Erb



James Erb <jerb98229@gmail.com>

Re: PDC - Erb, James: Alleged Violation of RCW 42.17A.235, .240 for failure to accurately and timely report contributions, expenditures, obligations, and debts. (July 2018)

PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>
Reply-To: PDC Support <pdcc@pdc.wa.gov>
To: jerb98229@gmail.com

Thu, Aug 23, 2018 at 7:53 AM



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

August 23, 2018

Delivered electronically to "jerb98229@gmail.com"

Subject: PDC Case 38098

Dear James Erb:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Erika Riggs concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted below to Erika Riggs, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter

If you have questions, you may contact Micaiah Ragins at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at micaiah.ragins@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____
Micaiah Ragins
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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August 23, 2018

Delivered electronically to "erikalriggs@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding James Erb, PDC Case 38098

Dear Erika L Riggs:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on July 20, 2018. Your complaint alleged that James Erb may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely file the C-4 expenditure report that is due twenty-one days before the election.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, and as a result of staff's initial review, we found the following:

- The C-4 report was emailed to the PDC on July 17, 2018 as a PDF attachment, which was received twenty-one days preceding the election as required by RCW 42.17A.235(2)(a). The timestamp on the C-4 report does not reflect that the PDC received the document by the deadline.
- The C-4 report was not electronically-filed initially due to a software malfunction with the campaign's third party software, Blue Utopia. Copies of email correspondence demonstrates that the campaign treasurer notified PDF staff of the technical error and emailed the C-4 report as a temporary solution until the software issue was resolved.
- On July 20, 2018, PDF staff acknowledged receipt of the C-4 report that was received on July 17, 2018. The report was electronically filed by the campaign on July 25, 2018 after the software malfunction was resolved.

Based on these initial findings, staff has determined that in this instance, the twenty-one day C-4 report was filed on-time and the evidence does not support a finding of a material violation warranting further investigation.

The PDC has closed the matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing further enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Micaiah Ragins at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at micaiah.ragins@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____
Micaiah Ragins
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director

9/10/2018

Gmail - Re: PDC - Erb, James: Alleged Violation of RCW 42.17A.235, .240 for failure to accurately and timely report contributions, expend...

For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: James Erb

[Quoted text hidden]



Requests Contributions Following

Support | Blue Utopia > My activities

In hopes that this clarifies the other support cases

Ticket details

Jessica Good
Wednesday at 17:57

Hi there- Attached are mark ups on the amended C4s that are being produced by Blue Utopia. The mark ups indicate changes that need to be made before I can file the reports. Does this help clarify the changes I am requesting in my other support cases that are open? I hope so.

thanks

[Draft of corrections to amended C4 for 7.16.pdf](#)
300 KB · Download

[Draft of corrections to amended C4 for 7.30.pdf](#)
700 KB · Download

Blue Utopia Support
Thursday at 12:10

escalating priority

Blue Utopia Support
Thursday at 12:16

(ta). spoke to client today. per client request, I removed corrections entry from db (-57.15)

Blue Utopia Support
Thursday at 12:20

(ta). Debt on sched B is showing up due to date visibility on debts.

I (temp solution) removed transaction type, DT. Hopefully, this keeps it from showing up on report.

Allow the report to be filed, then reset taht trasnaction type.

Blue Utopia Support
Thursday at 13:03


(ta). dealing with the debts issue. the debts have all been paid off so they have a balance of 0. But at the time of this report, they were not paid off. I manually adjusted the balance for all loans to be %original amount%.

After the filing of each amended report, bu-support --> manually adjust the balance of the debts.

This really needs to be enhanced to have better visibility into balance on certain date, rather than balance now. Please post that enhancement with eng team.

Here are the debt entries and the last column manually updated.

contribid	contactid	date	amount	balance
588	30753	7/27/2018	0:00 1000	1000
590	30753	8/16/2018	0:00 812.81	812.81
591	30753	6/14/2018	0:00 1614.2	1614.2
593	30754	7/15/2018	0:00 6524.41	6524.41
594	30753	7/12/2018	0:00 477.5	477.5
595	30753	7/15/2018	0:00 7515.72	7515.72
613	30753	8/3/2018	0:00 1700	1700
615	30753	6/22/2018	0:00 1539	1539

 Blue Utopia Support
Thursday at 15:27

Regarding this notation:

Following obligations are missing:


\$477.50
\$7515.72
\$1539.00

Response:

The report dates are 07/17/2018 --- 07/30/2018


Those transactions are outside the date range:

\$477.50 is dated 8/21
\$7515.72 is dated 8/21
\$1539 is dated 8/31


 Blue Utopia Support
Thursday at 15:30

We have confirmed that the temporary fix of removing the type on the debt has removed it from the report.

After the 7/31 report has been amended, please alert us to change the \$750 debt back to 'DT'. At that point, it will appear on the report as normal debt.


 Jessica Good
Thursday at 15:50

Regarding your comment below regarding dates, the August dates of 8/21 and 8/31 are the payoff dates, not the date incurred. Debts must be reported when they are incurred so should be on the report.

 Blue Utopia Support
Thursday at 16:00

Oh. I was looking at the debt payments.

The debts did not show up because they were paid off. They were modified to have balance due below. They will now appear on the report.

 Jessica Good
Thursday at 19:40


Hi: Regarding the C4 for 7.30 those debts are still not showing up. I will list the outstanding items for each amended July C4 below:

July 16 C4:


The only outstanding item is that the beginning balances on lines 1 & 10 need to be corrected to actual per original C4. Amounts are \$29,565.87 for line 1 and \$22,586.12 for line 10.

July 30 C4:

- 1) page 1 line 10 should be \$25,763.70 as per amended C4 for July 16. I understand if I will need to file the amended report for July 16th in order for this to populate. But if not can you please correct it? Let me know.
- 2) The following debts/obligations are still not showing: \$477.50, 7,515.72, and \$1539.00

 Jessica Good
Friday at 10:22

Hi just checking on this. I am hoping to file the Amended C4s for July 16 and July 30 today so that we can file the August C4 Monday


 Blue Utopia Support
Friday at 10:47

We haven't lost sight of your ticket. We were only waiting on dev to send us an update.


Dev rolled up a change to the way we treat amended reports. This solved a bug in general but an acute bug where the report was the first report in sequence. That change has been rolled up and some basic testing performed. Amending reports seem to work as expected.

There is one glitch that we're experiencing now, which involves the system hanging at the print stage. If you experience this issue you may need to restart the process. But do let us know if this happens to you. We're working to isolate and resolve this issue.


Please proceed with your amended reports and update this ticket.

 Jessica Good
Friday at 10:51

Thanks, I'll try right now!

 Jessica Good
Friday at 10:54


Its hanging at the print stage. Do you want me to delete the report and try a new amended report?

 Blue Utopia Support
Friday at 11:11

The pdf IS being created fine. This process is just being interrupted. What I recommend is this:

1. go back in and review the pdf. You can do that here
<http://my.blueutopia.com/admin/pages/266/270/?&view=unfiled>
2. If everything is correct, you might just have to try to get through this process by trying to a couple of times. If the pdf is correct, then you can tell us and we will try to go through the process on your behalf.

We have a solution for this that builds this pdf in real-time instead of a back-end process but it cannot be rolled up until next week due to some conflicts.

 Jessica Good
Friday at 12:38

So the report for 7.16 looks good and I tried to upload but it got rejected. See below:

JAMES ERB (ERB J 227): Your C4 (100856640) for the period 06-01-2018 - 07-16-2018 has been rejected because:


*** You are not allowed to submit multiple C4 reports that cover the same dates.
You have already filed a C4 report (100847057) for the period 06-01-2018 - 07-16-2018.

Please return to the Electronic Filing screen and check the reporting period you selected for this report. Make sure you have selected the correct report and that your reporting periods are in chronological order and do not overlap dates. (Current reporting periods can be found at <http://www.pdc.wa.gov/filerassistance/whatsnew>. If you need help modifying your reporting periods please consult ORCA Help.) When you have corrected any reporting date conflicts, return to the Electronic Filing screen and file your report again. If you get this message a second time, please contact the PDC (toll-free 1-877-601-2828) for assistance before attempting to re-file your report.


If you intended this to be an amended report, please enter the confirmation # of the report you want to amend in the amended report block.

It looks like we need to enter the confirmation # of the report we are amending in the "amended report block".

Do you know how to do this?


 Jessica Good
Friday at 12:40

What is also odd is that it is showing up as a filed report under "view reports" and "filed reports" but I think the PDC rejected it.


 Blue Utopia Support
Friday at 13:12

We're looking into this.

It's showing up as filed because the PDC generates a confirmation number, meaning they accept it, but then reject it because they see it as a duplicate. We're investigating.

 Blue Utopia Support
Friday at 13:52


We did look into this and have passed this to our management to work with the PDC. The issue seems to be that they dont have a mechanism for our system to tell their system that the report is amended. We're sure there's a workaround here but we're waiting on the people on both sides to work it out. We'll update when we hear back.

 Jessica Good
Friday at 15:49


Thank you, since I have to file three C4 reports by Monday evening will this be fixed over the weekend?

Best,

Jessica


 Jessica Good
Friday at 16:05

escalation

 Blue Utopia Support
Friday at 16:19

We're waiting to hear back from the PDC IT dept. Can't do anything until they respond.

Appending a support ticket with the word 'escalation' is not affecting our ability to help.

 Add to conversation

Mark as solved