



**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@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdcc.wa.gov

August 23, 2018

Delivered electronically to "sarahbottenberg@gmail.com"

Subject: PDC Case 37221

Dear Sarah Kneller:

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

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

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of the timely disclosure of all contribution and expenditure activities, and to maintain thorough records of technical issues so as to accurately distinguish between when a report is late as the result of software errors or due to noncompliance within the campaign.

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@pdcc.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 "glen@wethegoverned.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Sarah Kneller, PDC Case 37221

Dear Glen Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on June 21, 2018. Your complaint alleged that Sarah Kneller may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely and accurately file contributions and expenditures.

- The Campaign filed two Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) for the 2017 election cycle that were due to be filed in June and July of 2017, more than 30 days late (Report # 100775168 and 100785117). In addition, the Campaign failed to timely file five additional C-3 reports during the aforementioned date range, that were filed less than 30 days late (Report # 100776055, 100776056, 100769457, 100775168, 100785117). In total, seven of the C-3 reports identified in the complaint were verified by PDC as being filed between one to 71 days late..
- Of the four Summary Full Campaign Contributions and Expenditures reports (C-4 reports) listed in the complaint as having been filed late, staff determined that two of the C-4 reports were filed one day after the deadline by the Campaign (Report #100794353 and 10074876); one C-4 report was filed 6 days late (100799066), and the fourth C-4 report was filed 33 days late (Report #100768206).
- The complaint alleged that a C-3 report filed by the Campaign listing a July 6, 2015 deposit date and disclosed no contributions was filed late (Report # 100772867). This report is determined to be a technical error in the application and was not intended as a 2015 filing or a required C-3 report. Therefore it was not a violation. In addition, three additional C-3 reports that were listed in the complaint as having been filed late, were amended C-3 reports filed by the Campaign, providing additional information to the previous reports that were timely filed (Report # 100788713, 100788712, and 100776057).
- Sarah Kneller provided a response which included screenshots of emails between the campaign and PDC, which indicated that the Campaign needed assistance in electronically filing its C-3 and C-4 reports due to technical issues encountered while using the Online Reporting of Campaign Activities (ORCA campaign finance software). There is sufficient information to indicate that the campaign encountered software discrepancies when attempting to submit reports electronically, and needed to make adjustments between the ORCA account and the campaign's third party software under Democracy Engine and Crowd Pac.
- The documentation and response provided by the Sarah Kneller campaign does not fully account for which specific C-3 and C-4 reports were late as the result of technical difficulties. However, there does not appear to

be evidence of an intentional effort to violate campaign finance law and avoid the timely disclosure of these reports.

Sarah Kneller was a first-time candidate for public office in 2017. In addition, sufficient evidence was provided to PDC staff to demonstrate that there was a good-faith effort made on behalf of the Campaign to communicate with staff in order to electronically file reports, and resolve the software discrepancies that were encountered.

Based on these initial findings, staff has determined that in this instance, the failure to timely file the C-3 and C-4 reports during the 2017 election campaign as a first-time candidate does not support a finding of a material violation warranting further investigation. PDC staff is reminding Sarah Kneller about the importance of the timely disclosure of all contribution and expenditure activities, and to maintain thorough records of technical issues so as to accurately distinguish between when a report is late as the result of software errors or due to noncompliance within the campaign.

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
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Kneller