



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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June 21, 2021

Delivered electronically to "rcs99353@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Pratt, Brian, PDC Case 87818

Dear Renee Slocumb:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on March 27, 2021. Your complaint alleged that Bryan Pratt may have violated RCW 42.17A.405(3) by making an over-limit in-kind contribution to the political committee, Recall Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher, a committee organized for the purpose of supporting the recall of Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statute; the response provided by Bryan Pratt; the applicable PDC report showing receipt of the contribution; and action taken by the Commission at its May 27, 2021 Commission meeting concerning allegations that Committee to Recall Jerry Hatcher accepted an over-limit in-kind contribution from Bryan Pratt, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- On January 15, 2021, Bryan Pratt made an in-kind contribution to Committee to Recall Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher. The contribution had a value of \$3,500, exceeding the \$1,000 contribution limit for contributions to recall committees by \$2,500.
- Bryan Pratt stated he was approached by the Committee to Recall Sheriff Hatcher and asked to help them record some videos. Pratt said he offered to perform the work *pro bono*. Pratt said, after the videos were finished, he was informed he had to estimate the value of his donated work. Pratt said he looked at the hours spent and his contract rate and came up with a value. Pratt said he has not done work for a recall committee before and did not realize there were limits for this type of work. Pratt said the committee was also unaware there were limits.
- On May 27, 2021, the Commission accepted a Stipulation as to Facts and Deferred Enforcement of Contribution Limits, signed by PDC staff and the Respondent. The Commission's action deferred enforcement upon adherence to the conditions set forth in the Stipulation for the over-limit contributions accepted by the committee.

- The Respondent's compliance with the conditions of the deferred enforcement will be used by the Public Disclosure Commission to assess any future complaint that alleges any violation of RCW 42.17A.405(3) and (14) by the Respondent in relation to its support for the recall of Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, making an over-limit in-kind contributions to Committee to Recall Jerry Hatcher does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation. The alleged violation of making an over-limit contribution is being dismissed, in part, because enforcement concerning the acceptance of over-limit contributions during a recall campaign is being deferred.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically Signed Philip E. Stutzman

Phil Stutzman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically Signed Barbara Sandahl

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Bryan Pratt