



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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Memorandum

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabatha Blacksmith, Compliance Coordinator

Date: October 12, 2021

Subject: Thomas Stanton; PDC Case 94214; Reconsideration Hearing

Matter for Reconsideration:

During a Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, Thomas Stanton was found to have violated RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) no later than April 15, 2021. At the July 15, 2021 Brief Enforcement Hearing, an Order imposing a \$250 penalty, with \$150 suspended, was entered, which Thomas Stanton now requests the Commission reconsider.

Background:

- Thomas Stanton (the “Respondent”) served as Fire Commissioner for Chelan Fire Prot. Dist. 03 during calendar year 2020. His current term expires December 31, 2025.
- The Respondent has no prior violations with the PDC.
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, an elected or appointed official who held office in 2020 was required to file an F-1 report, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2020, no later than April 15, 2021.
- In March and April of 2021, PDC staff sent email reminders to all elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020.
- On May 13, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a warning notice regarding the missing F-1 report for calendar year 2020. The notice was sent to the Respondent’s email address-of-record.

- On June 30, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a hearing notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to be held on July 15, 2021. The hearing notice was sent to the Respondent's email address-of-record.
- At the Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, the Respondent was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to file the F-1 report no later than April 15, 2021, and was assessed a \$250 penalty, consistent with WAC 390-37-143, the Brief Enforcement Hearing penalty schedule adopted by the Commission. The Presiding Officer suspended \$150 of the \$250 penalty conditioned upon the Respondent filing the missing F-1 report and paying the non-suspended \$100 penalty within 30 days of the Initial Order being served.
- On August 17, 2021, PDC staff served the August 12, 2021 Initial Order memorializing the Commission's ruling, by email, to the contact email address-of-record.
- The Respondent filed the F-1 report covering calendar year 2020 activity on September 15, 2021.

Request for Reconsideration:

- On September 15, 2021, the Respondent, submitted written materials to PDC staff to appeal the August 12, 2021 Order based upon the fact that he did not receive the emails from PDC staff, notifying him of the July 15, 2021 Hearing. The Respondent stated that his email account was hacked in December of 2020 and had to be closed. He reported the new email address to the fire district, but it appears this information did not get conveyed to the PDC until September 16, 2021.
- On October 4, 2021, PDC staff served the Respondent, by email, with a hearing notice for an October 12, 2021 Reconsideration Hearing before the Public Disclosure Commission, along with instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely.