

July 22, 2021

To: Tabitha Blacksmith

In 2017, I ran for re-election as Mayor of Federal Way. When I began that campaign, my Treasurer was Steve McNey. Steve left the campaign and his role as my Treasurer in July 2017.

Shortly thereafter, Joe Atkinson took over as my Treasurer and served in that capacity through the end of the campaign. Joe received the information regarding my contributions and expenditures and filed the required paperwork. I did not, however, review the final C-4 on that race at that time. When I completed the 2017 re-election campaign, I did **not** have \$12,000 in my account. It was my understanding that I had just around \$1,100 in the account.

In August of 2020, I began my re-election campaign for 2021. At that time, I first became aware of a reporting error which showed a balance of \$12,728.50. **I immediately knew this to be an error and took prompt action to correct it.**

First, I contacted my prior Treasurer, Joe Atkinson, and alerted him to this issue. Second, I contacted my bank, Heritage Bank, in Federal Way, and requested and then received the records for my campaign account. I then provided those records to Joe Atkinson for his review.

After receiving these records, Joe reviewed them and reconciled them with the filed reports. To my knowledge, he also consulted with PDC staff for guidance on how to proceed.

In October of 2020, Joe then filed corrected reports which showed the correct amounts according to contributions received and expenditures made. Prior to filing those reports, I discussed this with Joe and agreed with his reports. At all times we have been transparent and compliant with PDC guidance and rules.

In reviewing this entire matter, I came to the conclusion that due to the change in Treasurers, there were either duplicates in reporting or missing expenditures. There were also, early on to my understanding, difficulties working with the ORCA system. However, after Joe went through this in detail, we were able to fully identify all activity that is required to be reported, and we have done so.

As to the items listed on the second complaint, we have amended our reports to add the required information with guidance from PDC staff.

In response to this complaint, in addition to my statement here, I have included statements from Joe Atkinson and Steve McNey. These should explain this matter in detail.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and I will answer them right away and as completely as I am able.

Thank you,

Jim Ferrell

Enclosures: Statement of Joe Atkinson
Statement of Steve McNey