



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908  
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Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdcc.wa.gov](http://www.pdcc.wa.gov)

July 27, 2021

Delivered electronically to samforyakima@gmail.com

Subject: PDC Case 96111

Dear Samuel Johnson:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Kenton Gartrell concerning a complaint filed July 13, 2021 with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) alleging violations of RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 for failure to timely and accurately report contributions and expenditures on Full Summary Contributions and Expenditures (C-4) reports. PDC staff added an allegation of RCW 42.17A.710 for failing to timely disclose personal financial information on the Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1).

As noted in the letter below, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into the allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff reminds you about the importance of timely and accurately filing with the PDC and staff expects in the future you will timely file your F-1 and also include the required expenditure detail on C-4 reports in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov)

Sincerely,

/s

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Alice Fiman  
Compliance Officer

/s

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Kim Bradford  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director



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July 27, 2021

Delivered electronically to [kentongartrell@hotmail.com](mailto:kentongartrell@hotmail.com)

Subject: Complaint regarding Samuel Johnson, PDC Case 96111

Dear Kenton Gartrell:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint you filed July 13, 2021. The complaint alleged Samuel Johnson, a 2021 candidate for Yakima City Council, Position 6, violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to timely and accurately report contributions and expenditures on Full Summary Contributions and Expenditures (C-4) reports.

After reviewing Johnson's PDC reports, PDC staff added an allegation of RCW 42.17A.710 for failing to timely disclose personal financial information on the Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1).

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the applicable PDC reports, the evidence provided in the complaint and a response from Samuel Johnson, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

We found the following:

- According to PDC records, there are four candidates registered for City of Yakima Council, District 6 indicating there is a primary election for this office on August 3, 2021.
- Johnson timely registered with the PDC on March 8, 2021 and amended the registration on June 8, 2021, removing a campaign officer.
- On June 16, 2021, Johnson filed a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1) with the PDC. This report is due within two weeks of becoming a candidate and was filed 86 days late.
- Johnson is a first-time candidate for public office.
- In response, Johnson stated "Mr. Gartrell is wrong on several assumptions made in his allegation. I did not send this flyer to the entirety of district six but only 2,500 households. The production time for Vista Print was roughly one week and the USPS delivers the order within 3 business days after receipt. Please note that the two Office Depot expenses

were a result of correcting an error on the flyers and including the necessary sponsorship information in 10 point font – both related expenses were under \$50 and, while entered in separately through ORCA, were automatically combined on the PDC report. The total cost for this campaign activity was \$993.18 spread out between June 30, 2021 and July 10, 2021. The balance of the campaign on June 30, 2021 was \$1,762.05 which included all contributions to date and agreed with ORCA. We received other contributions during the referenced time period and reported all within a timely manner. The PDC reports currently agrees with, and always has, our bank account balance. I appreciate that Mr. Gartrell appears to agree with my campaign message of accountability and transparency but in this case I believe I have accurately and timely reported all expenditures and contributions.”

- Johnson filed C-4 reports on April 12, May 3, June 7, and July 13, 2021, reporting \$3,578.41, in total contributions and \$2,894.13 in expenditures as of July 13. As noted in the response, Johnson timely reported the expenditures on the 21-day-pre-primary C-4, however the reports were lacking the required expenditure detail.
- On July 23 and July 26, 2021, Johnson amended the report originally filed July 13, 2021, adding the required expenditure detail, listing the number of mailers and fliers.

Based on these findings, and the fact that Johnson is a first-time candidate and took prompt action to comply, PDC staff has determined that, in this instance, the failure to timely file the F-1 and timely and accurately report expenditures does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Samuel Johnson about the importance of timely filing the F-1 and timely and accurately filing the required PDC reports, including the required expenditure detail, in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

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, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s

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Alice Fiman  
Compliance Officer

/s

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Kim Bradford  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavalley  
Executive Director