



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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September 1, 2021

Delivered electronically to Glen Morgan at glen@wethegoverned.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Daniel Becker, PDC Case 96479

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 21, 2021. Your complaint alleged that Daniel Becker, a 2021 first-time candidate for City Council Member, Position 2 in the City of Mercer Island, may have violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 for failure to disclose campaign expenditures on the Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) reports.

PDC staff reviewed your allegation; the applicable statute, rule(s), and the reporting requirements; the Summary Full Report Receipt and Expenditure (C4) reports filed by Daniel Becker for Council (Campaign); and the August 11, 2021, response to the complaint provided by Daniel Becker, on behalf of the Campaign.

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

- On May 23, 2021, Daniel Becker timely filed a Candidate Registration (C-1) report and selected the Full Reporting Option.

Alleged failure to timely and accurately report campaign expenditures on the Summary Full Report Receipt and Expenditures Report (C4) – (RCW 42.17A.235 and .240)

- The complaint alleged that the Campaign failed to disclose the costs of campaign website, domain name, web hosting, site design and creation, logo design, filing fee and photography costs
- Staff reviewed the C-4 reports filed by the Campaign and found that the Campaign failed to timely disclose the expenditures for the domain name, site design and creation, logo design and filing fee. The Campaign disclosed the expenditures for web hosting under the "Expenses of \$50 or less" on the C-4 report since the cost of web hosting was only \$35. Additionally, the Campaign was not required to disclose the cost of *Photography* since it was volunteer work done by a friend who is not a professional photographer engaged in paid photography services. The expenditures that were not timely disclosed supra, should have been reported in the May and the 21-day pre-primary C-4 reports, and were reported about 53 and 26 days late, respectively.

- In its response to the complaint received on August 11, 2021, the Campaign by way of the Daniel Becker, stated: “Logo design – this was an oversight, and as required my C4 has been amended to include this in-kind donation. Filing fee – this was an oversight, and as required my C4 has been amended to include this in-kind contribution to myself. Photography – I was helped on this task by a friend who is not a professional photographer, and who does not do any paid photography services and Domain name – I already owned the domain prior to the campaign, but as required my C4 has been amended to include a prorated in-kind contribution to myself.”
- On August 2, 9, and 13, 2021, the Campaign, by way of Nate Rothbauer, Treasurer, amended the May and the 21-day pre-primary C-4 reports to include the expenditures for domain name, campaign website, filing fee and logo design.

While our review found that Daniel Becker failed to timely and accurately report expenditures for the Campaign website/domain name, filing fee and logo design, his Campaign was responsive and amended the pertinent reports as soon as the deficiency in reporting was brought to their attention. Daniel Becker is also a first-time candidate with no prior PDC violation(s).

However, Daniel Becker will receive a reminder letter concerning his 2021 Campaign’s failure to timely and accurately report expenditures, as required by the statutory scheme.

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 Erick Agina, Compliance Officer at 360-586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at erick.agina@pdc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

s/_____
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer

s/_____
Kim Bradford, Deputy Director for
Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Daniel Decker