



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

October 13, 2021

Delivered electronically to Sandra Bush for Thurston County Medic One at
"Sandra.bush@co.thurston.wa.us"

Subject: Complaint filed by Eric Wepler, PDC Case 96516

Dear Sandra Bush:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Eric Wepler concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

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

Although this case is being dismissed with no further action, PDC staff is cautioning you that the use of "action" photos in publications such as the ones of EMS personnel included in this complaint, can be seen as inflammatory by some recipients and could result in future complaints.

If you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Kim Bradford
Deputy Director
For Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director



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October 13, 2021

Delivered electronically to Eric Weppner at "ericweppner@outlook.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Thurston County Medic One, PDC Case 96516

Dear Eric Weppner:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on July 17, 2021. The complaint alleged that Thurston County Medic One, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 for use of public resources to promote a local ballot measure through the production and distribution of a mailer.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes and rules; *PDC Interpretation No. 04-02*; and the response provided by Sandra Bush on behalf of the Respondent, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- Thurston County EMS Levy Lid Lift (Proposition 1) was placed on the August 3, 2021 primary election ballot.
- Thurston County Medic One produced and disseminated, a tri-fold color pamphlet describing details related to Proposition 1, to the residents of Thurston County.
- The complaint alleged that the content of the pamphlet was not factual, that it supported the passage of Prop. 1, and that public funds were inappropriately used to influence voters.
- *PDC Interpretation No. 04-02 Guidelines for Local Government* describes permissible activities of a publicly funded entity including the dissemination of "objective and fair presentation of the facts" which means that in addition to presenting facts, any materials should present accurately the costs and other anticipated impacts of a ballot measure.
- In response to the complaint, Ms. Bush stated that although public funds were used to produce the mailer, that the Respondent did not violate RCW 42.17A.555 in doing so. She further stated that county staff consulted with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office several times while drafting the mailer to ensure it was objective, factual and compliant with PDC laws and rules.

PDC staff found no evidence to support a violation of RCW 42.17A.555 by the Respondent when reviewing the content of the mailer. Further, the written response provided by Sandra Bush showed a sufficient understanding of RCW 42.17A.555 and PDC Interpretation No. 04-02.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, no evidence supports a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

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 Jennifer Hansen at 1-360-586-4560 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed

Jennifer Hansen
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Kim Bradford
Deputy Director
For Peter Frey Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Thurston County Medic One