

Respondent Name
Seth Landau
Complainant Name
Richard Erwin
Complaint Description
<u>Richard Erwin</u> (Mon, 25 Oct 2021 at 12:54 PM) Violation of RCW 42.17A.240, .260 & .305 for failure to timely report & sufficiently describe independent expenditures & electioneering communications undertaken during election year 2021. A full-page print ad in the October 20, 2021 Mercer Islander Reporter made claims about alleged illegal activities by the union representing the Mercer Island Firefighters. At the bottom of the ad, it says, "Paid for by Seth Landau." The October 20, 2021 issue of the Mercer Island Reporter was available on newsstands on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 so a C-6 should have been filed on October 20, 2021. Mr. Landau is aware of reporting requirements because when he purchased ads in the Mercer Island Reporter in 2019, he filed C-6 reports. Moreover, on or about October 21, 2021 Mr. Landau posted this on the social media site Next Door: Seth Landau • North Mercer Island I did everything legally it's called C6 report and my name is on it just like on the ad. I'm proud to do things legally and for our Island. This allows individuals to do as I did. Totally legal. Whats your point? 4 days ago As of 10 am on Monday October 25, 2021 there is no record on the PDC's website of Mr. Landau filing a C-6 for this independent expenditure. When the PDC was contacted shortly after 10 am, the staff person could not find any record of a C-6 filed by Mr. Landau and they suggested filing a complaint with the PDC.
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
See Below.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
See Below.
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
See Below.
Certification (Complainant)
I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On August 4, 2021 a Mercer Island Fireman, who is also the union representative for the department, started a non-profit corporation called "Mercer Island Professional Firefighters."

The sole purpose of this non-profit was to secretly collect money from people and give it to political campaigns, and to legitimize the candidates stating they are "Mercer Island Firefighters Endorsed" which is false.

The secret cash was filtered to three campaigns via this non-profit. (Those campaigns of Aykuz, Weinberg and Becker.)

Otherwise, each contributor to this "non-profit" could have just written the check directly to the candidates. (Giving to a non-profit shielded them from being listed as a contributor by name.)

This set-up "non-profit" gave \$1,000 cash to each of the three above mentioned campaigns.

It is my opinion that the candidates accepted this secret cash with full knowledge of where it came from: a non-profit corporation created exclusively to give them cash and allow them to say and post that they are supported by Mercer Island Firefighters.

I discovered this by Googling "Mercer Island Professional Firefighters" and visiting the PDC website. This "non-profit" failed to list as a political committee with the PDC, which is required by law, and would have been required to list their donors by name and amount.

This is a clear, MAJOR VIOLATION of campaign disclosure laws.

I am sure each candidate verified each contributor to their campaign. It has become such an issue in today's politics.

A candidate that doesn't check their two dozen or so contributors, especially the few who give \$1,000 or more, should definitely NOT BE ON OUR COUNCIL.

This "non-profit corporation" has nothing to do with the Fireman's Union. The union is not called "Mercer Island" anything. None of the contributions from "Mercer Island Professional Firefighters" are legitimized by the union.

This is where, in my opinion, the fraud is blatant.

We see the candidates state "Mercer Island Firefighters Endorsed" on their signs, mailers and other campaign material. Aykuz even headlined her newspaper ad with it.

The individual fire fighters of Mercer Island don't all support Aykuz, Weinberg and Becker.

Mercer Island Professional Firefighters, an unethical non-profit, is deceptive to the public.

The Aykuz, Weinberg and Becker campaigns received cash from this illegal non-profit corporation operating out of the Mercer Island Fire Station—with the station listed as its address.

THAT IS ILLEGAL.

This is the fire station of all Mercer Islanders; our government building; and many of us don't support the candidates this non-profit gave secret money to.

The PDC is currently investigating this matter and last week it was brought to the attention of the City Manager, the City Attorney and our Police Chief.

Please do not vote for these candidates: Aykuz, Weinberg and Becker.

In my opinion, the union did nothing to stop this. I wonder if they knew what was going on?

I wonder if any of this has to do with the upcoming negotiations between the fire fighters and the City Council for salaries and benefits?

What do you think?

Mercer Island's future is really on the line.

DO NOT VOTE FOR AYKUZ, WEINBERG, OR BECKER, WHO TOOK CASH FROM AN UNLAWFUL, UNETHICAL NON-PROFIT CORPORATION.

We lead by example. Look at their example set here.