



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabitha Townsend, Compliance Coordinator 2

Date: June 15, 2022

Re: Former Fire Commissioner Ronnie Little, PDC Case 108754

Agenda Item

PDC staff is alleging that Ronnie Little, now former Fire Commissioner for King County Fire Protection District #40, violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) that was due at the end of the term or no later than April 15, 2022 to disclose the financial activities from the calendar year 2021.

Background

- Ronnie Little served as a Fire Commissioner for King County Fire Protection District #40 (KCFPD 40) during calendar year 2021.
- Ronnie Little was a Fire Commissioner for King County Fire Protection District #40 (KCFPD 40), since being elected to office in 2009. Her most recent term expired on December 31, 2021.
- As an elected or appointed Fire Commissioner, Ms. Little was required to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) in accordance with RCW 42.17A.700 no later than April 15, 2022, disclosing financial activities for calendar year 2021. As of the date of this memorandum, no F-1 report has been filed by Ms. Little covering calendar year 2021.
- Per the King County Fire District #40 website (<https://www.fd40.com/>) Ms. Little has served for 15 years and her current term ended December 31, 2021.
- The Respondent's most recent annual F-1 filing was dated February 28, 2019 covering calendar year 2018. With calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016 not filed between filings from 2013 (filed February 18, 2017) and 2017 (filed March 5, 2018). Calendar years 2020 and 2021 are also not filed as of the date of this memo.

- On June 13, 2022 the PDC Staff mailed PDC Case 108754 Hearing Notice to the Respondent at the address of record.
- On June 14, 2022 the PDC Staff emailed PDC Case 108754 Hearing Notice to the Respondent's email of record.
- There is currently an outstanding balance owing of \$6,800 from prior penalties assessed including three prior cases for violations of RCW 42.17A.700 and .205 within the statute of limitations, 25923 \$1,000, 80252 \$1,500 and 95396 \$4,000. This balance also includes \$150 for 16-127 and \$150 for 16-039 which fall outside of the statute of limitations. As of June 7, 2022 the entire balance owed has been transferred to collections for non-payment. No payments have been received on any of these prior case penalties.

Prior PDC Enforcement History of RCW 42.17A.700 and RCW 42.17A.205 violations

- PDC Case 95396: At the October 28, 2021, Full Enforcement hearing, Ms. Little was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.205 and RCW 42.17A.700 for failing to file the C-1 report within two weeks of becoming a candidate and the annual F-1 report on or before April 15, 2021. The total civil penalty assessed was \$4,000 and was due within 30 days of the date of the order (December 16, 2021).
- PDC Case 80252: At the February 25, 2021, Enforcement hearing, Ms. Little was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file an F-1 report for calendar year 2019, which was due not later than April 15, 2020. Ms. Little was assessed a total civil penalty of \$1,500 for the missing F-1 report, in accordance with F-1 penalty schedule adopted by the Commission which was in effect at the time.
- PDC Case 25923: At a February 27, 2018 Enforcement Hearing, Ms. Little was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file an F-1 report for calendar year 2016, which was due not later than April 17, 2017. Ms. Little was assessed a penalty of \$1,000 for the missing F-1 report, in accordance with F-1 penalty schedule adopted by the Commission which was in effect at the time.

Staff Recommendation/Comments

Staff recommends the Commission find that Ronnie Little violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) by April 15, 2022, disclosing financial activities during calendar year 2021, and:

1. Assess Ms. Little a civil penalty of at least \$3,000 up to \$10,000, which is payable within 30 days of the date of the Order, if not paid within 30 days is to be forwarded to collections without further action of the commission.
 - a. This is the 4th occasion for the F-1 report coming to Full Enforcement Hearing and while not specifically addressed in the penalty schedule staff is scaling the penalty according to the schedule, factoring in the non-filing status.
2. Order Ms. Little to file her required PDC report in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(4); and to file the missing F-1 annual report covering calendar year 2019, 2020 and 2021 within 30 days of the date of the Order.