

State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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Memorandum

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabitha Townsend, Compliance Coordinator

Date: January 18, 2023

Subject: Pamela Berger; PDC Case 110448; Reconsideration Hearing

Matter for Reconsideration:

During a Brief Enforcement Hearing held on September 1, 2022, Pamela Berger was found to have violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report), which was due to be filed on or before April 15, 2022. At the September 1, 2022 Brief Enforcement Hearing, an Order imposing a \$250 penalty with \$125 suspended was entered, which the Respondent now requests the Commission reconsider.

Background:

- Pamela Berger (the "Respondent") was a School Director for Grapeview SD 054 through December 31, 2021.
- The Respondent has no prior violations with the PDC.
- The Respondent, as a School Director during 2021, was required to file an annual report due on or before April 15, 2022.
- Between March 10th and April 5th, 2022, PDC staff sent email reminders to all elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2021.
- On July 22, 2022, PDC staff mailed and emailed the Respondent a hearing notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to be held on September 1, 2022.

- The hearing notice was sent to the Respondent's mailing and email addresses-of-record.
- At the September 1, 2022, Brief Enforcement hearing, the Presiding Officer assessed a total civil penalty of \$250 with \$125 suspended in accordance with WAC 390-37-143. The penalty was payable within 30 days of the date of this Order, which was October 31, 2022.
- On September 29, 2022, PDC staff served the Initial Order memorializing the Commission's ruling, by mail and email, to the Respondent's addresses-of-record.
- The Respondent is unable to file the missing F-1 report (Personal Financial Affair Statement) covering calendar year 2021.
- The Respondent filed F1 reports from 2012 through 2021. (10 F1 reports)

Request for Reconsideration:

- On January 3, 2023 the Respondent's representative, Kristin Johnson (daughter), called PDC requesting a reconsideration:
 - o Her mother is not capable of paying bills or filing forms
 - Her mother suffered a medical emergency
 - She is now power of attorney
- On January 11, 2023 the Respondent's daughter emailed the official request for reconsideration to PDC staff.
- On January 13, 2023, PDC staff served the Respondent, by mail and email, with a hearing notice for a January 26, 2023, Reconsideration Hearing before the Public Disclosure Commission, along with instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely.