

November 17, 2022

Kurt Young
Compliance Officer
Public Disclosure Commission

Response to a complaint from Rob Anderson against Chartisha Roberts
from October 31, 2022
PDC Case ticket No. 113883

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify and update PDC information for the 2021 Chartisha Roberts election campaign.

First, I want to state that Chartisha Roberts and this campaign respect the laws surrounding public disclosure of campaign finances, and in no way intended to hide information from the public. We appreciate the opportunity to update the data for 2021 and make public the way funds were spent in that race. Secondly, Chartisha has shown that she understands the mistakes that were made in 2021 and by bringing on a full reporting treasurer has eliminated the possibility of those mistakes happening again.

I have chosen to give the details of our response through the questions posed by PDC below. In summary Chartisha Roberts did make some mistakes in following through on her 2021 campaign reporting. These mistakes, although not being minor, were not intentionally used to fool or deceive the public. Because this complaint caused us to review 2021 and spend many hours fixing the errors, she now has a complete understanding of the necessity of public disclosure filing. Chartisha was a "first time" candidate in 2021 for a school board race, she did not have a full campaign team with past experience, and she did not proceed past the primary. She would like to express her regret over not understanding and following through on the complete process. Her handling of her 2022 campaign shows her new understanding and respect for the process.

Here are the questions and answers that should explain in detail what happened in 2021.

- *Based on staff's review, your 2021 Campaign for Vancouver School Board failed to file the 2021 Post-Primary C-4 report, is that correct?*

It is correct that the Post-Primary C-4 report was not filed. As there is no real excuse for this omission, I can only provide the extenuating circumstances surrounding the failure. Chartisha had attempted to do her own compliance work for the 2021 campaign, so there was no official treasurer. Her family helped with data entry but did not necessarily understand the rules of compliance. After Chartisha lost her race she experienced the normal depressed feelings, but also had a family emergency of her nephew being murdered. I have added that information not as an excuse but as a reason why some campaign things were overlooked.

- *Did your 2021 Campaign experience any technical or other difficulties in filing the C-4 reports, and are there any mitigating factors that contributed to the lack of the late report being filed?*

No, there were no technical reasons for failure to file. Difficulties were all around family issues as stated above. Chartisha did learn that a Treasurer/Compliance person is a necessary part of a campaign and made sure to have one from the start of her 2022 race (myself).

- *If you have information indicated you attempted to file the missing report, please provide any emails, notes in ORCA or other information confirming that fact.*

Not applicable.

- *As noted above, please file the missing 2021 Post-Primary C-4 report prior to submitting your response and confirm that information in your response letter. If you don't have access to your ORCA 2021 file or need assistance in filing the missing report, please send an email to pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov requesting filing assistance and reference this case and my name.*

PDC provided me access to the 2021 campaign account in ORCA. Prior to having access to the backup file, I downloaded all C3 and C4 reports from the PDC website.

I was able to access bank statements for the entire year 2021 and the complete online donation data from ActBlue (the credit card processor). I was able to chase down copies of the major communications expenditures from the vendors involved. With this data, I reconstructed the entire 2021 campaign in a spreadsheet to determine what had been reported and what remained to be reported. After accumulating the data from all sources, I was able to balance the spreadsheet with the bank account, ActBlue, and ORCA reports. I have at this time finalized the 2021 campaign in PDC. There was a balance at year end, and I would appreciate direction on how to handle that.

- *Our review indicated that you filed five Monetary Contributions reports (C-3 reports) on August 10, 2021, disclosing contributions received from July 17 through August 4, 2021. Did your 2021 Campaign receive any additional contributions after August 4, 2022, that have not been reported or disclosed? Please file any missing C-3 reports at this time for any contributions received after August 4, 2021.*

At the end of the primary, all monies received had been reported on C3 reports. There remained a single sustaining donor (\$10/month) that had not been shut down. When discovered in January, the donor wanted to continue donating for the next race. With the help of ActBlue we were able to stop the money from coming in. I have since filed a C3 to cover the \$50 received over 5 months that had not been reported.

- *Did you have any 2021 Campaign funds remaining after paying all your invoices and orders placed (fyi-defined by statute as surplus funds)? If yes, have you expended any of those funds and for what purposes?*

At the close of 2021 there was a balance of \$176.29 in the campaign account. Not being familiar with the 2021 race at that time, I started the 2022 campaign with these funds and reported them as "candidate's personal funds". That appears to be an error on my part. I should have shown that as Surplus from the previous campaign. I can follow through on an amendment if you deem that is necessary.

- *Did you transfer any of the 2021 surplus funds into your 2022 Campaign for Clark County Council, or make any expenditures of surplus funds in support of your 2022 Campaign?*

The balance of \$176.29 was transferred to the 2022 campaign and used for the County Council race. We are able and willing to refund that amount to any entity that the law prescribes. We are also able to contact the last donors to the 2021 campaign to get permission to use the monies for a different race if instructed to do so.

End of questions.

Please let us know if there are any further questions or clarifications needed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond.

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