



State of Washington

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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Memorandum

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabitha Townsend, Compliance Coordinator

Date: November 8, 2023

Subject: Steve Wellein Enforcement Hearing Memorandum: PDC Case 144245

Allegations:

PDC staff alleges that Steve Wellein (The Respondent), an elected Hospital Commissioner for the Grant County Hospital District 4 and a City Council Member for City of Soap Lake violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) for calendar year 2022, due not later than April 17, 2023.

Background and Prior Violations:

- The Respondent is a Hospital Commissioner for the Grant County Hospital District 4, since January 1, 2012 and also is a City Council Member for City of Soap Lake since January 1, 2015.
- Between March 9th and April 13th 2023, PDC staff sent email reminders to all elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2022.
- On October 30, 2023 PDC staff mailed and emailed the respondent a Hearing notice regarding the missing report for calendar year 2022. This hearing notice was sent to the respondent's email and address of record.
- As of November 8, 2023 the Respondent has not filed an F-1 covering calendar year 2022.

Prior Violations

First Violation (PDC Case 110569)

- The Respondent, who was a Hospital Commissioner and a City Council Member failed to file an F-1 report for the calendar year of 2021 on or before April 15, 2022.
- At the September 1, 2022 Brief Enforcement Proceeding, the Respondent was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 and assessed a \$500 penalty with \$250 suspended.

- As of November 8, 2023, the missing F-1 report for the calendar year 2021 has not been filed and the \$500 penalty has not been paid.

Second Violation (PDC Case 94223)

- The Respondent, who was a Hospital Commissioner and a City Council Member failed to file an F-1 report for the calendar year of 2020 on or before April 15, 2021.
- At the July 15, 2021 Brief Enforcement Proceeding, the Respondent was found to have violated RCW 42.17A.700 for failing to file the required F-1 report on or before April 15, 2021 and a penalty was entered of \$250 with \$150 suspended.
- As of November 8, 2023 the missing F-1 report covering calendar year 2021 has not been filed, the \$250 penalty was paid on October 14, 2021 for this case.

Additional Information

- Per WAC 390-37-143(5), cases “will automatically be scheduled before the full commission for an enforcement action when the respondent:
(a) Was found in violation during a previous reporting period;
(b) The violation remains in effect following any appeals; and
(c) The person has not filed the disclosure forms that were the subject of the prior violation at the time the current hearing notice is being sent.”

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission find that The Respondent violated 42.17A.700 by failing to timely file an F-1 report for calendar year 2022, and:

1. Assess the Respondent a civil penalty for a second occasion of a violation where the report was not filed before the date of the hearing per WAC 390-37-182 to be made payable within 30 days of the date of the Order. The base penalty range for this fact pattern is \$500 to \$1,000; and
2. Require the respondent to file the missing F-1 report for calendar year 2022 within 30 days of the date of the Order.