

2023 Demi Chatters Campaign response to the complaint
Copied and pasted into a Word document by PDC staff
PDC Case 144428

3 days ago (Fri, 3 Nov 2023 at 11:20 AM)

To:"PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>

External Email

Dear Kurt,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the Upper Left Invoice clarifications. I communicated our conversation to my treasurer. She has reviewed each invoice record and believes the clarification requested is now completed in the PDC system. Please advise if there is anything my campaign has overlooked and it will be corrected immediately. The Friends of Demi Chatters Campaign Committee has always, and will continue to operate in a transparent manner that complies with all PDC reporting guidelines.

I cannot provide any information about current activities by the Snohomish Ebony PAC Committee as I have had no involvement in their operations for several months and therefore have no data or knowledge to provide to the PDC.

Snohomish Ebony PAC (SEPAAC) is a wonderful group of volunteer community members whose work I respect greatly. I previously served on their executive board and when their treasurer moved out of state, I stepped up to fill the need of reconciling their financial records and bringing their reporting into compliance. They were informed of my intention to run for the Everett City Council in January of 2023, when I filed with the PDC for my campaign committee. They were informed at that time that they would need to find a treasurer as I could not continue in that role while running my campaign.

In March of 2023, I brought their records and financial reporting up to date and informed them again that I would not have the capacity to continue doing this work. I understand how difficult it is for a grassroots, volunteer-run organization, without the funding for professional compliance services, to find a volunteer with PDC compliance knowledge, so of course I wanted to extend as much grace and flexibility as possible. Because of this, I agreed, once again, to reconcile their accounting and bring their PDC reporting back into compliance just after the 2023 August Primary Election cycle had concluded for my campaign.

But, at the same time, I also made clear that because I had advanced to the General Election, I would not have the capacity to do so again and was stepping fully away from all operational work of the SEPAAC organization. That is where this issue continues to stand and I have no current involvement with their work, their finances, or their PDC compliance. I remain fully focused on running my own campaign for the Everett City Council, and in fact, all of my own treasury work is handled by Felicia Carnes as I have no capacity to take that on either.

Perhaps you can imagine my surprise when I received communication from a reporter at MyEverettNews, asking for my response to a press release sent to them from the Scott Bader campaign containing this litany of false allegations. (I have attached a copy of the Bader press release and my response to this reporter. It is also available online at that news outlet's website.) Clearly, this is a politically motivated attack on my campaign by my opponent, who continues to attempt to distract the public from the well over \$80k in outside expenditures he received from a big developer PAC. Reading the Bader Campaign complaint sent to me by the reporter was the first time I became aware that 1.

SEPAC had never updated their campaign committee treasurer information or compliance reporting data, and 2. that a mailer sponsored by SEPAC even existed. I cannot provide any further information on this issue as I have no knowledge of the production of the mailer or when/how widely it was distributed. The only copy I have ever seen of this mailer is the one provided in the complaint by my opponent.

I am quite grateful for the support of the SEPAC community and would be happy to reach out to them after the 2023 General Election to help them bring their records into compliance, but again, I do not have that capacity at this time. SEPAC is fully aware of this.

Upon learning of this situation, I immediately reached out to the PDC to determine how to move forward in light of the fact that SEPAC had not updated their PDC record to reflect their current treasurer and reporting data. I first spoke with Devon, who suggested I could perhaps try to see if I still have access to the SEPAC PDC records to remove my name as treasurer, but I am not comfortable accessing an organization's records that I am not currently involved with, and in addition, I do not know who their current treasurer is to be able to provide that information. So instead, I immediately did as he suggested and notified the SEPAC organization that there was an issue and asked them to address it. Their response to me indicates that they are in the process of doing exactly that, and so I leave this matter to be resolved directly between the PDC and SEPAC.

I am not sure how else I can be of assistance, but I am open to additional suggestions from the PDC as to any further actions I can take to ensure the accuracy of PDC records. Please advise if you would like to set up a meeting with me and my campaign treasurer to review or discuss any records related to my campaign. We continue to run a clean and transparent campaign.

Sincerely,

Demi Chatters
206-413-8185