File a Formal Complaint - Walter Smith (Complaint submitted on behalf of Karen Hardy)

Walter reported (Tue, 20 Mar at 1:41 PM) via Portal Meta To whom it may concern,

I write on behalf of my client, Karen Hardy, to notify you that there is good reason to believe violations of chapter 42.17A RCW, Washington State's campaign finance law, have been committed by the Spokane Home Builders Association, a Washington non-profit corporation. My client has requested that you treat this filing as a complaint to the Public Disclosure Commission as provided by RCW 42.17A.105(5).

The Spokane Home Builders Association displayed political advertising supporting the election of certain candidates and supporting a local ballot proposition on a jumbotron-style display it maintains near Interstate 90 starting in or around October 2017, and continuing up to election day. Ms. Hardy previously submitted a complaint to you on November 16, 2017, and a citizen action notice to the Attorney General's Office on January 26, 2018 concerning these advertisements.

The advertisements cited in Ms. Hardy's previous complaint and citizen action notice constituted political advertising as defined in RCW 42.17A.005(36), in that they clearly promoted certain votes in the election to take place in November 2017. Yet none of the advertisements included the "sponsor's name and address" as required by RCW 42.17A.320(1), nor did the advertisements include the disclosures required by RCW 42.17A.320(2), (4), or (5). Photographs of the advertisements at issue are attached to this letter for reference.

It appears that the Respondent's political advertising violated state law by failing to disclose what entity paid for the advertising Respondent displayed in the weeks ahead of the November 2017 general election.

Please advise if you should have any question about this complaint, and please let me know if the Commission schedules any hearing, or Commission staff takes enforcement action or issues any other final action about the allegations listed above.

Sincerely,

Walter Smith

Enclosure: Photographs showing advertising on Spokane Home Builders Association signage.

















