

State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re: Compliance with RCW 42.17A

PDC Case 166096

William (Beau) Burkett,

Findings of Fact,

Respondent.

Conclusions of Law, and

Order Imposing Fine

Pursuant to the brief enforcement hearing (brief adjudicative proceeding) notice sent to William (Beau) Burkett on April 7, 2025, a brief adjudicative proceeding was held on May 1, 2025, remotely from Olympia, WA by live audio and online transmission, to consider whether the Respondent violated RCW 42.17A.710 by failing to disclose debt on Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) as an incumbent official for the 2023 calendar year. F-1 report disclosing personal financial information for calendar year of 2023 was due to be filed not later than April 15, 2024.

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 RCW, 42.17A RCW and Chapter 390-37 WAC. Commission Chair J. Leach was the Presiding Officer. The Commission staff was represented by Tabitha Townsend, Compliance Officer. The Respondent did not participate in the hearing or submit any written materials.

Having considered the evidence, the Presiding Officer finds as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Respondent is an elected official, serving as the Mayor for the City of Buckley.
- 2. As an elected official, the Respondent was required to file an accurate F-1 report by April 15, 2024.
- 3. The Respondent filed the calendar year 2023 F-1 report on February 27, 2024.
- 4. The Respondent has no prior violations of RCW 42.17A.710.
- 5. The threshold above which a debt must be disclosed on the F-1 report pursuant to RCW 42.17A.710 is \$2,400.

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6. The debt owed to the PDC of \$13,850 in penalties from previous adjudicated cases is not reported on the calendar year 2023 F-1 report.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the above facts, as a matter of law, the Presiding Officer concludes as follows:

- 1. This matter was duly and properly convened, and all jurisdictional, substantive, and procedural requirements have been satisfied.
- 2. The Respondent violated RCW 42.17A.710 by failing to disclose debt on Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) as an incumbent official for the 2023 calendar year.

ORDER

ON the basis of the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of \$1,000, with \$900 of the penalty suspended, in accordance with the Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) penalty schedule set forth in WAC 390-37-143.

It is further ordered that the Respondent:

- 1. Pay the \$100 civil penalty within 30 days of the date of this Order.
- 2. Pay all outstanding debt owed to the PDC or execute a payment plan with the PDC's collection agency, within 30 days of the date of this Order.
- 3. File the amended calendar year 2023 F-1 report within 30 days of the date of this Order.
- 4. Include the debt owed to the PDC on future F-1 reports where the debt meets the threshold for reporting of \$2,400 or more in aggregate.
- 5. Commit no further violations of Chapter 42.17A RCW or Title 390 WAC for a period of 4 years from the date of this order.
- 6. If the Respondent fails to pay the non-suspended penalty of \$100 within 30 days or fails to comply with any of the conditions of this Order, the suspended portion of the penalty shall immediately become due without further action by the Commission.

In the event the Respondent fails to pay the civil penalty within 30 days of the date of the Order, PDC staff are directed to refer the matter to collections or to seek a court order compelling compliance with this Order.

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This is an **Initial Order** of the Public Disclosure Commission.

Entered this 30th day of May 2025

Public Disclosure Commission

<u>Electronically Signed by Peter</u> Frey Lavallee

Peter Frey Lavallee Executive Director

I, Tabitha Townsend, certify that I emailed a copy of this order to the Respondent at their email on record on the date stated berein

Electronically Signed Tabitha Townsend

May 30, 2025

Signed Date

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APPEALS OF INITIAL ORDER

REVIEW OF INITIAL ORDER - BY THE COMMISSION

You may request that the full Commission review this initial order. To seek review, you must:

- Make the request orally or in writing, stating the reason for review, and identifying what alleged errors are contained in the initial order. *See* WAC 390-37-144(1). Staff may ask for written confirmation of oral requests for review.
- REQUESTS FOR REVIEW MUST BE <u>RECEIVED</u> AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE WITHIN <u>TWENTY-ONE</u> (21) CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE POSTMARK DATE OF THIS INITIAL ORDER. Written requests for review should be delivered or mailed to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, 711 Capitol Way, Room 206, Box 40908, Olympia, WA 98504-0908.

If review of this initial order is timely requested, the full Commission will hear the matter. If the Commission is unable to schedule a meeting to consider the request within twenty (20) calendar days, this initial order becomes a final order, and any request for review will automatically be considered a request for reconsideration of a final order. See WAC 390-37-144(4). The matter would then be scheduled for consideration and disposition at the next Commission meeting at which it is practicable to do so.

A Respondent does not need to pay a penalty until after the Commission rules on a request for review of an initial order.

FURTHER APPEAL RIGHTS – SUPERIOR COURT

If the Commission does not receive a request for review of this initial order within twenty-one (21) calendar days, the initial order shall be the final order. *See* WAC 390-37-142(5).

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL A FINAL ORDER TO SUPERIOR COURT, PURSUANT TO THE PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW PROVISIONS OF RCW 34.05.552.