



State of Washington

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabitha Townsend, Compliance Coordinator

Date: February 17, 2021

Re: Fire Commissioner Ronnie Little, PDC Case 80252

Agenda Item

PDC staff is alleging that Ronnie Little, an incumbent Fire Commissioner for King County Fire Protection District #40, violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) due no later than April 15, 2020, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2019.

Background

- Ronnie Little is an incumbent Fire Commissioner for King County Fire Protection District #40 (KCFPD 40), since being elected to office in 2009. Her current term is set to expire on December 31, 2021.
- As an incumbent Fire Commissioner, Ms. Little was required to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) in accordance with RCW 42.17A.700 not later than April 15, 2020, disclosing financial activities for calendar year 2019. As of the date of this memorandum, no F-1 report has been filed by Ms. Little.
- On February 28, 2019 Ms. Little filed her F-1 report covering calendar year 2018.
- Between February and April of 2020, PDC staff sent six (6) email reminders to all elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2019.
- PDC Staff emailed reminders that the deadline of April 15, 2020 had been missed on April 22, 2020, April 29, 2020 and May 5, 2020.

- Per the King County Fire District #40 website (<https://www.fd40.com/>) Ms. Little has served for 15 years and her current term is ending December 31, 2021.
- At the Brief Enforcement Hearing on February 16, 2018, PDC Staff recommended that Ms. Little be transferred to a Full Enforcement Hearing. The Presiding Officer accepted the recommendation of PDC Staff. Ms. Little was scheduled for hearing before the Full Commission during the Regular Commission Meeting of February 27, 2018, for case number 25923 and the Commission found Ms. Little in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to file her Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) for calendar year 2016, due no later than April 17, 2017.
- There are no records of Ms. Little filing the required F-1 report for calendar year 2016.
- On March 5, 2018 Ms. Little filed her F-1 report covering calendar year 2017.
- On February 12, 2021 PDC Staff served Ms. Little with the hearing notice for the February 25, 2021 hearing date.
- There is currently an outstanding balance owing of \$1,300 from prior penalties assessed on three prior cases for violations of RCW 42.17A.700, \$150 for PDC Case 16-039, \$150 for PDC Case 16-127 and \$1,000 for PDC Case 25923. No payments have been received to date on these penalties.

Prior PDC Enforcement History of RCW 42.17A.700 violations

- PDC Case 25923: At a February 27, 2018 Enforcement Hearing, Ms. Little was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file an F-1 report for calendar year 2016, which was due not later than April 17, 2017. Ms. Little was assessed a penalty of \$1,000 for the missing F-1 report, in accordance with F-1 penalty schedule adopted by the Commission which was in effect at the time.

Staff Recommendation/Comments

Staff recommends the Commission find that Ronnie Little violated 42.17A.700 by failing to file an F-1 report for calendar year 2019, and:

1. Assess Ms. Little a civil penalty, which is payable within 30 days of the date of the Order.
2. Order Ms. Little to file the missing F-1 report for calendar year 2019 within 30 days of the date of the Order.
3. Order Ms. Little to file the required F-1 reports for calendar year 2016 within 30 days of the date of the order.