



State of Washington

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

To: Presiding Officer Anne Levinson, Commission Chair

From: Micaiah Ragins, Compliance Coordinator

Date: February 16, 2018

Re: King County Fire Commissioner Candidate, Craig Buckton, PDC Case 25085

Agenda Item

PDC staff is alleging that Craig Buckton, a 2017 candidate for Fire Commissioner of King County Fire Protection District 20, violated RCW 42.17A.205 by failing to timely file a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) disclosing information about his campaign, and RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report), disclosing financial information for the preceding twelve months. The C-1 and F-1 reports were due within two weeks of becoming a candidate or no later than June 2, 2017.

Background

- Craig Buckton was a first-time candidate for Fire Commissioner of King County Fire Protection District 20.
- As a 2017 candidate for Fire Commissioner, Mr. Buckton was required to file a C-1 report, and an F-1 report, within two weeks of becoming a candidate or no later than June 2, 2017.
- On September 18, 2017, PDC staff sent Mr. Buckton a warning letter concerning his failure to the C-1 report and F-1 report as required within two weeks of declaring his candidacy.
- On October 11, 2017, Mr. Buckton submitted a signed PDC Statement of Termination of Campaign with the Public Disclosure Commission. The Statement of Termination explains if the candidate wins the election and accepts the office, that the PDC will conduct enforcement action for his failure to file the C-1 and F-1 reports as required by RCW 42.17A.
- On November 28, 2017, Mr. Buckton contacted PDC staff and informed them that he unexpectedly won the 2017 election for Fire Commissioner and was encouraged by his colleagues to accept the position.
- Mr. Buckton filed the missing C-1 report on November 25, 2017, and he filed the missing F-1 report on November 29, 2017.

- On December 7, 2017, PDC staff confirmed that Mr. Buckton won the election after terminating his campaign with the PDC.
- On January 3, 2018, PDC staff contacted the King County Fire Protection District 20 and verified that Mr. Buckton accepted the office after winning the election as was serving as Fire Commissioner. PDC staff then notified Mr. Buckton and informed him that PDC staff would be sending him a Brief Enforcement Hearing notice as indicated in the Statement of Termination.
- On February 2, 2018, PDC staff sent Mr. Buckton a Brief Enforcement hearing notice for the February 16, 2018, Brief Enforcement Hearing. The hearing notice was sent to the mailing address on the C-1 report at “11154 Rainier Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98178.” In addition, consistent with WAC 390-37-060(4), PDC staff also sent the notice electronically to the e-mail address provided on the C-1 report, “cbbuckton@gmail.com.”
- On February 12, 2018, PDC staff contacted the King County Elections Office to verify that Craig Buckton was appointed Fire Commissioner for King County Fire Protection District 20.

Staff Recommendation/Comments

- PDC staff recommends that the Commission assess a \$300 civil penalty against Craig Buckton, for failing to timely file the C-1 and F-1 reports, in accordance with WAC 390-37-143, the penalty schedule adopted by the Commission, for a filer’s first occasion and the missing reports were filed prior to the date of the Brief Enforcement hearing.
- Mr. Buckton has indicated that he will be participating at the hearing by telephone.

Attachments:

- October 11, 2017, Statement of Termination of Campaign
- November 7, 2017, King County General Election Results for Craig Buckton

**Statement of Termination of Campaign for Public Disclosure
Commission Purposes Only**

RECEIVED

Name: Craig B. Buckton

OCT 11 2017

Office Sought: Fire Commissioner

Jurisdiction: District 20

Public Disclosure Commission

1. I understand that this statement is not an official withdrawal from the campaign, which can only be done with the appropriate elections office, and not with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).
2. I have terminated my campaign and will not campaign for my election. I will not solicit or accept campaign contributions, monetary or in-kind. I will not make campaign expenditures, including from personal funds.
3. If elected, I will not accept the office.
4. I understand that if I terminate my campaign; do not campaign for my election; do not solicit or accept campaign contributions, monetary or in-kind; do not make campaign expenditures, including from personal funds; and if elected, do not accept the office, the PDC will not conduct enforcement for my failure to file the reports required by RCW 42.17A.
5. I understand that if I win and accept the office, the PDC will conduct enforcement for failure to file reports required by RCW 42.17A.

Typed Name or Signature: *Craig B. Buckton*

Date Submitted or Signed: 10 October 2017

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
PO BOX 40908
OLYMPIA WA 98504-0908

Email: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

King County Fire Protection District 20 Commissioner Position No. 1

Candidate	Vote	Vote %
Craig Buckton	1,638	73.58%
Eugene V. Lux	588	26.42%
Total Votes (not including write-ins)	2,226	