

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

Memorandum

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Jennifer Hansen, Compliance Officer

Date: September 15, 2021

Subject: Ray LaFond; PDC Case 94178; Reconsideration Hearing

Matter for Review:

During a Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, Ray LaFond was found to have violated RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) no later than April 15, 2021. At the July 15, 2021 Brief Enforcement Hearing, an Order imposing a \$250 penalty was entered, which Ray LaFond now requests the Commission review.

Background:

- Ray LaFond (the "Respondent") served as Park and Recreation Commissioner for Klickitat Recreation District during calendar year 2020, until his term expired and he resigned due to medical reasons in December 2020. The Respondent has no prior violations with the PDC.
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, an elected or appointed official who held office in 2020 was required to file an F-1 report, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2020, no later than April 15, 2021.
- Between February and May of 2021, PDC staff sent email reminders to all elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020.
- On May 11, 2021, PDC staff emailed warning letters to elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020.

Ray LaFond PDC Case No. 94178 Reconsideration Hearing Memorandum Page – 2 –

- On June 25, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a hearing notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to be held on July 15, 2021. The hearing notice was sent to the Respondent's email address-of-record.
- At the Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, the Respondent was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file the F-1 report no later than April 15, 2021, and was assessed a \$250 penalty, consistent with WAC 390-37-143, the Brief Enforcement Hearing penalty schedule adopted by the Commission.
- On August 16, 2021, PDC staff served the Initial Order memorializing the Commission's ruling, by email, to the contact email address-of-record.
- To date, the Respondent has not filed an F-1 report covering calendar year 2020 activity.

Request for Reconsideration:

- On August 19, 2021, the Respondent, contacted PDC staff by telephone to appeal the August 16, 2021 Order based on the fact that during period he had experience significant health issues, including a stroke and partial paralysis, that prevented him from completing the F-1 report and resulted in his resignation from his position.
- On September 15, 2021, PDC staff served the Respondent, by email, with a hearing notice for a September 23, 2021 Review Hearing before the Public Disclosure Commission, along with instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely. As a courtesy and per his request, PDC staff also called the Respondent at the number provided on August 18, 2021, and verbally shared the hearing information. On September 17, 2021, PDC staff served the Respondent with a corrected hearing notice to reflect the appropriate agenda time.