



**State of Washington**  
**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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**Memorandum**

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Tabitha Townsend, Compliance Coordinator

Date: August 22, 2023

Subject: Steven Kovach; PDC Case 138704; Review Hearing

**Matter for Reconsideration:**

During a Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 20, 2023, Steven Kovach was found to have violated RCW 42.17A.205 and RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file a Candidate Registration (C-1 Report) and a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report), which was due to be filed within two weeks of becoming a candidate or no later than June 2, 2023. At the July 20, 2023 Brief Enforcement Hearing, an Order imposing a \$500 penalty with \$300 suspended was entered, which the Respondent now requests the Commission review.

**Background:**

- Steven Kovach (the “Respondent”) was a Candidate for Port Commissioner for Port of Peninsula in the 2023 election cycle.
- The Respondent has no prior violations with the PDC.
- Between May 18, 2023 and June 1, 2023, PDC staff sent email reminders to candidates regarding their missing C-1 and F-1 reports.
- On June 8, 2023, PDC staff mailed and emailed the Respondent a warning notice regarding both missing C-1 and F-1 reports.
- On June 22, 2023, PDC staff mailed and emailed the Respondent a hearing notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to be held on July 20, 2023.

- The reminders, warning and hearing notice were sent to the Respondent's mailing and email addresses-of-record.
- At the July 20, 2023, Brief Enforcement hearing, the Presiding Officer assessed a total civil penalty of \$500 with \$300 suspended in accordance with WAC 390-37-143. The penalty is payable within 30 days of the date of this Order, which is September 18, 2023.
- On August 18, 2023, PDC staff served the Initial Order memorializing the Commission's ruling, by mail and email, to the Respondent's addresses-of-record.
- As of August 22, 2023, the Respondent has not filed the missing C-1 and F-1 reports.
- The Respondent appeared on the August 1, 2023 Primary Ballot as a candidate for Port Commissioner for Port of Peninsula and received 19.61% of the vote. The Respondent will not move to the General Ballot.
- In 2019, the Respondent was a candidate for Fire Commissioner for Pacific Fire Protection District 01.
- The Respondent did not file a C-1 or F-1 for their 2019 campaign as of an August 22, 2023 review of PDC records.

**Request for Review:**

- On August 21, 2023 the Respondent emailed PDC staff requesting a review:
  - The Respondent states he was unaware of the filing requirements after discontinuing his campaign.
  - The Respondent states that he announced intent to discontinue his campaign for Port Commissioner with a letter to the editor of the Chinook Observer in the July 19, 2023 edition.
- On August 22, 2023, PDC staff served the Respondent, by email, with a hearing notice for a August 24, 2023, Review Hearing before the Public Disclosure Commission, along with instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely.