STATE OF WASHINGTON

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

ASHLEE LEHNERT
PO BOX 547
BURLEY WA 98332

In Re the Matter of Ashlee Lehnert Respondent.	)))))	PDC Case No. 12-126 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and **Order Imposing Fine**

A brief enforcement hearing (brief adjudicative proceeding) was held October 6, 2011, in Room 206, Evergreen Plaza Building, 711 Capitol Way, Olympia, Washington to consider whether the Respondent violated RCW 42.17.040 by failing to timely file the Candidate Registration (PDC Form C-1), and RCW 42.17.240 by failing to timely file the Personal Financial Affairs Statement (PDC Form F-1), both of which were due within two weeks of the date the Respondent declared her candidacy, or no later than June 25, 2011.

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 and 42.17 RCW and Chapter 390-37 WAC. Commission Vice-Chair Jennifer Joly was the Presiding Officer. The Commission staff was represented by Kurt Young, Compliance Officer. The Respondent appeared via telephone and presented testimony to the Presiding Officer.

Brief enforcement hearing notice was sent to Ashlee Lehnert on September 13, 2011. Having considered the evidence, the Presiding Officer finds as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent is a first-time candidate seeking the office of Park and Recreation Commissioner for the Peninsula-Metropolitan Park District in 2011.

2. As a candidate, the Respondent was required to file a Candidate Registration (PDC Form C-1) and a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (PDC Form F-1) by June 25, 2011.

3. The Respondent filed the missing F-1 and C-1 reports on October 3, 2011.

4. The Respondent stated that this is her first time running for public office, and that she is in the process of changing residences. She said she is currently living between her parent's house in Gig Harbor and her new residence in Seattle, and said the PDC warning letter and hearing notice were sent to her parent's house. She stated that the PDC paperwork was part of the mail that did not get forwarded to her new residence in Seattle. She said she did not communicate with her parents about the PDC paperwork, and neglected to timely pick up her mail partly because she does not have a car.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the above facts, as a matter of law, the Presiding Officer concluded 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 42.17.040 by failing to timely file the Candidate Registration and RCW 42.17.240 by failing to timely file the Personal Financial Affairs Statement. The C-1 and F-1 reports were both required to be filed within two weeks of the date the Respondent declared her candidacy, or no later than June 25, 2011.

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 $200, of which $150 is suspended on the condition the Respondent commits no violations of RCW 42.17 within four years from the date of the order, and the $50 non-suspended portion of the penalty is paid within 30 days of the date of the order[1].

This is an **Initial Order** of the Public Disclosure Commission. There are two ways the Respondent may appeal this order to the Commission. Once the order becomes a final order, it may also be appealed to Superior Court.

REVIEW OF INITIAL ORDER - COMMISSION

a. The Respondent may request a review of this Initial Order by the entire Commission.
b. The request may be made orally or in writing, and must be received at the Public Disclosure Commission office within **21 business days** after the postmark date of

[1] The assessed penalty is based on a penalty schedule previously adopted by the Commission that takes into consideration prior violations and whether the missing reports were filed before the date of the hearing. In assessing the penalty, the Presiding Officer considered that the Respondent had no prior violations and that the missing reports were filed before the date of the hearing.

this Initial Order. The Respondent must state the reason for the review, and identify what alleged errors are contained in the initial order.

c. If the Respondent requests a review, no penalty need be paid until after the Commission rules on the request.
d. By law, a request for review of the initial order is deemed to have been denied if the Commission does not make a disposition of the matter within 20 business days after the request is submitted.
e. If the Commission is unable to schedule a meeting to consider the Respondent's request for review within 20 business days, the Initial Order becomes a Final Order and the matter will automatically be treated as a request for reconsideration of a final order unless the Respondent advises the Commission otherwise. The matter will be scheduled before the full Commission as soon as practicable.
f. A request for reconsideration must be in writing. Therefore, if the request for review of the Initial Order was made orally and deemed to have been denied because it could not be scheduled for consideration within 20 business days, the request must now be put in writing. (See Reconsideration of Final Order below.)
g. If no request for review is received within 21 business days, this order will automatically become a **Final Order** of the Commission, and the Respondent will be legally obligated to pay the penalty unless reconsideration has been sought or the matter has been timely appealed to Superior Court. (RCW 42.17.395, RCW 34.05.470 and RCW 34.05.570).

RECONSIDERATION OF FINAL ORDER - COMMISSION

a. Any party may ask the Commission to reconsider a final order. The request must be in writing and must include the specific grounds or reasons for the request. Grounds for reconsideration shall be limited to:
   i) A request for review was deemed denied in accordance with WAC 390-37-144(4);
   ii) New facts or legal authorities that could not have been brought to the commission's attention with reasonable diligence. If errors of fact are alleged, the requester must identify the specific evidence in the prior proceeding on which the requester is relying. If errors of law are alleged, the requester must identify the specific citation; or
   iii) Significant typographical or ministerial errors in the order.
b. The request must be delivered to the Public Disclosure Commission office within **21 business days** after the postmark date of this order.
c. The Public Disclosure Commission is deemed to have denied the request for reconsideration if, within 20 business days from the date the request is filed, the Commission does not either dispose of the petition <u>or</u> serve the parties with written notice specifying the date by which it will act on the petition. (RCW 34.05.470).
d. The Respondent is not required to ask the Public Disclosure Commission to reconsider the final order before seeking judicial review by a superior court. (RCW 34.05.470).

FURTHER APPEAL RIGHTS – SUPERIOR COURT

a. A **final order** issued by the Public Disclosure Commission is subject to judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW. (RCW 42.17.395(5)). The procedures are provided in RCW 34.05.510 - .598.
b. The petition for judicial review must be filed with the superior court and served on the Public Disclosure Commission and any other parties within **30 days** of the date that the Public Disclosure Commission serves this Final Order on the parties. (RCW 34.05.542(2)).
c. Service is defined in RCW 34.05.010(19) as the date of mailing or personal service.

ENFORCEMENT OF FINAL ORDERS

a. If there is no timely request for review or reconsideration, this Initial Order becomes a Final Order. The Respondent is legally obligated to pay any penalty assessed.
b. The Commission may seek to enforce a final order in superior court under RCW 42.17.395 - .397, and recover legal costs and attorney's fees, if the penalty remains unpaid and no petition for judicial review has been timely filed under chapter 34.05 RCW. This action will be taken without further order by the Commission.

Entered this 20th day of October, 2011.

Public Disclosure Commission

Andrea M. Doyle

Andrea McNamara Doyle
Executive Director