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Public Disclosure Commission

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Via Email and U.S. Mail

October 7, 2013

Kurt Young
Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way #206
P.O. Box 40908
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Mr. Young,

As you know, the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee ("SDCC") and Roosevelt Fund have been cooperating with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Seattle Police Department in an investigation into theft of committee funds by former SDCC Executive Director Michael King (PDC Case No. 13-023). A separate corrective filing will be made in conjunction with funds embezzled by Mr. King. During the course of that investigation, the Roosevelt Fund has discovered a separate issue that should be brought to the PDC's attention.

Dating back to at least 2009, it appears that Argo Strategies ("Argo") was paid \$2,500 monthly out of the Roosevelt Fund for treasury and compliance work related to the SDCC and the Roosevelt Fund. From June until November 2012, six additional payments in the amount of \$6,000 each were provided to Argo out of the Roosevelt Fund. In some instances, the additional payments were added on to the normal \$2,500 charge, reported as \$8,500, and described as "Treasury Consulting Plus Database Project". In other filings, the additional \$6,000 was reported separately as "Database Project".

Upon investigation, the Roosevelt Fund has discovered those descriptions may be inaccurate. Based on Michael King's interview with the King County Prosecutors, some or all of the additional payments provided to Argo Strategies may have been the result of a private agreement between Michael King and Jason Bennett of Argo to assist a candidate, Maureen Judge, who faced personal financial challenges in running for office. Under the agreement, Argo may have hired the candidate as a contractor and paid her some or all of those additional monthly funds for

personal expenses while she campaigned. Some of the payments may have been for other duties for Argo.

Neither the co-chairs of the SDCC nor Senator Nelson was made aware of this arrangement by either Mr. King or anyone from Argo. They do not have any knowledge of any terms/conditions of any such agreement if it existed other than what has come to light due to the investigation. Similarly, we are not aware of any formal request or approval for such a "database" project from the SDCC or if any contract or memorandum describing such a project exists. It does not appear that Argo ever delivered a database to the SDCC or the Roosevelt Fund. We have requested copies and or evidence of that work product from Argo but have not yet received anything in response to our request. Thus, it appears from the PDC filings that Jason Bennett of Argo reported what might be a possible inaccurate description of a "database project" for Roosevelt Fund expenditures. We do not have additional information as to this expenditure at this time.

We will file amended reports regarding this issue as we receive new and additional information.

The Roosevelt Fund would like to continue to work with the PDC as it investigates the consequences of this and any other inaccurate filings. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

PACIFICA LAW GROUP LLP


Paul J. Lawrence
Attorney for the Roosevelt Fund

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