

File a Formal Complaint - Jim Lazar

[Jim Lazar](#) reported 6 days ago (Fri, 11 Aug at 12:48 PM) via Portal Meta

In 2015, an entity calling itself "Friends of the Port" engaged in independent expenditures in the Port of Olympia Commissioner races.

While this group has filed C6 reports, I am unable to find any C1, C3, or C4 reports showing where the money came from. I have looked in both Continuing and Single Year Committees.

The amount reported spent was \$7,516, which I would expect to trigger Full Reporting. This meets the definition of an Electioneering Communication, and reporting is required pursuant to RCW 42.17A.305. The C6 report does not show either the organizations whose general treasury funds were used, nor the names of entities who responded to a special solicitation to pay for these advertisements.

The C6 report indicates the funds were expended by a group using ordinary treasury funds. However, I have searched the Secretary of State's Corporations database, and find no registered corporation by the name of "Friends of the Port." I have also searched the Washington Department of Revenue, and find no registered company by the name of "Friends of the Port."

The address listed in the C6, P.O. Box 1427, Olympia, WA is an address associated with the Olympia/Thurston Chamber of Commerce.

The return email address is incomplete on the C6, a common problem with the PDC online reporting software, but suggests it was filed by a Chamber of Commerce. The Olympia/Thurston Chamber of Commerce is listed in the Secretary of State Corporations database, but that is not the name of the entity listed on the C6 as the sponsor.

I believe that the funds for this mailing were provided by one or more Longshore union members, or by the Longshore union, funneled through the Chamber of Commerce, and concealed behind a fictitious name, "Friends of the Port" which is not either a Political Committee nor a company. If true, this is concealment in violation of RCW 42.17A.435. I believe there were specific contributors to cost of this political advertisement, and that "Friends of the Port" did not and does not have a general treasury from which expenditures could have been made.

1) If you can direct me to the C1, C3, and C4 reports, I would appreciate that. If you are aware of the business registration of Friends of the Port, and can direct me to this registration, I would appreciate that.

2) If there are no C1, C3, and C4 reports, and there is no business registration for Friends of the Port, please accept this as a complaint against the Olympia/Thurston Chamber of Commerce for filing a report under an assumed name for the purpose of concealment, and against Mr. Robert Rose and Friends of the Port for failure to register a Political Committee and to report as required. Mr. Rose is the signatory to the C6 reports. The apparent violations are 42.17A.305, and 42.17A.435.