



**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: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

Dec. 21, 2018

Delivered electronically to Haynesc@pocfd2.com and firechief@potc.net

Subject: PDC Case 41515

Dear: Christopher L. Haynes:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to John Rumelhart concerning a complaint he filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) on Oct. 1, 2018 against officials of Pend Oreille County Fire District #2.

As noted in the letter to Rumelhart, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

Per your response stating you spent more than \$1,000 to support a ballot measure, PDC staff reminds you about the importance of timely filing Independent Expenditure & Electioneering Communications (C-6 reports) in accordance with PDC laws, rules and reporting requirements. A link to the information on a C-6 report is here for your reference:

<https://www.pdca.wa.gov/learn/forms/c-6-independent-spending-electioneering-communications>.

Please complete the form and submit it to the PDC. For assistance with the C-6 report, call toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or e-mail pdcc@pdca.wa.gov.

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at 360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail pdcc@pdca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s _____

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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Dec. 21, 2018

Delivered electronically to “rumelharts@yahoo.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Pend Oreille County Fire District #2 PDC Case 41515

Dear John Rumelhart:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint you filed against officials of Pend Oreille County Fire District #2. The complaint alleged staff of Pend Oreille County Fire District #2 violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using public facilities to promote a ballot proposition, specifically Proposition No. 2, the Ten-Year EMS Levy on the Nov. 6, 2018 General Election ballot.

You alleged the Pend Oreille County Fire District #2 staff used fire district offices to store yard signs supporting the EMS Levy, as well as staff to manage the distribution of the yard signs. You provided a newspaper advertisement that directed residents to pick up signs at the office.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint, PDC laws, rules and reporting requirements, and the response from Christopher L. Haynes, Fire Chief/Paramedic of Pend Oreille County Fire Protection District #2.

Based on staff’s review, we found the following:

- The Sept. 27, 2018 article/advertisement included in the complaint directed those interested in a yard sign supporting the levy to call the “office” for a sign.
- In his response, Mr. Haynes stated “it was a series of unfortunate miscommunications and a poor choice of words that led to the September 27 article referenced in the complaint. A correction had already been initiated and was printed in the most recent newspaper on October 11, 2018.”
- Mr. Haynes provided an image of the correction, which stated, “the signs are not available at the office” and provided an alternate phone number.
- Mr. Haynes also stated the campaign signs were purchased for \$1,723.55 with a personal credit card, not with public funds, and were not stored at the office. He said they were “given to volunteers for the fire department and they distributed them on their own time in their own vehicles.”
- Mr. Haynes noted he contacted the PDC in September “to ensure I was current on the laws and guidelines and have followed your kind education on these matters.”
- Mr. Hayes was not aware of the requirements to file an Independent Expenditure & Electioneering Communications (C-6 report) but stated “Unfortunately I’m new to election regulations and if any laws were violated on my behalf it was unintentional on my part.”

Based on these findings, and the fact Haynes was a first-time electioneering contributor, staff has determined that in this instance, failure to timely file a C-6 report does not amount to a material violation warranting further investigation.

The PDC is reminding Christopher L. Haynes about the importance of timely filing C-6 reports in accordance with PDC laws, rules and reporting requirements. Mr. Haynes was directed to file a C-6 with the PDC to report this contribution.

The PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursue further enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at 360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail fdc@fdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s_____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s_____

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director