

## File a Formal Complaint - Robert Glorioso

**Robert Glorioso** reported 4 days ago (Thu, 27 Oct at 11:03 PM) via Portal Meta

### Report of Violation of Multiple State Laws by the Committee of Public Safety

#### Respondent

Committee of Public Safety  
Russell Dzialo  
1112 E. Maryland Street, #3  
Bellingham, WA 98227

Committee of Public Safety formed to oppose Whatcom Proposition 1, the EMS levy. They filed as a single year political action committee and list Russell Dzialo as Treasurer and Larry Helm and Karl Uppiano as Committee Members.

#### Alleged violations

1. RCW 42.17A.320(6). The Committee of Public Safety failed to list their top 5 donors in their radio advertising.
2. RCW 42.17A.235(1). The Committee of Public Safety failed to report a loan made prior to the day the Treasurer was designated. In fact, that went undisclosed until 10/22/2016.
3. RCW 42.17A.235 (2a). The Committee of Public Safety failed to report expenditures and contributions on 9/12/2016
4. RCW 42.17A.235 (2a). The Committee of Public Safety failed to report expenditures and contributions on 10/18/2016.

1. Committee of Public Safety produced and are running radio ads that do not disclose their top 5 donors as required by RCW 42.17A.320(6). The radio ad is playing on a local station, KGMI, and according to their 10/22/16 C4 filing they purchased \$3,300 in airtime from Cascade Radio Group on 10/17/16.

Yesterday they announced on their Facebook page that they are expanding to an additional radio station, KAFE.

The ad qualifies as mass communication as defined by 42.17A.005(36) and is subject to the disclosure requirements of a ballot measure. It must say Paid for by Committee of Public Safety and they are required to list the Top 5 contributors in their radio ad.

RCW 42.17A.320(6) requires political committees to include the top 5 contributors when aggregate spending on an ad reaches \$1,000. Their spending was \$3,300. By failing to disclose their top 5 contributors they deprive voters of the information they need to understand who seeks to influence their vote. In this case, the Whatcom Republican Party and Nicholas Kaiser.

***We ask that they immediately stop the ad, follow the law and disclose their donors to voters. This is an egregious violation of disclosure laws which keeps voters from having important information in the final days of an election.***

2. RCW 42.17A.235(1). The Committee of Public Safety failed to report contributions received prior to the day the Treasurer was designated. The law says, "In addition to the information required under RCW [42.17A.205](#) and [42.17A.210](#), on the day the treasurer is designated, each candidate or political committee must file with the commission a report of all contributions received and expenditures made prior to that date, if any."

The Committee of Public Safety formed on 9/11/2016 yet had prior contributions in the form of a loan starting on 8/31/2016 from Charlie Crabtree, postage and labels from CCC Services on 9/10 and envelopes from Russ Dzialo on 9/10. Those should have been disclosed upon filing yet were not disclosed until 10/22/2016.

Those disclosures missed three reporting deadlines: 9/11/2016 (the day the Treasurer was designated), 9/12/2016 (the c4 deadline through 8/31/2016) and 10/18/2016.

3. RCW 42.17A.235 (2a). The Committee of Public Safety failed to report expenditures and contributions on 9/12/2016. This was the first date a C4 was due after they formed and despite having been loaned money, they failed to disclose. They didn't file a C4 until 10/22/2016, more than a month late.

4. RCW 42.17A.235 (2a). The Committee of Public Safety filed their latest C-4, due on 10/18/2016, on 10/22/2016, four days late. The schedule is clearly printed for all to see and by filing this C-4 late the public was unable to see how they were

spending their funds.

Their 10/21/2016 Facebook posts shows that by then the ads were already on the air without timely disclosure: "Radio Ads that have been running on KGMI 790 AM."

### **Additional Information Regarding the Committee**

While you may be inclined to overlook these violations because Russ Dzialo is a first time filer, the committee appears to be run entirely by politically experienced individuals. On October 6, 2016 the Committee of Public Safety posted a press release on their Facebook wall stating that Brett Bonner is leading the campaign against the EMS levy. The Bellingham Herald reports, in "Your guide to the contested EMS levy", 10/23/2016, that "Brett Bonner, a regional manager of Saturna Capital who is leading a political action committee in opposition to the levy."

In addition to Mr. Bonner, others closely involved with the campaign are Bruce Ayers, Samuel Sefzik, Charlie Crabtree and potentially Ray Baribeau.

Bruce Ayers ran unsuccessfully for Whatcom County Council in 2015, chaired Sheriff Bill Elfo's 2011 re-election campaign and served on the Bellingham City Council in the 1990's. He served on Sheriff Elfo's Build a Safe Jail Now group.

Samuel Sefzik has served as Bill Knutzen's campaign manager in his unsuccessful 2013 race for Whatcom County Council, was a field organizer for the Whatcom Republicans that same year, worked for Representative Luanne Van Werven in 2014 and this year is employed by Luanne Van Werven's re-election campaign.

Ray Baribeau was the Treasurer for a 2015 political action committee called Citizens for a Humane and Safe Jail Now. He spoke at the League of Women Voters for the Committee of Public Safety. He also served on Sheriff Bill Elfo's Build a Safe Jail Now Group.

Because the first loan was by Charlie Crabtree on 8/31/2016 it is likely that he was very involved in forming the committee and has remained involved throughout. Charlie Crabtree is Chairman of the Whatcom Republican Party.

These are all people with a great deal of campaign experience and detailed familiarity with the rules that govern our elections in Washington State. They should be held accountable to the laws of our state.

Sincerely,

Robert Glorioso

### **Additional Documentation**

**Here is the link to their radio ads:**

<https://soundcloud.com/russ-dzialo/sets/committee-of-public-safety-radio-ad>

**Here are their Facebook posts regarding their radio ads:**

### **Committee of Public Safety Press Release**

### **Committee of Public Safety C1**