



State of Washington

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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August 14, 2018

Delivered electronically to Rohit Patnaik

Subject: Rohit Patnaik Manka for 45th Committee Complaint Return Letter, PDC Case 19006

Mr. Patnaik:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Glen Morgan concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted below in the electronic letter to Mr. Morgan, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking enforcement action in this matter.

If you have questions, please contact PDC staff member Kurt Young by e-mail at [kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Sandahl, Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavalley, Executive Director





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August 14, 2018

Delivered electronically to Glen Morgan at “glenmorgan89@gmail.com”

Subject: Complaint filed against Rohit Patnaik Manka for 45<sup>th</sup> Committee, PDC Case 19006

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on May 29, 2017. Your complaint alleged that that Rohit Patnaik Manka for 45<sup>th</sup> Committee, a single year political committee registered with the PDC for the 2017 election to support Manka Dhingra’s candidacy for State Senator in the 45<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in 2017, may have violated RCW 42.17A as detailed below.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, the campaign finance reports filed by the Rohit Patnaik Manka for 45<sup>th</sup> Committee in 2017, and the June 18, 2017 response to the allegations listed in your complaint. As a result of our review, staff found the following:

- On April 25, 2017, Rohit Patnaik Manka for 45<sup>th</sup> Committee (RPM45 Committee) filed a Committee Registration (C-1pc report) indicating they were a new “Other” political committee, supporting the entire ticket of the Democratic Party, and selecting the Mini Reporting Option. The C-1pc report listed John David Pressman as Committee Manager, Rohit Patnaik as Committee Treasurer, and Mason Totten as a Committee Officer.
- On May 15, 2017, the RPM45 Committee filed an amended C-1pc report indicating they were a single year political committee, supporting Manka Dhingra for State Senator in the 45<sup>th</sup> for 2017, selecting the Mini Reporting Option, and listing the same officers as on the April 25, 2017 C-1pc report.
- Allegations #1 and #2: Failure to disclose Committee Officers and persons authorized to make expenditures on the C-1 report, and expenditures were improperly made by persons not listed on the C-1 report.

The RPM45 Committee was comprised of only three officers, and all three were listed on the C-1pc report and included Mrrs. Pressman, Patnaik, and Totten. While the Committee supported Manka Dhingra’s candidacy for State Senator in the 45<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in 2017, there was no communication, consultation or collaboration with either her Campaign or any agents of her Campaign. Mrrs. Pressman, Patnaik, and Totten were the only individuals involved with RPM45 Committee, and the only expenditures made prior to the complaint being filed was made by Mr. Pressman for the costs to purchase the Committee domain name (\$10.87).

- Allegation #3: Failure to file Monetary Contribution reports (C-3 reports) and Summary Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure reports (C-4 reports) disclosing contribution and expenditure activities, since the Committee exceeded the limits of the Mini Reporting option.

The RPM45 Committee stated that as of June 18, 2017, Mr. Patnaik had not contributed any funds or services, and that his work to file reports and comply with the PDC requirements for a political committee was done so in a volunteer capacity. Mr. Patnaik was listed on the C-1pc report as its “financial sponsor” since it was expected that he would be making contributions to the committee once a bank account was established. The Committee was aware of the limitations of the Mini Reporting option, and that it was unlikely Mr. Patnaik would be contributing more than the \$500.

- Allegation #4: Failure to file disclose an earmarked contribution.

Staff reviewed the reports filed by RPM45 Committee, including Independent Expenditure Reports (C-6 reports) that were filed monthly leading up to the election. The C-6 reports were for independent expenditures made to support Manka Dhingra’s Campaign in the 45<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. There was no evidence of communication, consultation or collaboration with the Dhingra Campaign or any agents of her Campaign. In addition, none of the expenditures made by RPM45 Committee involved any earmarked contributions.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, there is no evidence that supports a finding of a material violation against Rohit Patnaik Manka for 45<sup>th</sup> Committee warranting further investigation. The PDC has closed the matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing further enforcement action in this case. If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young by e-mail at [kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Sandahl, Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Rohit Patnaik Manka for 45<sup>th</sup> Committee