



**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: [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov)

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

DATE: September 17, 2015

RE: Request for Review/Reconsideration from Trisha Claridge: PDC Case No. 16-010

**Agenda Item**

Trisha Claridge is seeking a review<sup>1</sup> by the Commission of an initial order entered in a Brief Enforcement Hearing in PDC Case No. 16-010. The review/reconsideration is scheduled for the September 24, 2015, Commission meeting.

**Background**

- Ms. Claridge is an incumbent School Director for the Tenino School District 402, since being elected to that office in 2011.
- As an incumbent School Board Member, Ms. Claridge was required to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) for calendar year 2014 no later than April 15, 2015.
- A Brief Enforcement Hearing was held on July 30, 2015, at which the Presiding Officer found Ms. Claridge in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 for failing to file an F-1 report for calendar year 2014. Ms. Claridge was assessed a civil penalty of \$300 in accordance with the F-1 penalty schedule in WAC 390-37-160, for a filer with one prior violation, which was payable within 30 days of the date of the order.
- Ms. Claridge has one prior PDC violation in PDC Case No. 12-176, in which she was assessed a \$150 penalty. Ms. Claridge paid the \$150 outstanding penalty on April 4, 2013.
- The initial Order was entered August 17, 2015.

**Request for Review/Reconsideration**

- On August 26, 2015, after receiving the Brief Enforcement Order, Ms. Claridge sent an email to PDC staff concerning missing F-1 report, and the violation and \$300 penalty assessed against her.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on WAC 390-37-144, since Ms. Claridge's request could not be heard within 20 business days, the initial order becomes a final order, and her request is automatically treated as a request for reconsideration of a final order (rather than a review of an initial order).

- Ms. Claridge stated that she was not aware of the F-1 report filing requirement, since she was not seeking re-election for School Board. She accepted responsibility for the missing F-1 report and stated that she would “send it in ASAP.”
- On September 16, 2015, Ms. Claridge sent an additional email to the PDC after being contacted by staff concerning her request for review. She stated that when the PDC was informing officials this spring about the F-1 filing requirements, she did not think she had to file an F-1 report since her term of office is up at the end of the year and she was not seeking re-election. She added that she thought incorrectly that the F-1 filing requirement was linked more to her re-election effort.
- On September 16, 2015, Ms. Claridge electronically filed the missing F-1 report for calendar year 2014.
- Ms. Claridge requested the Commission review the Order and reduce or suspend all or a portion of the \$300 penalty assessed against her in this matter.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff confirmed on the Thurston County Elections website that Ms. Claridge is not a candidate for re-election to School Board, so her term of office ends no later than December 31, 2015.

Ms. Claridge is required to file a “Final” F-1 report by April 15, 2016, covering all of calendar year 2015. Staff recommends if the Commission suspends any portion of the penalty in PDC Case No. 16-010 for Ms. Claridge, that the suspended portion be on the condition Ms. Claridge timely files her final F-1 report.

### **Attachments:**

- September 16, and August 26, 2015, emails from Trisha Claridge.
- Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Imposing Fine (PDC Case No. 16-010)

## Kurt Young

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**From:** tclaridge <tclaridge@scattercreek.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:34 PM  
**To:** Kurt Young  
**Subject:** Re: FW: PDC Case NO 16-010

Mr. Young,

I am writing to appeal the \$300 fine that was assessed for not completing the F-1 Public Disclosure Form. When the information came out this spring to file our F-1 forms as a school board member I didn't think I would need to file as my term was up for election this year and I wasn't filing to run again. I didn't realize that the F-1 had to be done because I am a board member this year I thought it was linked more to the election. I am trying to log on to file currently but am having some complications because I no longer have access to the email address that I used last time. I am hoping to have that resolved today and my F-1 form completed. Please let me know if there is any further information that you need from me. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Trisha Claridge  
Tenino School District Board Member

## Kurt Young

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**From:** tclaridge <tclaridge@scattercreek.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2015 12:32 PM  
**To:** Kurt Young  
**Subject:** PDC Case NO 16-010

Kurt,

Hi there my name is Trisha Claridge. I have been serving on the Tenino School Board. I didn't fill out my PDC this year because I wasn't running for reelection. I realize it is completely my fault but I didn't realize the impact that would have or the hearing/fine process.

I accept responsibility for that but am hoping there is a way I can still send it in ASAP and not have to pay the \$300 fine. That is a lot of money for me to come up with. Again, I apologize I let it get to this point but am hoping there is alternative to the fine.

Thanks,

trisha Claridge



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August 12, 2015

Trisha Claridge  
PO Box 628  
Tenino WA 98589

Subject: PDC Case No. 16-010

Dear Ms. Claridge:

Enclosed is a copy of the Public Disclosure Commission's Order Imposing Fine that was entered in the above-referenced case. The Presiding Officer assessed a civil penalty of \$300 for the missing Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) in accordance with the penalty schedule set forth in WAC 390-37-160, for an official that failed to file an F-1 report and has one prior PDC violation.

Please submit the \$300 penalty payment to the Public Disclosure Commission by September 11, 2015, and make the check or money order payable to the WA State Treasurer. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and please file the missing F-1 report.

If you have questions, please contact me at (360) 664-8854; toll free at (877) 601-2828 or by email at [kurt.young@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:kurt.young@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Kurt Young  
Compliance Officer

Enclosure



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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Trisha Claridge  
PO Box 628  
Tenino WA 98589

In Re Compliance with RCW 42.17A

Trisha Claridge

Respondent.

PDC Case No. 16-010

Findings of Fact,  
Conclusions of Law, and  
Order Imposing Fine

A brief enforcement hearing (brief adjudicative proceeding) was held July 30, 2015, in Room 206, Evergreen Plaza Building, 711 Capitol Way, Olympia, Washington to consider whether the Respondent violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) due April 15, 2015, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2014.

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 and 42.17A RCW and Chapter 390-37 WAC. A brief enforcement hearing notice was sent to Trisha Claridge on July 1, 2015. Commission Chair Katrina Asay was the Presiding Officer. The Commission staff was represented by Kurt Young, Compliance Officer. The Respondent did not participate at the hearing or submit any written materials.

Having considered the evidence, the Presiding Officer finds as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent was a School Director for the Tenino School District No. 402 in 2014.
2. As an incumbent School Director, the Respondent was required to file an F-1 report no later than April 15, 2015.
3. The Respondent did not file the missing F-1 report by the date of the hearing.
4. The Respondent has one prior F-1 violation: PDC Case No. 12-176.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the above facts, as a matter of law, the Presiding Officer concludes as follows:

1. This matter was duly and properly convened and all jurisdictional, substantive and procedural requirements have been satisfied.
2. The Respondent violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file the F-1 report by April 15, 2015.

ORDER

ON the basis of the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of \$300 in accordance with the penalty schedule set forth in WAC 390-37-160, which is payable within 30 days of the date of the Order.

This is an **Initial Order** of the Public Disclosure Commission.

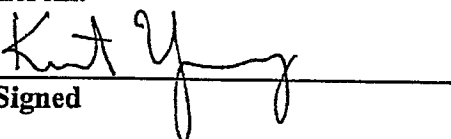
Entered this 12 day of August, 2015.

Public Disclosure Commission

  
Frederick C. Kiga  
Executive Director

Enclosure: Information about Appeal Rights

I, Kurt Young, certify that I mailed a copy of this order to the Respondent(s) at his/her/its respective address, postage pre-paid, on the date stated herein.

  
Signed

8/12/15  
Date