



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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October 5, 2017

[cw.prothero@gmail.com](mailto:cw.prothero@gmail.com)

Subject: Complaint regarding Adam Hamide, PDC Case 21388

Dear Chris Prothero:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on June 24, 2017. Your complaint alleged that Adam Hamide may have violated RCW 42.17A.335(1)(b) by sponsoring political advertising that falsely represented he is the incumbent for the office of Mayor of the City of Vancouver when in fact he is not the incumbent.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations and found that Adam Hamide sponsored political advertising that included his name followed by the words Mayor and Vancouver, but did not include an express statement, such as by using “for” or “elect,” that he was seeking the office of Mayor. However, to find that a person has violated RCW 42.17A.335(1)(b) by making a false statement of incumbency, staff must prove that the statement constituted libel or defamation, and the Legislature has specifically indicated in RCW 42.17A.335(3) that it is not a violation for a candidate or candidate’s agent to falsely represent that the candidate is the incumbent for the office sought because a candidate cannot defame himself or herself.

To avoid confusion about whether Mr. Hamide is the incumbent office holder, staff will suggest that for future elections when he is not the incumbent, he consider modifying his advertising to state that he is seeking the office sought, by using such words as “for,” “elect,” or some synonym.

Based on these initial findings, staff has determined that in this instance, there is no reason to believe Adam Hamide has violated RCW 42.17A.335(1)(b), and no further action is required. PDC staff has closed this matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Philip E. Stutzman  
Sr. Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

  
Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director

cc: Adam Hamide