



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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November 9, 2017

Sent electronically to William Johns

Subject: Complaint filed against Sean Dotson and Vince Songaylo (listed under Committee for Support of Good Schools), PDC Case 15422

Mr. Johns:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on March 14, 2017. Your complaint filed against Sean Dotson, Superintendent for the Cheney School District, and Vince Songaylo, Principal for Windsor Elementary School, alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.555 by using the facilities of the Cheney School District to support a February 2017 bond measure.

Specifically, you alleged that Mr. Dotson and Mr. Songaylo used school district facilities when the Committee for Support of Good Schools (CSGC), a political committee registered with the PDC to support a February 2017 bond measure, reimbursed the two individuals for out of pocket expenditures they made on behalf of the committee, and listed their addresses as the Cheney School District address. PDC staff reviewed your complaint and the response from Denise Peabody, Treasurer for CSGC. For your information, CSGC was listed as the Respondent for this matter, and we found the following:

- The Committee for Support of Good Schools (CSGC) is a political committee that has been registered and reporting with the PDC dating back to the 1990's, in support of local levy and bond measures for the Cheney School District.
- CSGC filed a Committee Registration (C-1pc report) disclosing they were supporting a February 14, 2017, Cheney School District bond measure, selecting the Full Reporting option and listing Denise Peabody as Treasurer.
- On February 2, 2017, CSGC filed a Summary Contributions and Expenditures report (C-4 report) disclosing the following two expenditures: (1) A December 1, 2016, expenditure to Vincent Songaylo totaling \$638 for a phone list of registered voters; and (2) A December 31, 2016, expenditure totaling \$2,757 made to Sean Dotson to reimburse him for signs and buttons.
- Ms. Peabody responded on behalf of CSGC to the complaint and provided copies of the invoices submitted to her as Treasurer for CSGC by Mr. Dotson and Mr. Songaylo for reimbursement.

William Johns

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- Staff reviewed the invoices, and found the contact information on the documents did not include the Cheney School District address or telephone number.
- Ms. Peabody stated that Mr. Dotson and Mr. Songaylo are both contributors to CSGC through payroll withholdings that are processed by the Cheney School District. She stated the district, as the employer, distributes the withheld funds from each employee as a lump sum amount to CSGC, and provides the names of contributors and the monthly amount withheld for each individual district employee.
- Ms. Peabody stated that the addresses entered into the Online Reporting of Campaign Activities (ORCA), the PDC campaign finance software, for the employees of the Cheney School District that had funds withheld for CSGC is the school district address. She stated that when she entered Mr. Dotson's and Mr. Songaylo's names into ORCA software for expenditures to reimburse them for their out-of-pocket expenses, the ORCA software, by default, populated their contact information with the school district office address from their contributor information.
- Ms. Peabody stated that since the mailing addresses for Mr. Dotson and Mr. Songaylo was already in ORCA, she did not change that information when she entered the two expenditures as reimbursements. She added that the invoices for Mr. Dotson indicated that the signs and buttons provided to him were delivered to his home, and not to the school district office address.

After a careful review of the alleged violations and relevant facts, PDC staff have concluded our review of the complaint filed by you against Sean Dotson and Vince Songaylo (listed under Committee for Support of Good Schools), 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 Kurt Young at 360-664-8854, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Kurt Young
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,



Peter Lavalley
Executive Director

cc: Denise Peabody