



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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March 3, 2017

Respondent: Chris Beale, electchrisbeale@gmail.com

Complainant: Justin Van Dyk, justinvandyk@gmail.com

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Subject: PDC Case 13356

Dear Mr. Beale and Mr. Van Dyk:

On January 10, 2017, the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) received a complaint from Justin Van Dyke alleging that Chris Beale, a candidate for Tacoma City Council, filed a candidate registration C1 form more than two weeks after becoming a candidate.

RCW 42.17A.005 establishes that one becomes a "candidate" by taking certain actions to seek election or nomination to election for public office. Specifically, a person becomes a candidate when the person first:

- (a) Receives contributions or makes expenditures or reserves space or facilities with intent to promote his or her candidacy for office;
- (b) Announces publicly or files for office;
- (c) Purchases commercial advertising space or broadcast time to promote his or her candidacy; or
- (d) Gives his or her consent to another person to take on behalf of the individual any of the actions in (a) or (c) of this subsection

RCW 42.17A.005(7). Once you do any one of these things, then you have two weeks to file your campaign registration C1 form and open your campaign.

Mr. Van Dyk, also a candidate for Tacoma City Council, provided several screen shots of texts in which several individuals discussed the possibility of filing a complaint with the PDC about Mr. Van Dyk because he allegedly announced his candidate at a meeting and had not yet filed the campaign registration paperwork. It should be noted that no complaint was filed.

Mr. Van Dyk offered the screen shots as evidence that Mr. Beale had solicited services from members of the Pierce County Young Democrats to assist his campaign. Mr. Van Dyk may be implying that the individuals were being asked to make a contribution of their time.

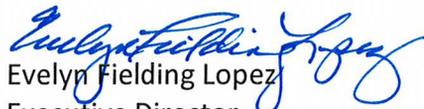
The screen shots do indicate that there was discussion about someone filing a complaint against Mr. Van Dyk. However, there is nothing more than that. Mr. Beale is not announcing his candidacy to the public, although obviously had discussed the possibility with one or more members of the Pierce County Young Democrats. There is no evidence that Mr. Beale asked for or received contributions, or made any expenditures.

Mr. Beale filed his campaign registration form to run for Tacoma City Council position 5 on January 6, 2017 (and an amended C1 on January 11, 2017). Mr. Van Dyk filed his campaign registration form to run for Tacoma City Council position 5 on January 10, 2017.

Please note that in addition to filing the campaign registration C1 form within two weeks of becoming a candidate, you are also required to file a personal financial disclosure F1 form within two weeks of becoming a candidate. Mr. Beale filed his F1 on January 12, 2017, but it does not contain any information about his income, assets, or debts—it is a blank form. Mr. Van Dyk has not filed an F1 at all. I strongly suggest that you both take action to file complete F1 forms before the end of this month. I will check back to see if you have done so, and if you have not, we may open a staff generated complaint.

Other than the F1 issues noted above, which I anticipate you will both cure, there does not appear to be evidence of any other violation of campaign finance laws. Therefore the PDC is closing its review of this case, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into this complaint or pursuing further enforcement action.

Sincerely,


Evelyn Fielding Lopez
Executive Director