



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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February 16, 2017

Sent electronically to Karen Hengerer at jubileah@aol.com

Subject: November 4, 2016 Complaint filed by Karen Hengerer concerning Alishia Topper, Case 9498; Sharon Wylie, Case 9499; and Annette Cleveland, Case 9500

Dear Ms. Hengerer:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on November 4, 2016. Your complaint alleged that on or before May 15, 2016, candidates Sharon Wylie and Annette Cleveland, and the 49th Legislative District Democrats, formed an office-sharing relationship with Alishia Topper, and that for the months of May, June, and July, there was no reporting by Topper, Wylie, Cleveland, or the 49th Legislative District Democrats disclosing any in-kind contributions or payments between the parties concerning this office-sharing relationship during the 2016 election cycle.

You alleged that while Topper's August C-4 report disclosed a rental payment for office space, Sharon Wylie did not report an expense or the receipt of an in-kind contribution for her use of the office space in August. You alleged that there was no indication of the in-kind relationship for shared office space between Topper and the 49th Legislative District Democrats for the months of April through October in either committee's reports. You also alleged that there was no indication of an in-kind relationship with Cleveland until September 1, 2016.

Staff reviewed your complaint, the reports filed by candidates Topper, Wylie, and Cleveland, and the response filed by Linda McLain, who served as Treasurer for Alishia Topper, Sharon Wylie, and Annette Cleveland. Based on staff's review, we found that:

- Alishia Topper was in a race for State Representative, Position 2, in the 49th Legislative District against a fellow Democrat, Monica Stonier. After Ms. Topper learned that the Clark County Democrats did not have office space for her campaign, she contacted Al Angelo Company which had a small space in one of their shopping centers. Because the space was not in a condition to rent at a customary rate (e.g. the bathrooms were not working), Ms. Topper and Al Angelo Company agreed that a fair rental value through the Primary election was \$1,000, which Ms. Topper reported as an in-kind contribution from Al Angelo Company.
- Following the Primary election, the office was upgraded, and the rent became \$1,000 per month through the general election. Both Sharon Wylie and Annette Cleveland

Karen Hengerer

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endorsed Ms. Topper, and because they did not have competitive campaigns, in May 2016, to boost Ms. Topper's campaign, held an open house announcing the new office space and their endorsement of Ms. Topper. Neither Ms. Wylie nor Ms. Cleveland used the office space until after the Primary election. Linda McLain was the Treasurer for all three campaigns, and performed all Treasurer services for all three candidates from her accounting office or from her home.

- Once the Primary election was over, candidates Topper, Wylie, and Cleveland agreed to split the cost of the office space for the general election. They each paid \$333 in rent expense from August through October and \$100 for the partial month of November. These payments were reported by the candidates as rent expense. The rent payments by Ms. Wylie and Ms. Cleveland were either reimbursements to Ms. Topper in a month she paid the full \$1,000, or were paid directly to Al Angelo Company. The Topper campaign reported reimbursements received as "other deposits."
- Ms. Topper's campaign did not make any in-kind contributions to candidates Wylie or Cleveland because a candidate's campaign is not allowed to make a contribution to another candidate.

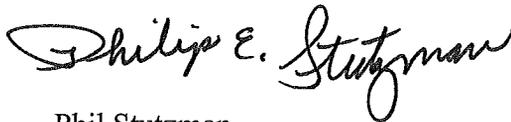
Staff's review of your complaint found no evidence that Alishia Topper made in-kind contributions to Sharon Wylie or Annette Cleveland, or that the candidates violated the reporting provision of RCW 42.17A.235 and .240.

For these reasons, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint against the campaigns of Alishia Topper, Sharon Wylie, or Annette Cleveland or pursuing enforcement action in this case. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

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

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:



Phil Stutzman
Sr. Compliance Officer



Evelyn Fielding Lopez
Executive Director

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cc: Alishia Topper, Case 9498; Sharon Wylie, Case 9499; Annette Cleveland, Case 9500;
49th Legislative District Democrats, P.O. Box 872015, Vancouver, WA 98687