

File a Formal Complaint - Gretchen McDevitt

Mcdevitt reported 5 days ago (Sat, 15 Oct at 11:43 AM) via Portal Meta

In the 2015 election cycle there appear to be some irregularities or violations committed by Spokane for Honest Government (SFHG) and others contributing to SFHG. Details are in the attached complaint. There should be two attached files. Please let me know if you do not get them. The PDC Complaint file is 4 pages.

2 Attachments

DOCX

[PDC Complain...](#)
(24.1 KB)

DOCX

[Exhibit 1A S...](#)
(4.39 MB)

PDC Complaint

10/14/16

According to the PDC website, "The PDC was designed to make government more transparent...The PDC is the lens through which the public can see who is attempting to influence elected officials by financing their campaigns and by lobbying them." Elsewhere it says: "Forty three years ago, Washington voters created the Public Disclosure Commission for the purpose of bringing transparency to the field of state and local campaign financing. While the mission remains the same, new challenges persist. The amount spent in each successive election cycle grows. Independent expenditures have expanded, and, in some cases exceed the candidates' expenditures...All of these developments serve to demonstrate that the PDC's roles in enforcing the campaign finance laws and protecting the public's right to know are more important than ever."

In the 2015 election cycle there appear to be some irregularities and violations committed by Spokane for Honest Government (SFHG) and some organizations contributing to SFHG that have impeded this transparency. It is especially a concern since the situation involves expenditures by SFHG to benefit certain Spokane City Council candidates and oppose others. About 2/3 of SFHG funds have come from the Firefighters' Union and two firefighter PACs. It is the Spokane City Council that approves the contract with the Firefighters Union, IAFF Local 29, so it seems especially important that campaign laws are strictly followed and in a timely manner.

Respondents:

1. Spokane for Honest Government

Deborah Gaddass, Campaign Manager
PO Box 18302
Spokane, WA 99228
(509) 939-7161

Melissa Olson, Treasurer
PO Box 18302
Spokane, WA 99228
(509) 216-8578
Spokaneforhonestgovernment@gmail.com

2. Spokane Firefighters Union Local 29

Don Waller, President
911 E. Baldwin
Spokane, WA 99207
(509) 991-6959
PresidentIAFFL29@gmail.com
(509) 484-5598
IAFFL29@gmail.com

3. Spokane Firefighters Union PAC

Don Waller, Campaign Manager
Thad Frater, Treasurer
911 E. Baldwin
Spokane, WA 99207
(509) 484-5598
info@local29.org

4. Safest City Spokane

Don Waller, Campaign Manager
Thad Frater, Treasurer
911 E. Baldwin
Spokane, WA 99207
(509) 484-5598
IAFFL29@gmail.com

Alleged Violations:

Violation One: (Alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.255, .260 & .305) For the 2015 election Spokane for Honest Government (SFHG) raised \$106,358.64 and spent \$106,332.77. Yet they failed to report most of their independent expenditures (IE) of \$94,143.75 in support of two Spokane City Council candidates in a timely manner. In fact, it was not until 6/20/16, only after a contact was made by Jami Lund, My Freedom Foundation, to the PDC on 5/26/16 asking about this issue, that Melissa Olson, Treasurer SFHG, filed a PDC report, C6, listing IE of \$46,080.40 and \$48,054.35 in support of Lori Kinnear and Karen Stratton, respectively, for the 2015 election.

Prior to 6/20/16 they had only reported IE on behalf of Lori Kinnear (and in opposition to LaVerne Biel) of \$5,110.31 and Karen Stratton (and in opposition to Evan Verduin) of \$5,332.15.

Here is a copy of the IE of Spokane for Honest Government for 2015 and updated on 6/20/16:

REPORT	NAME	SPONSOR	DATE	AMOUNT	S/O	CITY	STATE	ZIP
Report	STRATTON KAREN	SPOKANE FOR HONEST GOVERNMENT	6/20/2016	\$48,054.35	SPT	SPOKANE	WA	99208
Report	KINNEAR LORI	SPOKANE FOR HONEST GOVERNMENT	6/20/2016	\$46,080.40	SPT	SPOKANE	WA	99208
Report	STRATTON KAREN	SPOKANE FOR HONEST GOVERNMENT	10/22/2015	\$2,938.00	SPT	SPOKANE	WA	99208
Report	KINNEAR LORI	SPOKANE FOR HONEST GOVERNMENT	10/27/2015	\$2,598.15	SPT	SPOKANE	WA	99208
Report	KINNEAR LORI	SPOKANE FOR HONEST GOVERNMENT	10/22/2015	\$2,512.16	SPT	SPOKANE	WA	99208
Report	STRATTON KAREN	SPOKANE FOR HONEST GOVERNMENT	10/27/2015	\$2,394.15	SPT	SPOKANE	WA	99208

Violation Two: (Possible violation of RCW 42.17A.475 & .495) The City of Spokane has been withholding funds from employees' wages that the Spokane Firefighters' Union, IAFF Local 29 has used as political contributions without the written request of the employee.

Several transfers of funds have been designed to mask the fact that employees of the City of Spokane have, in effect, contributed funds to City Councilmembers without authorization. This has been accomplished by transferring funds from the Spokane Firefighters Union general fund to various PACs.

1. Spokane for Honest Government received \$21,950 from the union. PDC site with contributions received by SFHG, <http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/CommitteeData/contributions?param=U1BPS0hHIDlyOA====&year=2015&type=continuing>,

The site also shows that Safest City Spokane transferred \$45,000 total to the PAC, Spokane for Honest Government.

2. Spokane Firefighters Union (IAFF Local 29) PAC, received \$9,600 from the union. It transferred \$8,700 to Spokane for Honest Government.

<http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/CommitteeData/expenditures?param=U1BPS0YgIDlwNw%3D%3D%3D%3D&year=2015&type=continuing>

(Note: SFHG only reported donations of \$6,700. See **Violation Six** below.)

Violation Three: (Possible violation of RCW 42.17A.400, .405 & .460) The careful transfer of funds from payroll deductions, to the union, to Spokane Firefighters Union PAC and Safest City Spokane (IAFF Local 29) PAC to the union directed 2015 PAC, Spokane for Honest Government, for use in independent expenditures would be an earmarking of funds to circumvent campaign laws including campaign contribution limits.

Violation Four: (Possible violation of RCW 42.17A.555) The appearance of Spokane Firefighters in firefighter attire describing themselves as city of "Spokane Firefighters" is a use of public facilities on behalf of a political campaign in violation of laws prohibiting public resources from being used for political purposes. **Exhibit 1A** (SFHB TV ads Kinnear, Stratton) includes links to the TV ads for Kinnear and Stratton:

<https://youtu.be/7f2E6rocahY>; <https://youtu.be/dxNqAsVG5tA>;

Violation Five: (Alleged violation of RCW 452.17A.240) On the C3 form, the Spokane Firefighters Union PAC, <https://web.pdc.wa.gov/rptimg/default.aspx?batchnumber=100636007> and Safest City Spokane IAFF 29, <https://web.pdc.wa.gov/rptimg/default.aspx?batchnumber=100647379>, have not listed the actual addresses of the individual contributors. Instead they have listed the union's address, 911 E. Baldwin, Spokane, WA 99207, for each contributor. The union's address is also listed for the Campaign Manager and Treasurer.

Violation Six: (Alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.220 &.225) According to the Spokane Firefighters Union Pac, a \$2,000 contribution, <http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/CommitteeData/expenditures?param=U1BPS0YgDIwNw%3D%3D%3D%3D&year=2015&type=continuing>, was made to Spokane for Honest Government on 4/28/15. However, SFHG has not listed any contribution of \$2,000 from Spokane Firefighters PAC, <http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/CommitteeData/contributions?param=U1BPS0hHIDlyOA%3D%3D%3D%3D&year=2015&type=continuing> (or from IAFF Local 29 PAC which appears to be another name for Spokane Firefighters Union PAC).

Violation 7: Minor issues

On the C6 form for Spokane for Honest Government, <https://web.pdc.wa.gov/rptimg/default.aspx?docid=4581495>, the Party for Kinnear and Stratton is listed as Democrat. However, city council races are non-partisan so that term should be used instead.

Expenditures C6 for Spokane for Honest Government, lists the expenses for mailers of \$2,938 and \$2,512.16 paid to Lawton Printing, <https://web.pdc.wa.gov/rptimg/default.aspx?docid=4529502>, but on the expenditures page, <http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/CommitteeData/expenditures?param=U1BPS0hHIDlyOA%3D%3D%3D%3D&year=2015&type=continuing>, it lists the vendor for both as USPS.

Finally, probably not violations but just want to make sure: Variation in names for the same PAC is confusing and hinders transparency. Is there any requirement for consistency?

Spokane Firefighters Union PAC is on the C1 report but on the report for listing contributions the Spokane for Honest Government lists the *Spokane Firefighters Union PAC* as *IAFF Local 29 PAC*.

Safest City Spokane on C1 is also referred to as *Local 29 Safest City PAC*.

Then, *Spokane Firefighters Union* is just referred to as *Local 29* by Spokane for Honest Government.

Also, Safest City Spokane, IAFF Local 29 PAC and Spokane Firefighters Union PAC are both firefighter PACs getting contributions mostly from individual firefighters and a couple from the union. Both have the same Campaign Manager, Don Waller, and same Treasurer, Thad Frater, according to their C1. Does having two such PACs comply with PDC rules?

Television advertisement #1

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Special Interest Backed

Opposed To Safety Improvements

LaVerne Biel

Lori Kinnear For Spokane City Council

Spokane Firefighters Union Local 29

Subscribe 12

141 views

Up Next Autoplay

2407 Spokane Washington
JBG TRAVELS
3,194 views

ELECT LORI KINNEAR

S P O K A N E
CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 2

Paid for by Spokane for Honest Government. Top contributors: Safest City Spokane 29, SEIU 1199 NW, Washington State Council of County and City Employees, Local 29

Lori Kinnear For Spokane City Council



Spokane Firefighters Union Local 29

Subscribe 12

141 views

Up Next

Autoplay



SPOKANE, WASHINGTON | Food Tour with Olivia Hope
Tourist to Local
672 views

<https://youtu.be/7f2E6rocahY>

Published on Oct 17, 2015

Ad for Lori Kinnear for Spokane City Council

Advertisement #2



Search



SPOKESMAN-REVIEW



"(Verduin) views the position
as half time"

-Spokesman-Review 7-21-15

Karen Stratton For Spokane City Council



Spokane Firefighters Union Local 29

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364 views

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Spokane Fire Department 2012
Year in Review Video

spokanefire
5,974 views



Karen Stratton For Spokane City Council



Spokane Firefighters Union Local 29

Subscribe 12

364 views

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Spokane Fire Department 2012 Year in Review Video

spokanefire 5,974 views

<https://youtu.be/dxNqAsVG5tA>

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