

May 19, 2017

Dear Kurt,

First off, I would like to know if the complainant is a real person. This is a small community and the name Ron Bloom is not familiar to me and his records do not appear locally. I think that it is only prudent for this process to require that actual people are behind the complaints. Please advise.

I would like to start this letter with a set of facts. When I decided to involve the newspaper that I worked for at the time in the running of advertising favoring Mr. Anderson I picked up the phone and called the PDC. I called and asked to speak to a specialist. When the specialist answered I thought she introduced herself as Lori.

I told Lori that the Willapa Harbor Herald would want to run ads in favor of the Dick Anderson campaign. I specifically told Lori that I was an employee of the newspaper company. I specifically told her that I was the treasurer of the Anderson campaign. I specifically told her that I did not own the newspaper. After hearing all of that she replied, "Then you should be okay." She went on to tell me that there was no monetary "cap" on that type of advertising. A fact that I had not yet learned, so the details of the conversation stuck in my memory.

With this knowledge I carried on and ordered advertising based on the information that Lori had given me. I did not make any kind of contact with the candidate when I designed the ads. I did not make contact with the candidate when I scheduled the ad. At no time did Anderson know of the advertising before it ran.

With that said here are my responses to your questions.

1. I met Dick Anderson about 20 years ago on a construction job site.
2. Dick and I had both been independently attending PUD commission meetings for the prior several years. Dick knew that I was "email" friendly, where he was not, so he asked me to help him.
3. We would basically see each other at the PUD meetings twice a month. There were no personal meetings that were set up to discuss his campaign and there was no email correspondence. There were probably a couple of brief phone conversations but I don't remember them.
4. When Dick and I spoke of his campaign it was always only about the reporting and finances of the campaign.
5. Mr. Anderson handled the receiving of contributions. I only remember 1 contribution of \$500 being made.
6. Deposits: I don't remember if I made it or if he did. Since my resignation from this campaign shortly after this complaint was made I no longer have access to those records to verify this information.
7. Payments: Again, this is from memory, so the details are sketchy. I believe that the only service that was paid for out of the campaign account was for one ad that ran in the Long Beach newspaper and I may have written that check. Just not sure at this point.

8. I did not pick up any goods or services.
9. Advertising Discussion: I did not ever discuss any of the advertising that ran in the Herald with Mr. Anderson.
10. I am not employed at the Willapa Harbor Herald since January of this year. At the time I was a publisher/editor/salesman/graphic artist. It is a small weekly paper with 3 full time employees so everyone did everything.
11. Only after talking with specialist Lori and hearing that I was within my rights to do so did I decide, for the Herald, to run the campaign ads that favored Mr. Anderson.
12. The Herald had run many campaign ads for many other candidates in the past. Elections are a major revenue source for newspapers.

In summary, I felt that specialist Lori and the PDC that she was representing were the highest authority on the matter of qualifications for running such advertising and that I had received a green light to run said advertising. Without that review of the facts by Lori and her subsequent "go ahead" those ads would not have been run by the Herald.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pat Myers