

December 26, 2018

Mx. Fox Blackhorn
Compliance Coordinator 2
Public Disclosure Commission

Subject: Re: PDC - Harris, Tanisha (2): Alleged violations of Chapter 42.17A RCW for accepting over-limit contributions and failure to accurately report contributions and expenditures (EY 16; Dec 18)

PDC Case Number 43859

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the allegations from Cheryl Aichele on December 7, 2018. This is the second opportunity to defend ourselves regarding the 2016 Clark County Council campaign. The first complaint from Glen Morgan was dismissed in total.

Ms. Aichele has shown that she disagrees with or miss-understands the WA State laws regarding contributions to political candidates. We resent the allegation that Tanisha Harris or anyone from her campaign participated in a “culture of corruption”, conspired to break laws, or did anything to make complainants feel “too scared to file an official complaint”. We very much resent the implication that this campaign would not be forth coming and honest in our reporting. We welcome public review as we have made every effort to comply with the law and PDC rules.

The Tanisha Harris campaign did receive contributions from the 17th Legislative District Democratic Central Committee and the Clark County Democratic Central Committee. Monies were received, deposited and reported as the law and procedures demand. Ms. Aichele has made assumptions about how money was received and distributed to candidates although she was not involved with this campaign or with the leadership of the party in 2016.

Allegation One: Violations of RCW 42.17A.405 for accepting over-limit contributions.

Ms. Aichele has listed 5 entities as having made over-limit contributions. We will address each separately. None of these entities contributed beyond the limits set by law. Ms. Aichele may not understand the law and filing procedures, or she intentionally tried to deceive PDC by including reports not belonging to this campaign/complaint. Please note that several report numbers in this complaint are incorrect for the data supplied.

Harry Truman Fund: This entity is considered part of the Democratic Party which has a limit of \$0.50 per registered voter in the district which totaled 61,019 voters in 2016. Total donations from all Democratic Party organizations totaled \$12,100 and therefore, did not exceed the limit.

17TH LD DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMM	7/23/16	200.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
17TH LD DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMM	9/12/16	300.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL
17TH LD DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMM	10/17/16	700.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL

17TH LD DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMM	10/23/16	150.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL
17TH LD DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMM	10/28/16	500.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL
CLARK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE	10/13/16	250.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL
HARRY TRUMAN FUND	6/28/16	2,000.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE	6/28/16	8,000.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY

Clarence & Karen Harris: In review we have discovered that there were some technical/clerical errors in the 2016 reports. There are three Clarence Harris' in the Harris family. This caused ORCA to aggregate some of the totals incorrectly. The aggregate for Karen Harris is correct. The aggregate for Clarence Harris is incorrect although the donations were reported as a couple. The totals for both did not exceed legal limits. We would welcome an understanding of how this happened, and how we could correct the information. Otherwise, no one in the Harris family contributed beyond the legal limits as can be seen from data downloaded from PDC website. Ms. Aichele has included reports of contributions that were made to the Tanisha Harris campaign for state legislature from March and April 2016 (reports 100691404 and 100691408). Those funds were spent on the legislative campaign before it was discontinued and were not transferred to the County Council race.

CLARENCE & KAREN HARRIS	6/5/16	1,108.75	Inkind Contribution: Kickoff	PRIMARY
CLARENCE & KAREN HARRIS	7/23/16	224.02	Inkind Contribution: signs	PRIMARY
CLARENCE & KAREN HARRIS	8/25/16	1,000.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL
CLARENCE & KAREN HARRIS	8/27/16	1,000.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL
CLARENCE & THELMA HARRIS	6/27/16	100.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
CLARENCE & THELMA HARRIS	7/27/16	200.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
CLARENCE & THELMA HARRIS	8/27/16	220.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL
CLARENCE & THELMA HARRIS	10/11/16	200.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL

Doris Schuurmans: Again Ms. Aichele has included reports from a previous campaign that was discontinued (report 100691408). The money was used in the previous campaign and not transferred to the County Council race. Contributions to the County Council campaign in question are listed below as downloaded from the PDC website.

DORIS & DABY SCHUURMANS	6/6/16	100.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
DORIS & DABY SCHUURMANS	6/15/16	700.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
DORIS & DABY SCHUURMANS	7/28/16	1,000.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
DORIS & DABY SCHUURMANS	8/27/16	1,000.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL
DORIS & DABY SCHUURMANS	9/15/16	1,000.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL

Dian Stack: Again Ms. Aichele has included reports from a previous campaign that was discontinued (report 100691408). The money was used in the previous campaign and reported correctly when transferred to the County Council race (100711692). Contributions to the County Council campaign in question are listed below as downloaded from the PDC website.

DIAN STACK	5/23/16	100.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
DIAN STACK	5/23/16	0.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
DIAN STACK	6/6/16	100.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
DIAN STACK	6/15/16	500.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
DIAN STACK	7/23/16	300.00	Monetary Contribution	PRIMARY
DIAN STACK	8/12/16	1,000.00	Monetary Contribution	GENERAL

Allegation Two: Violations of RCW 42.17A.240 for failure to accurately report aggregate value of monetary and in-kind contributions, and for failure to report in-kind expenditures for office space and hotel stays.

We have found that the aggregate totals may be incorrect for Clarence Harris in some instances, but still do not exceed legal limits. Ms. Aichele’s inclusion of reports from a previous race cause her to believe the aggregate is incorrect.

Inkind reports were included for office space. We have no knowledge of “hotel stays”, although, the CCDCC did hold a scheduled monthly meeting in the Hampton Inn and allowed Ms. Harris to meet and greet prior to the meeting. CCDCC paid all expenses for the meeting room.

CLARK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE	7/1/16	400.00	Inkind Contribution: June July office space	PRIMARY
CLARK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE	8/17/16	200.00	Inkind Contribution: Aug office space	GENERAL
CLARK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE	10/15/16	400.00	Inkind Contribution: office space - Sep & Oct	GENERAL

Allegation Three: Violation of RCW 42.17A.240 and WAC 390-16-034 for failure to accurately and completely disclose contributor occupation details.

PDC requires that candidates make every effort to report accurately the occupation and employer of contributors. We report the information that is given to us on the remit envelopes when available and use the internet to search for any information when remit envelopes were not filled out. Specifically, Ms. Aichele has mentioned Tim Probst. Mr. Probst did not make a contribution to the campaign referenced by this complaint.

Supplemental Allegation One: Additional violations of RCW 42.17A.405 for accepting over-limit contributions.

This supplemental allegation is about the Harris 2018 legislative campaign and not connected to the previous allegations. Ms. Aichele’s complaint appears to be about Democratic Party process with which she disagrees. There is nothing in her statement that points to breaking any law or failure to report correctly. Her choice of words, “funnel” and “earmarked”, should not be directed at the candidate’s campaign as the campaign was not involved in that process. The

Harris campaign received a donation from the Clark County Democrats. It did not exceed limits, and it was deposited and reported correctly.

Summary: After reviewing the details of these complaints as presented, we ask that all of the allegations be dismissed as unfounded or frivolous. At best there are minor or technical errors that we should work to understand and will appreciate help from PDC to do so regarding aggregate totals. Ms. Aichele has confused internal party process with public disclosure law. Her complaint is emotional and inaccurate although consistent with her continuing public and personal attacks on Ms. Harris and her treasurer, Marsha Manning. Ms. Harris and her campaign have made every effort to correctly report all contributions and expenditures for the Clark County Council 2016 race. Please be aware that Ms. Harris did not win her election, and all bank accounts and PDC filings have been closed and reported.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to correct the record and refute the allegations directed at the Tanisha Harris campaign. All records are available should there be any further investigation or questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marsha Manning". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Marsha Manning
Treasurer
Tanisha Harris Campaign