

[Jerryccooper](#) replied (Thu, 13 Sep at 11:59 AM)  
to : pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Dear PDC,

The following information is provided in response to the complaint the commission received from Carol Bales (PDC Case Number 39967) that alleges a violation of RCW 42.17A.445 for unauthorized use of campaign funds for personal expenditures or contributions.

*The complaint states: “Mr. Cooper has reported expenditures for 2 scooters (and associated expenses), which he is indeed using in his campaign. If he were renting these rather than purchasing them, I would not be raising this question. A purchase raises questions about what will happen to them after the election.”*

Point #1 – The complaint acknowledges the reported expenditures are for two scooters that are being used in my campaign. My response: I agree with that assessment. I am not aware of any use otherwise. I should note that the most recent C-4 filing adds the cost of a third scooter as a campaign expense.

Point #2 – The complaint questions the purchase rather than the rental of these scooters. My response: Prior to their purchase my campaign performed a search of the local market to find three red scooters that could be rented for a five-month period at a reasonable rate. The campaign found there are no rentals of suitable scooters available locally (within a 50-mile radius). Scooter rentals are available in Portland; however, the rental rate of \$75/day – even discounted to a weekly or monthly rate – does not approach the equivalent \$9/day that the campaign is spending for these three scooters over the five-month period. For that reason, the campaign decided to purchase the scooters.

Point #3 – The complaint raises the question regarding what will happen to the scooters after the election. My response: It appears that the alleged violation of RCW 42.17A.445 in relation to this complaint is one that has not occurred, but is only suggested as a possibility that may occur at some point in the future after the election. In this regard, the complaint is premature since the election has not yet occurred and there is no miss-use presently alleged. As a note, the three scooters and their related expenses are reported as loans made to the campaign by me. In an attempt to fully disclose their exclusive use by the campaign, I felt it better to report them as a loan to the campaign rather than use them without any public disclosure. If the campaign is unable to pay for the scooters, they likely will be repossessed and sold or otherwise dispositioned consistent with PDC rules. If the PDC prefers, I can restructure the scooter purchase by the campaign as a rental instead.

In summary, the complaint acknowledges the scooters are being used for my campaign, which they are, and does not provide any evidence or direct accusation other than presenting a possibility that “Mr. Cooper might be using campaign funds for his personal gain”, suggesting such a violation is associated with a future event - what happens to the scooters after the election. In the absence of any evidence that a violation of RCW 42.17A.445 has occurred (more than the suggestion that one may occur in the future), I recommend the PDC close this complaint.

Please let me know if additional information or explanation is needed.

Thank you.

Jerry Cooper  
360-751-4172

[Jerrycooper](#) replied (Thu, 13 Sep at 5:00 PM)

to : [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov)

Hi Micaiah,

Attached are photos showing how the scooters are being used. Each one has been fitted with a mast that carries a campaign sign. We have used the scooters in several parades. In addition, they are ridden outside of parades just around town but always have a campaign sign attached.

Jerry Cooper  
360-751-4172

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