

Safer Spokane Response to PDC Complaint

[Jim Lee](#) (Wed, 22 Nov at 7:59 AM) via Email

To: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Cc: minister@uuspokane.org, mrbellcpa@gmail.com

To: Washington State PDC

RE: PDC Complaint 26493

In response to the above mentioned complaint, we deeply regret not being familiar enough with the rules. This was our first election campaign of this nature. Our treasurer, Mike Bell, had done reporting to the Federal Election Commission, but had not been involved in a State election. So, he was not aware of the requirements.

As chairman, I was vaguely aware of them and asked Mike to initiate reporting in early September when we started the "election" campaign.

What I did not realize was that we needed to begin reporting before we began to gather signatures. At that point (November 2016), we had no idea whether we would even make the ballot and were totally focused on just doing that. I take full responsibility.

Once I asked Mike to start filing reports, he called the PDC for guidance. They recommended getting professional help, which he sought. As a result, the first report, and all subsequent ones, have been filed correctly and on time. The only error was that the advisor incorrectly entered the organization name as "Proposition 2", instead of Safer Spokane. We cooperated fully with the PDC in getting that corrected and in making another change that they

wanted. That was changing the initiative name from Proposition 2 to "Oil and Coal Train Initiative." Mike was commended by the PDC for his help in making those corrections and revisions.

Regarding the failure to put the names of our top contributors on the billboards, again it was a lack of understanding on our part. Interestingly, I specifically asked the billboard company if there was anything else we needed to put on them, and they said no. Once the complaint was filed and we asked them to add the names, they told us they were very surprised. They do campaign billboards all the time and the issue had never come up before.

Attached are photos of the billboards after the names were added. This was done as soon as physically possible after receiving the notice of complaint. (Note that we had only 3 contributors who exceeded the \$700 threshold for inclusion on the notice.)

Again, we apologize for the inconvenience and extra work our lack of understanding has caused the PDC. We support your work. Our campaign was intentionally completely transparent. (As can be seen by the complainant's presenting our calendar with the complaint.) Being a 100% volunteer effort obviously resulting in these errors.

Best Regards,

Jim Lee

Safer Spokane

509.981.2307

Spokane Firefighters Endorse Proposition-2

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Top contributors include Michael Bell, Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, and C. Schmidt.



**Vote ☒ YES
on Prop-2**

**Spokane Firefighters
Endorse Proposition-2**

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