



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdcc.wa.gov

March 27, 2018

Delivered electronically to Mario Brown

Subject: Mario Brown Complaint Return Cover Letter, PDC Case 25694

Mr. Brown:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Patrick Burke concerning the complaint he filed against you. As noted below in the electronic letter to Mr. Burke, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking enforcement action in this matter.

While some of the L-2 reports you submitted were not timely filed, most of those late filed reports disclosed no reportable lobbying compensation, reimbursement for expenses or other lobbying activities. PDC staff is reminding you as a registered lobbyist about the importance of the timely disclosure of all lobbying related activities addressed to the Washington State Legislature or any Washington State agency on the monthly L-2 reports as required in accordance with PDC laws, rules and reporting requirements.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed the complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young by e-mail at kurt.young@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl, Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley, Executive Director



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March 27, 2018

Delivered electronically to Patrick Burke

Subject: Complaint filed against Mario Brown, PDC Case 25694

Mr. Burke:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on September 22, 2017. Your complaint alleged that Mario Brown, a registered lobbyist for the Washington Music Educators Association, may have violated RCW 42.17A.615 by failing to timely and accurately file monthly Lobbyist Expense Reports (L-2 reports) disclosing lobbying activities undertaken during calendar years 2016 and 2017.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in your complaint, the statutes, rules and lobbyist reporting requirements, the L-1 report and L-2 reports filed by Mario Brown, and the responses from Mr. Brown. As a result, we found the following:

- On January 30, 2015, Mario Brown filed a Lobbyist Registration (L-1 report) registering as a lobbyist listing the Washington Music Educators Association as his Employer, that he was a Full-time employee of the Association and that lobbying is only a part of his duties. The L-1 report disclosed that Mr. Brown would be paid \$19 an hour to lobby, that he was reimbursed for his expenses, and would be lobbying education related issues.
- Staff's review found that for calendar year 2015, Mr. Brown disclosed \$190 in lobbying compensation for the months of February, March and April, but no compensation for the months of May through December of 2015, with a few reports being filed late.
- For calendar year 2016, Mr. Brown timely filed the January, February and March L-2 reports disclosing \$830 in lobbying compensation and expenses for January of 2016, and \$660 in lobbying compensation and expenses for February of 2016, during the 2016 Legislative Session.
- In July of 2016, the PDC switched from the lobbyist electronic filing application to Lobbyist reporting software. For the months of March through December of 2016, monthly L-2 reports were filed by Mr. Brown disclosing no compensation or other lobbying related expenses had been undertaken.

- Mr. Brown did not file L-2 reports for January through April of 2017, and he filed monthly L-2 reports covering the period May of 2017 through December of 2018, disclosing no compensation or other lobbying related expenses. Staff noted that a few of those L-2 reports were also filed late.
- Mr. Brown stated “I thought I had been filed and was up-to-date. I will check and see. I have no wages to report because lobbying is only part of my duties and I only account for the actual days I actually lobby. Which has not happened in a while. He stated that he only charges for his “specific billable hours for lobbying. Lobbying is the smallest part of my job here so I am paid for more than lobbying. Billable hours are for travel to Olympia or to meetings. I have not done that in a while.”

While some of the L-2 reports were not timely filed by Mr. Brown, most of those reports disclosed no reportable lobbying compensation, reimbursement for expenses or other lobbying activities. Based on these findings, and the fact that Mario Brown has no prior PDC violations, staff has determined that in this instance, there is no evidence to support a finding of a material violation by Mario Brown which would warrant further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding the Mario Brown as a registered lobbying about the importance of the timely disclosure of all lobbying related activities addressed to the Washington State Legislature or any Washington State agency on the monthly L-2 reports as required in accordance with PDC laws, rules and reporting requirements.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed the complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young by e-mail at kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____
Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl, Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee, Executive Director

cc: Mario Brown

