



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: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

July 26, 2023

Sent electronically to Spencer Zeman at peopleforspencer@gmail.com

Subject: Complaints filed by Glen Morgan, PDC Case 138943

Dear Mr. Zeman:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Glen Morgan concerning a complaint he filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) against your campaign on June 21, 2023.

As noted below in the letter to Mr. Morgan, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into this allegation or taking further enforcement action in this matter.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), this letter serves as a formal written warning concerning your failure to stay within the contribution limits of \$1,000 in total contributions from an individual per election. Staff expects you to stay within the statutory contribution limits in all future campaigns. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina, Compliance Officer at (360) 586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/ _____
Erick O. Agina, Compliance Officer

s/ _____
Peter Frey Lavalley, Executive Director



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July 26, 2023

Sent electronically to Glen Morgan at glen@wethegoverned.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Spencer Zeman, PDC Case 138943

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on June 21, 2023. The complaint alleged that Spencer Zeman, a 2023 first-time candidate for council member, position 2 in the City of Lacey, may have violated RCW 42.17A.405 for receiving over-limit contributions for a candidate whose name will only be appearing on the general election ballot.

PDC staff reviewed your allegation; the applicable statute(s), rule(s), and reporting requirements; the Monetary Contribution (C-3) and Summary Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) reports filed by People for Spencer (Committee); the response to the complaint submitted by Spencer Zeman on behalf of the Campaign; and other relevant information to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- On January 7, 2023, Spencer Zeman filed an initial Candidate Registration (C-1) report and selected the Full Reporting Option and listed Jaclynn Simmons as Ministerial Treasurer. The initial C-1 report was subsequently amended twice on January 9, 2023 and July 11, 2023.
- RCW 42.17.405 limits candidates to receiving \$1,000 in contributions from any one individual or per person for each election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot. (Note that the limits have since been the subject of periodic review and revision by rule, as required by statute.)
- Only two candidates filed to run for city council member, position 2 in the City of Lacey in 2023, so there was no primary election for this race and Spencer Zeman's name did not appear on the 2023 primary ballot.
- Accordingly, each candidate was limited to one \$1,000 contribution limit from any one source during the 2023 election year, which should have been attributed to the general only since there is no primary election in 2023. However, in reviewing the C-3 reports filed by the Mr. Zeman's Campaign, the Campaign disclosed receiving \$2,000 in total contributions each from Window Genie Z Gen LLC, Michael Steadman and Nicolas Dunning on January 7, 2023, January 10, 2023 and February 1, 2023, respectively. The Campaign incorrectly attributed \$1,000 to the 2023 primary election for the contributions noted supra.

- On July 7, 2023, the Campaign filed a C-4 report showing refunds to the contributors noted above in the amounts of \$1,000 in refunds for each of the three primary contributions at issue in this matter.
- In its responses to the complaint, received on June 27, 2023 and July 10, 2023, the Campaign, by way of Spencer Zeman, stated: “We realized that the campaign does not have a primary now that filing week is over in May. We have refunded after speaking with staff at PDC. Your assistance in correcting this situation is appreciated. I’ve refunded the full amounts and we have amended the reports.”

While our review found that Spencer Zeman’s Campaign received and deposited overlimit contributions in violation of RCW 42.17A.405, he is a first-time candidate for office. Additionally, Mr. Zeman took responsibility and promptly refunded the overlimit contribution and amended the pertinent C-3 reports as soon as this complaint was brought to his attention.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), Spencer Zeman will receive a formal warning letter concerning his failure to adhere to the statutory contribution limits delineated in RCW 42.17A.405. The formal written warning will include staff’s expectation that Spencer Zeman adhere to the statutory contribution limits in all future campaigns. Additionally, Spencer Zeman will be informed that the Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

Accordingly, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina, Compliance Officer at (360) 586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/ _____
Erick O. Agina, Compliance Officer

s/ _____
Peter Frey Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Spencer Zeman

