



State of Washington

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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October 11, 2023

Sent electronically to Glen Morgan at glen@wethegoverned.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Bartholomew Hansen, PDC Case 140458

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on August 2, 2023. The complaint alleged that Bartholomew Hansen, an incumbent City of Vancouver council member and a candidate for the same position in the 2023 election year, 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 to Retain Bart Hansen (Campaign); the response to the complaint; 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 March 9, 2023, Bartholomew Hansen filed a Candidate Registration (C-1) report and selected the Full Reporting Option and listed Mary Elkin as Treasurer.
- 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. The limits have since been the subject of periodic review and revision by rule, as required by statute.
- Only one candidate filed to run for city council member, Position No. 4 in the City of Vancouver in 2023, so there was no primary election for this race and Bartholomew Hansen's name did not appear on the 2023 primary ballot.
- Accordingly, Bartholomew Hansen was limited to a maximum of 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 was/is no primary election in 2023. However, in reviewing the C-3 reports filed by his 2023 campaign, the Campaign disclosed receiving two contributions of \$1,000 each from Vancouver Firefighters IAFF Local 452, for a total of \$2,000 in total contributions. The Campaign incorrectly accepted two \$1,000 contributions to the 2023 general election, in violation of the statutory prohibition of accepting over-limit contribution for a candidate appearing in the general election only.

- In its responses to the complaint, received on August 16, 2023, the Campaign, by way of Bartholomew Hansen, stated: “We wrote the [refund] check and it never was mailed. Since then we have corrected the concern and our reporting will reflect that. The check has been mailed to the Vancouver Firefighters C4 Report# 110163828.”
- As noted above, the Campaign filed a C-4 report showing a \$1,000 refund to Vancouver Firefighters IAFF Local 452 for the over-limit contribution at issue in this matter. The Campaign also provided a copy of the refund check mailed to the contributor.

While our review found that Bartholomew Hansen’s Campaign received and deposited overlimit contributions in violation of RCW 42.17A.405, the Campaign was under the impression that there would be additional opponents. Additionally, Mr. Hansen took responsibility and promptly refunded the overlimit contribution and amended the pertinent report(s) as soon as this complaint was brought to his attention.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), Bartholomew Hansen 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 Bartholomew Hansen adhere to the statutory contribution limits in all future campaigns. Additionally, Bartholomew Hansen 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: Bartholomew Hansen

