



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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June 6, 2024

Delivered electronically to "glen@wethegoverned.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Andrew Melvin Ikechukwu Ashiofu , PDC Case 113113

Dear Glen Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review and investigation of the complaint you filed on September 15, 2022. Staff also reviewed and investigated additional areas of concern not included in your complaint. Your complaint alleged, and staff's additional areas of concern included, whether Andrew Ashiofu, and his campaign treasurer, Jeanne Legault, may have violated:

- **RCW 42.17A.405(2) and (14) and WAC 390-05-400** by accepting \$2,000 in over-limit contributions for the August 2, 2022 primary election when the campaign used general election contributions for the primary election;
- **WAC 390-17-300(5)** by spending \$2,000 in general election contributions for the primary election when to do so caused the general election contributors to exceed their contribution limit for the primary election;
- **WAC 390-17-300(6)** by failing to return \$2,000 in general election contributions after losing in the primary election; and
- **RCW 42.17A.235 and .240** by filing multiple inaccurate reports of contributions and expenditures during and after the 2022 primary election, reflecting, (1) anticipated monetary contributions as actual deposited contributions, and (2) large debt forgiveness as over-limit in-kind contributions when there was no loan, debt, debt forgiveness, or over-limit in-kind contribution.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; responses provided by the campaign; the applicable PDC reports filed by Respondent; 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:

- Andrew Ashiofu was a first-time candidate for State Representative in the 37th Legislative District during the 2022 election cycle. He hired Jeanne Legault, an experienced treasurer, to receive contributions, make expenditures, and file accurate reports with the Public Disclosure Commission. Mr. Ashiofu lost in the primary election and was required to return all general election contributions.
- After conducting a preliminary review and assessment of the complaint, on December 13, 2022, staff opened a formal investigation and held an Initial Hearing (Case Status Review).
- Ms. Legault made the decision to spend \$2,000 in general election contributions to pay primary election expenses, resulting in the general election contributions becoming primary election contributions that were over-limit because the general election contributors had already made maximum \$1,000 primary election contributions. The campaign was unable to return the general election contributions, consisting of \$1,000 from Agatha Ashiofu and \$1,000 from Rachel Marshall.
- Ms. Legault filed multiple inaccurate reports of contributions and expenditures during and after the 2022 primary election, including (1) reporting receipts of \$1,900 in monetary contributions that were not received, at a time when the campaign was looking for a way to return \$2,000 in general election contributions; and (2) reporting a debt of \$11,875 for consulting services that did not occur, and later reporting the debt as forgiven, and as an over-limit in-kind contribution. These reports were amended after the election to correctly show that the monetary contributions were not received and that there was no debt or over-limit in-kind contribution for consulting services.

However, Andrew Ashiofu, Candidate, and Jeanne Legault, Treasurer, each completed a separate Statement of Understanding (SOU), and each paid a \$500.00 civil penalty in accordance with WAC 390-37-143 (Brief Enforcement Penalty Schedule), acknowledging violations of:

- RCW 42.17A.405(2) and (14) and WAC 390-05-400 by accepting \$2,000 in over-limit contributions for the August 2, 2022 primary election when the campaign used general election contributions for the primary election;
- WAC 390-17-300(5) by spending \$2,000 in general election contributions for the primary election when to do so caused the general election contributors to exceed their contribution limit for the primary election;
- WAC 390-17-300(6) by failing to return \$2,000 in general election contributions after losing in the primary election; and
- RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by filing multiple inaccurate reports of contributions and expenditures during and after the 2022 primary election, reflecting, (1) anticipated monetary contributions as actual deposited contributions, and (2) large debt forgiveness as over-limit in-kind contributions when there was no loan, debt, debt forgiveness, or over-limit in-kind contribution.

Payment of the two \$500.00 penalties resolves the allegations listed in your complaint and the additional areas of concern investigated by staff.

Based on this information, 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 Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,
Electronically Signed Philip E. Stutzman
Phil Stutzman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,
Electronically Signed Peter Frey Lavallee
Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Andrew Ashiofu, Candidate; Jeanne Legault, Treasurer