



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against:

Josiah Rowell, Fiona Klaus and the 35th
Legislative District Republican Central
Committee

Respondents.

PDC Case No 14-016

Notice of Administrative
Charges

I. BACKGROUND AND JURISDICTION

Steven Van Denver filed a complaint with the Public Disclosure Commission on November 19, 2013 alleging the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LD RCC) received a \$5,000.00 contribution from Ms. Fiona Klaus to be passed through to the campaign of her son-in-law, Josiah Rowell, Candidate for 35th Legislative District Position 1, thereby violating campaign contribution limits, and failing to properly process and report an earmarked contribution. That same day, Mr. Van Denver also filed a complaint against Mr. Rowell for receiving campaign contributions above the contribution limits.

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to Chapter 42.17A RCW, the state campaign finance and disclosure laws; Chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act; and Title 390 WAC. These charges incorporate the Report of Investigation and all related exhibits by reference.

II. ALLEGATIONS

A. Josiah Rowell

1. PDC staff alleges that Mr. Rowell violated RCW 42.17A.240 by failing to report a contribution from Ms. Klaus to Mr. Rowell's campaign.
2. PDC staff further alleges that Mr. Rowell violated RCW 42.17A.405 by accepting an over-limit contribution of \$5,000.00 that came from Ms. Klaus, his mother-in-law, to be used by his campaign.
3. Finally, PDC staff alleges that Mr. Rowell violated WAC 390-16-308 by failing to identify the actual source of funds from which the contribution was made to his campaign.

B. Fiona Klaus

1. PDC staff alleges that Ms. Klaus violated RCW 42.17A.405 and WAC 390-05-400 by making a contribution specifically earmarked for her son-in-law, Mr. Rowell, a candidate for State Representative for the 35th Legislative District, which was above the contribution limits for candidates for state legislative office.

C. 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee

1. PDC staff alleges that the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee violated RCW 42.17A.435 by concealing a contribution made by Ms. Fiona Klaus, earmarked for her son-in-law, Josiah Rowell, a candidate for State Representative in the 35th Legislative District.
2. PDC staff further alleges that the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee violated RCW 42.17A.270 by failing to appropriately process and report an earmarked contribution.

III. FINDINGS

1. The 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LD RCC) is the official political committee supporting Republican candidates in the 35th Legislative District.
2. Mr. Josiah Rowell was a Republican candidate for State Representative in the 35th Legislative District. He filed his Candidate Registration Statement (PDC form C-1) on May 28, 2013.
3. On June 7, 2013, Ms. Fiona Klaus, Mr. Rowell's mother-in-law, wrote out a check for \$5,000.00 to "the 35th Legislative District GOP Committee." The check contained a handwritten notation in the lower left corner memo field stating: "Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell." Ms. Klaus resides in Gig Harbor, Washington, in the 26th Legislative District.
4. On or around June 11, 2013, Ms. Virginia Beech, Treasurer of the 35th LD RCC, received a phone call from Mr. Robert Knight, 35th LD RCC Chair. Mr. Knight asked Ms. Beech to meet him at a park-and-ride in Shelton, Washington. At that meeting, Mr. Knight gave Ms. Beech the \$5,000.00 check from Ms. Klaus. Ms. Beech then deposited the check into the 35th LD RCC bank account. No one interviewed by PDC staff can recall how the check was transmitted from Ms. Klaus to Mr. Knight; however, Ms. Klaus stated that it may have been mailed, or given to her daughter.
5. The 35th LD RCC did not report the funds as "earmarked" for the Rowell campaign.
6. On June 21, 2013, the Rowell campaign accepted a \$5,000.00 contribution from the 35th LD RCC.
7. Mr. Travis Couture, also a candidate for State Representative in the 35th Legislative District, told the PDC Investigator that it was unusual for a candidate to receive a

contribution from the Republican Central Committee immediately after being vetted. Mr. Couture was vetted one week before Mr. Rowell and did not receive any contribution from the Republican Central Committee.

8. Mr. Couture stated that he asked Mr. Knight about the funds and was told that they were from several business owners and individuals in Kitsap County who pooled their funds to make the contribution to the Rowell campaign. Mr. Knight did not identify these individuals to Mr. Couture.
9. Not satisfied with that answer, Mr. Couture approached Mr. Rowell and asked him who had donated the funds. Mr. Couture stated that Mr. Rowell eventually told him that he had asked his mother-in-law for \$5,000.00 as “seed money” to get his campaign off the ground.
10. Ms. Dinah Griffey, Chair of the Mason County Republican Committee, stated to the PDC Investigator that Mr. Knight told her that several Kitsap County businesses had contributed to the Rowell campaign, but Mr. Knight asked her to keep it quiet because he didn’t want many people to know about the contributions. Ms. Griffey stated that upon researching Mr. Knight’s claim, she found that no business or individual in Kitsap County had donated funds to the Rowell campaign.
11. When Mr. Rowell was interviewed by the PDC’s Investigator, Mr. Rowell stated he did not originally know that the check was written by his mother-in-law, Ms. Klaus, to the 35th LD RCC and designated for his campaign. He said he found out that the \$5,000.00 came from Ms. Klaus after he had spent the money.
12. Mr. Rowell acknowledged that he was aware of campaign contribution limits; that he knew at the beginning of his campaign that an individual contributor could only give \$900.00 per election, and he knew by the time his campaign was winding down that an individual contributor could give \$950.00 per election.

13. During an interview with the PDC Investigator on July 16, 2015, Ms. Klaus was asked why her check was sent to the 35th LD RCC rather than going directly to Mr. Rowell. Ms. Klaus explained that her landlady had told her that she could only donate a certain amount directly to a candidate's campaign. She further stated that she sent the money to the 35th LD RCC with the "hope" that the money would be given to the Josiah Rowell Campaign.

IV. LAW

RCW 42.17A.405(2) and WAC 390-05-400 provide campaign contribution limitations: No person other than a bona fide political party or a caucus political committee may make contributions to a candidate for a legislative office that in the aggregate exceed \$950.00 per election. No person may accept contributions that exceed the contribution limitations provided in the section (as adjusted for inflation by PDC rule).

RCW 42.17A.240 states that: Each report required under RCW 42.17A235(1) and (2) must be certified correct by the treasurer and the candidate and shall disclose the following:

...

(2) The name and address of each person who has made one or more contributions during the period, together with the money value and date of each contribution and the aggregate value of all contributions received from each person during the campaign. ...

RCW 42.17A.435 states that: No contribution shall be made and no expenditure shall be incurred, directly or indirectly, in a fictitious name, anonymously, or by one person through an agent, relative, or other person in such a manner as to conceal the identity of the source of the contribution or in any other manner so as to effect concealment.

WAC 390-16-308 states in part that: Any person who makes a contribution shall inform the candidate or treasurer, at the time the contribution is made, of the true and actual source of funds from which the contribution is made. To identify the source of a contribution received by check or other written instrument in the absence of other information, a candidate or treasurer shall apply the following:

Provided, that in cases where the source of the contribution is known and differs from the guidelines set forth below, the known source of the contribution shall be reported;

Provided further, that contributions made through an intermediary or conduit or transmitted by an intermediary shall identify the true and actual source of the funds. ...

RCW 42.17A.270 requires a political committee receiving a contribution earmarked for the benefit of a candidate or another political committee to:

(1) Report the contribution as required in RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240;

(2) Complete a report, entitled "Earmarked contributions," on a form prescribed by the commission that identifies the name and address of the person who made the contribution, the candidate or political committee for whose benefit the contribution is earmarked, the amount of the contribution, and the date that the contribution was received; and

(3) Mail or deliver to the commission and the candidate or political committee benefiting from the contribution a copy of the "Earmarked contributions" report within two working days of receipt of the contribution.

(4) A candidate or political committee receiving notification of an earmarked contribution under subsection (3) of this section shall report the contribution, once notification of the contribution is received by the candidate or committee, in the same manner as any other contribution, as required by RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240.

Respectfully submitted this 29th day of February 2016.


Evelyn Fielding Lopez
Executive Director



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OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN RE COMPLIANCE)	PDC CASE NO: 14-016
<i>WITH RCW 42.17A</i>)	
)	
35 th Legislative District)	
Republican Central Committee)	REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

I.
BACKGROUND

On November 19, 2013, Steven Van Denover filed a complaint against the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee:

- a. Alleging violations of RCW 42.17A.270, WAC 390-16-033 and 390-16-240 by failing to process and report earmarked contributions as required, and;
- b. Alleging violations of RCW 42.17A.470 by making contributions to the Josiah Rowell campaign on behalf of another person or entity.

II.
ALLEGATIONS IN COMPLAINT

2.1 First allegation, the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee, through Chairman Robert Knight, Annette Knight, Vice Chair, and Virginia Beech, Treasurer, received a \$5,000 contribution targeted by the donor for the 2013 Josiah Rowell campaign for State Representative. The complaint stated that the donor is the candidate's mother-in-law. The complaint alleged that the amount donated exceeds the allowable amount for the primary and general elections. It was also alleged that Ms. Beech failed to file the required Special Report E. for earmarked contributions within two days of receiving the contribution as required by law.

2.2 Second allegation named Josiah Rowell as the Respondent, and alleged that on June 21, 2013 the Rowell campaign accepted an over-limit contribution when he accepted the \$5,000 contribution from the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee that had been earmarked for his campaign by Ms. Klaus. The dollar amount

exceeds the donation amounts for the Primary and General Election by several thousands of dollars.

III. **FINDINGS**

3.1 Ms. Fiona Klaus resides in Gig Harbor, Washington in the 26th District. There are no records indicating that Ms. Klaus ever donated to a political candidate or political party before this incident. Ms. Klaus donated \$5,000.00 to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee, which is where her son-in-law was campaigning for a position in the state legislature.

3.2 Ms. Fiona Klaus stated that her Landlady told her she could only give \$950.00 directly to a candidate's campaign. Ms. Klaus sent a check for \$5,000.00 to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LDRCC) in the "Hopes" that the \$5,000 would make it to the Rowell Campaign. Ms. Klaus donated \$5,000 to the 35th LDRCC, via check, dated June 6, 2013 and earmarked the check for the Josiah Rowell Campaign by placing a comment in the "For" block stating "Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell". By sending the \$5,000 check through the 35th LDRCC the identity of the source of the check was concealed.

3.3 Mr. Josiah Rowell stated after he spent the \$5,000 contribution he was made aware the donation came from his mother-in-law, Ms. Klaus. However, Mr. Rowell did not attempt to return the over limit contribution nor did he submit the proper documentation to the PDC.

3.4 In an interview with PDC Staff, Mr. Travis Couture, also a candidate with the 35th LDRCC, stated that Mr. Rowell initially declined to tell him where the \$5,000 came from, however Mr. Rowell finally told Mr. Couture "face-to-face" that he asked his mother-in-law for the \$5,000 to be used as "seed" money to get his campaign started.

3.5 Mr. Couture also stated he asked Robert Knight, Chair of the 35th LDRCC, where the \$5,000 came from and initially Mr. Knight declined to answer. Eventually Mr. Knight told Mr. Couture the money was compiled by several business owners in the district and Kitsap County.

3.6 Ms. Beech received a telephone call from Mr. Knight at approximately 2300 hours (did not recall date) telling her to meet him at the Pickering Road Park and Ride, North of Shelton, WA on State Route 3, so he could give her a \$5,000 check for the 35th LDRCC. Ms. Beech agreed to meet Mr. Knight and took her husband (Carl D. Beech) along to ensure her safety. When she arrived at the park and ride, she met Mr. Knight, who handed her a check with no paperwork attached.

3.7 Ms. Beech deposited the \$5,000 check from Ms. Klaus into the 35th LDRCC's account at Our Community Credit Union, Shelton, Washington on June 11, 2013. Josiah Rowell was vetted by the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee on June

20, 2013. Upon completion of the vetting process for Mr. Rowell, Robert Knight, Chair of the 35th LDRCC, announced that Mr. Rowell would receive a \$5,000 contribution from the 35th LDRCC. During an interview Mr. Knight stated that Mr. Rowell got the \$5,000 since only Mr. Rowell and Representative MacEwen had been vetted at that time by the 35th LDRCC. Representative MacEwen did not need the contribution since he was already well established as a Representative for the 35th District. However Mr. Knight neglected to mention that Mr. Couture was vetted by the 35th LDRCC approximately one week before Mr. Rowell was vetted and yet Mr. Couture did not receive any contributions from the 35th LDRCC.

3.8 The check for \$5,000 was written and presented to Mr. Rowell at his home on June 21, 2013, by Ms. Beech. Mr. Rowell was aware that the \$5,000 had come from his mother-in-law and yet did not report the contribution or submit the proper documentation.

3.9 Mr. Knight deceived Mr. Couture, candidate for the state legislature and Ms. Dinah Griffey, Chair of the Mason County Republican Party when he told them the \$5,000 contribution came from several business owners and individuals in the district and Kitsap County. **NOTE:** There are no reports filed with the PDC indicating that the \$5,000 came from several businesses to the 35th LDRCC, only a single report of a \$5,000 contribution from Ms. Fiona Klaus to the 35th LDRCC.

3.10 Mr. Robert Knight made several conflicting statements as to where the check originated, who saw the check and how the check got to the 35th LDRCC. Additionally Mr. Knight told two witnesses that the money came from business owners within the district who compile their donations together to give the Rowell Campaign a \$5,000 contribution.

CAMPAIGN

3.11 Josiah Rowell stated he only knew Mr. Knight as the Chair of the 35th LDRCC and that Mr. Knight had no dealings with his campaign, nor was he a friend of the Rowell family. During interviews with Ms. Alicia Rowell (Spouse), Ms. Griffey, Chair Mason County Republican Party and Mr. Knight the following contradictions were made to Josiah Rowell's testimony:

- 1) Mr. Knight stated that he worked on the Josiah Rowell Campaign as a Volunteer Recruiter for Kitsap County, per a request from Mr. Rowell.
- 2) Alicia Rowell stated the Rowell's knew Mr. Knight as an acquaintance of the family and an "honest and good man".
- 3) Ms. Griffey stated Mr. Knight was also the Coordinator/Manager for the Rowell Campaign in Kitsap County.

3.12 During an interview on March 13, 2014 with Mr. Knight, he stated Ms. Griffey had called and asked him to conduct a pre-interview with Mr. Rowell and give him a vetting packet as a possible candidate for the 35th LDRCC. Ms. Griffey responded stating that

she had not contacted Mr. Knight about Mr. Rowell. She knew who Mr. Rowell was since he was continuously contacting Ms. Griffey's husband (now Representative Dan Griffey), while Mr. Rowell was on active duty with the US Navy, telling Rep Griffey that he (Rowell) was going to run for office as soon as his tour of duty ended. Other than the contacts made by Mr. Rowell to Rep Griffey, Ms. Griffey had no knowledge that Mr. Rowell was running until she received the telephone call from Mr. Knight about the \$5,000 donation from the business owners.

\$5,000 CHECK FROM FIONA KLAUS

3.13 Mr. Robert Knight made several conflicting statements as listed below:

- a. The Treasurer (Ms. Beech) received the \$5,000 check through the mail.
- b. Mr. Knight commented if the check was earmarked, he would have received a letter with the check or a phone call prior to receiving the check.
- c. Mr. Knight stated the \$5,000 check came addressed to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee with the proper PDC reporting requirements from the donor and the check was not earmarked.
- d. Mr. Knight stated only the treasurer saw the check and endorsed and deposited the \$5,000 check on June 11, 2013 and did not share the information about the footnote with the rest of the committee.
- e. Mr. Knight said he was surprised about the footnote on the check which stated "Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell".
- f. In December 2013, Mr. Knight asked Mr. Rowell if he knew Ms. Klaus and was told that Ms. Klaus was Mr. Rowell's mother-in-law. Mr. Knight claimed he did not know Ms. Klaus was Mr. Rowell's mother-in-law before December 2013.
- g. Mr. Knight did not solicit the \$5,000 check nor did he know who Ms. Klaus was until he perused the on-line social media.
- h. Mr. Knight claimed the reason the \$5,000 was given to Mr. Rowell, was that only Mr. Rowell and Representative MacEwen were the two candidates vetted at this time. Representative MacEwen was established as a State Representative for the 35th District and did not need the financial assistance from the 35th LDRCC. However during an interview with Mr. Couture, Mr. Couture stated he had been vetted approximately one week prior to Mr. Rowell yet did not receive any of the \$5,000 contribution.
- i. Mr. Knight sent a letter to the PDC stating he was having problems with the Our Community Credit Union, Shelton, WA releasing a copy of the check written by Ms. Klaus, even though he was able to get a copy of the check given to the Rowell Campaign by the 35th LDRCC. Once a Subpoena Duce Tecum was sent to Mr. Knight on 30 June 2015, the PDC receive a copy of the cancelled \$5,000 check written by Ms. Klaus on 15 July 2015. On 1 July 2015, Ms. Beech, ex-treasurer 35th LDRCC was able to walk into the credit union, request a copy of the check written to Mr. Rowell from the 35th LDRCC and a copy of the check written by Ms. Klaus to the 35th LDRCC, without any issues.

3.14 Ms. Virginia Beech, ex-Treasurer 35th LDRCC made the following statements:

- a. Ms. Beech met Mr. Knight at the Pickering Road Park and Ride, North of Shelton, WA on State Route 3 at approximately 2300 hours (did not recall date), so he could give her a \$5,000 check for the 35th LDRCC. Mr. Knight handed her a check for \$5000.00 with no paperwork attached.
- b. Ms. Beech deposited the check that night or the next morning, she looked at the check before depositing the check, however did not notice anything written in the "Memo" block.
- c. On February 9, 2014, Ms. Beech resigned as the Treasurer of the 35th LDRCC, after she discovered that her name/electronic signature was being placed on PDC reports/documents without her knowledge.
- d. On July 1, 2015, Ms. Beech went to the Our Community Credit Union, Shelton, WA with PDC staff. Ms. Beech asked if she was still listed on the signature card of the 35th LDRCC since the account was closed at the end of February 2014. Ms. Beech was still listed on the Signature Card and requested copies of the cancelled checks written by the 35th LDRCC to the Josiah Rowell Campaign and cancelled check written by Ms. Klaus to the 35th LDRCC with the annotation in the "For Block" stating "Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell". Upon receipt of the cancelled checks Ms. Beech immediately handed the cancelled checks to PDC staff present with her at the OCCU.

3.15 Mr. Josiah Rowell made the following statement:

- a. After being vetted Mr. Rowell received a \$5,000 check from the 35th LDRCC.
- b. Mr. Rowell acknowledged he knew that the money came from his mother-in-law. Mr. Rowell qualified his statement by saying it was not until after he spent all the money that he learned that his mother-in-law had written a check for \$5,000 to the 35th LDRCC for the Josiah Rowell Campaign.
- c. Mr. Rowell stated that he did not previously know that the check had been written by Ms. Klaus to the 35th LDRCC and earmarked for the Josiah Rowell Campaign.
- d. Mr. Rowell was aware of how much an individual contributor could donate to a candidate, by stating when his campaign began an individual could donate up to \$900.00 and then the limit was raised to \$950.00.
- e. Mr. Rowell was asked if he was aware that he had received more than double of what the well-known candidates received his response was that he was not involved with the distribution of the funds.

3.16 Ms. Fiona Klaus made the following statement:

- a. Ms. Klaus stated that her landlady (NFI) told her she could only donate a certain amount of money to a candidate. Ms. Klaus then decided to donate

\$5,000 to the 35th LDRCC in the “Hopes” that the money would make it to the Rowell Campaign.

- b. Ms. Klaus was not sure how her check for \$5,000 made its way to the 35th LDRCC. Ms. Klaus thought the check may have been mailed or given to her daughter, Ms. Alicia Rowell.
- c. Even though Ms. Klaus stated she did not know how these political groups worked, she was aware that the committee had to vote on how much money to give to the Rowell Campaign.
- d. Ms. Klaus also stated that she informed Mr. Rowell that she had sent a \$5,000 check to the 35th LDRCC in the “Hope” the money would get to Rowell’s campaign.
- e. Ms. Klaus stated she did not know Mr. Knight and did not get involved with politics even though she knew the 35th LDRCC had to vote on giving the \$5,000 to the Rowell Campaign.

3.17 Ms. Alicia Rowell made the following statement:

- a. Ms. Rowell stated she did not know why her mother, Ms. Klaus would donate \$5,000 to the 35th LDRCC.
- b. Ms. Rowell did not know why Ms. Klaus did not donate the money directly to the Josiah Rowell Campaign.
- c. Ms. Rowell stated she could not recall the exact date when she learned that her mother (Ms. Klaus) donated the money to the 35th LDRCC, could have been a couple days or couple week before she learned about the donation.
- d. Ms. Rowell stated she attempts to stay out of her mother’s financial affairs.
- e. Ms. Rowell was informed there was some confusion on how the \$5,000 made it to the 35th LDRCC. Ms. Rowell did not know how the \$5,000 made it to the 35th LDRCC, however she did not deliver the money to the 35th LDRCC.
- f. Ms. Rowell stated she was not sure how she could help, stating everything was between Mr. Rowell and Ms. Klaus.
- g. Ms. Rowell stated that Ms. Megan Schenk was the treasurer during the time the \$5,000 was received. **NOTE:** A check of the PDC’s Application Xtender website indicated that Ms. Schenk did not become the treasurer for the Rowell Campaign until January 2014, Mr. Rowell was listed as the treasurer during the period of time in question pertaining to the \$5,000.00 check.

3.18 Mr. Travis Couture made the following statement:

- a. Mr. Couture found it odd that a contribution would be given to anyone immediately after being vetted. Mr. Couture stated normally contributions are not made until the candidate has filed for an office.
- b. Mr. Couture asked Mr. Knight where the money came from and initially Mr. Knight declined to tell Mr. Couture. Eventually Mr. Knight responded saying several business owners and individuals in the district who pooled their donations together for the Rowell Campaign.

- c. Mr. Couture questioned Mr. Rowell on where the money came from, initially without a response from Mr. Rowell. Mr. Couture was persistent constantly asking Mr. Rowell about the money. Mr. Rowell finally admitted the money came from a family member, his mother-in-law. Mr. Rowell “opened up” to Mr. Couture and said he went to his mother-in-law and asked her to give him \$5,000 for “Seed” money to get his campaign off the ground. Ms. Klaus wrote a check to the 35th LDRCC to pass on to the Rowell Campaign immediately after Mr. Rowell was vetted.
- d. Mr. Couture believed the \$5,000 was earmarked for the Rowell Campaign.

3.19 Ms. Dinah Griffey, Chair, Mason County Republican Party made the following statement:

- a. Ms. Griffey received a telephone call from Mr. Knight prior to Mr. Rowell being vetted telling her, that several businesses in Kitsap County had donated \$5,000 to the Rowell campaign. Mr. Knight asked Ms. Griffey to keep it quite since he did not want a lot of people to know about the donation.
- b. Ms. Griffey became suspicious and started researching to find that no business in Kitsap County or anywhere had donated money to the Rowell campaign.
- c. Further research, Ms. Griffey found that Ms. Klaus in Pierce County had donated \$5,000 to the 35th LDRCC. Ms. Griffey then check Ms. Rowell’s Facebook page to discover Ms. Klaus was Ms. Rowell’s mother.
- d. Ms. Griffey also believed the \$5,000 from Ms. Klaus was earmarked for the Rowell Campaign.

3.20 On October 2, 2015, Ms. Griffey was contacted again by PDC Staff, after reviewing a recorded interview of Mr. Knight. During Mr. Knight’s interview he stated that the Mason County Republican Party Chair (Ms. Griffey) had called him and asked him to interview Mr. Rowell as a possible candidate for the 35th LDRCC. Ms. Griffey responded by stating that she had not contacted Mr. Knight about Mr. Rowell. Ms. Griffey stated that Mr. Rowell while still on active duty with the US Navy was continuously contacting her husband (now Representative Dan Griffey) telling Rep Griffey that he (Mr. Rowell) was going to run for office as soon as his tour of duty was up. Other than the contacts made by Mr. Rowell to Rep Griffey, Ms. Griffey had no knowledge that Mr. Rowell was running until she received the telephone call from Mr. Knight about the businesses donating the \$5,000 to the Rowell Campaign.

IV. **SCOPE**

4.1 Staff reviewed the following:

- A complaint against the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee submitted by Mr. Steven Van Denver, on November 19, 2013.

- Response received from the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee Chairman Mr. Robert Knight, dated January 15, 2014.
- Reviewed Revised Codes of Washington (RCW):
 - a. RCW 42.17A.270 – Earmarked Contributions
 - b. RCW 42.17A.405 – Limits specified – Exemptions
 - c. RCW 42.17A.435 – Identification of contributions and communications
 - d. RCW 42.17A.460 - Attribution of Contributions generally – “Earmarking”
- Washington Administrative Codes:
 - a. WAC 390-16-033 – Earmarked Contributions – Reporting – Form
 - b. WAC 390-16-240 – Earmarked Contributions – Definitions and Use
 - c. WAC 390-16-308 – Identification of source of contribution.
- Reviewed the Public Disclosure Commission database “Application Xtender”.
- Cancelled \$5,000 check written by the 35th LDRCC for the Josiah Rowell Campaign.
- Cancelled \$5,000 check written by Ms. Klaus for the Josiah Rowell Campaign.
- Investigative Reports of interviews with the following individuals:
 - Josiah Rowell
 - Alicia Rowell
 - Robert Knight
 - Fiona Klaus
 - Travis Couture
 - Dinah Griffey
 - Virginia Beech

V.
LAW

RCW 42.17A.270 Earmarked Contributions

A political committee receiving a contribution earmarked for the benefit of a candidate or another political committee shall:

- (1) Report the contribution as required in RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240;
- (2) Complete a report, entitled "Earmarked contributions," on a form prescribed by the

commission that identifies the name and address of the person who made the contribution, the candidate or political committee for whose benefit the contribution is earmarked, the amount of the contribution, and the date that the contribution was received; and

(3) Mail or deliver to the commission and the candidate or political committee benefiting from the contribution a copy of the "Earmarked contributions" report within two working days of receipt of the contribution.

(4) A candidate or political committee receiving notification of an earmarked contribution under subsection (3) of this section shall report the contribution, once notification of the contribution is received by the candidate or committee, in the same manner as any other contribution, as required by RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240.

RCW 42.17A.405 Limits specified - Exemptions in part states:

“(1) The contribution limits in this section apply to:

(a) Candidates for legislative office;

(2) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus political committee, may make contributions to a candidate for a legislative office, county office, city council office, mayoral office, school board office, or public hospital district board of commissioners that in the aggregate exceed eight hundred dollars or to a candidate for a public office in a special purpose district or a state office other than a legislative office that in the aggregate exceed one thousand six hundred dollars for each election in which the candidate is on the ballot or appears as a write-in candidate...”

RCW 42.17A.435 Identification of contributions and communications

No contribution shall be made and no expenditure shall be incurred, directly or indirectly, in a fictitious name, anonymously, or by one person through an agent, relative, or other person in such a manner as to conceal the identity of the source of the contribution or in any other manner so as to effect concealment.

RCW 42.17A.460 Attribution of Contributions generally – “Earmarking”

All contributions made by a person or entity, either directly or indirectly, to a candidate, to a state official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political committee, are considered to be contributions from that person or entity to the candidate, state official, or political committee, as are contributions that are in any way earmarked or otherwise directed through an intermediary or conduit to the candidate, state official, or political committee. For the purposes of this section, "earmarked" means a designation, instruction, or encumbrance, whether direct or indirect, expressed or implied, or oral or written, that is intended to result in or does result in all or any part of a contribution being made to a certain candidate or state official. If a conduit or intermediary exercises any

direction or control over the choice of the recipient candidate or state official, the contribution is considered to be by both the original contributor and the conduit or intermediary.

WAC 390-16-033 Earmarked Contributions – Reporting – Form

The official form for reporting the details surrounding an earmarked contribution, as required by RCW 42.17A.270, is designated "Special Report E," revised 1/02. This report shall be filed within two working days of receiving a contribution earmarked for another candidate or committee. Copies of this form are available at the Commission Office, Room 206, Evergreen Plaza Building, Olympia, Washington 98504-0908.

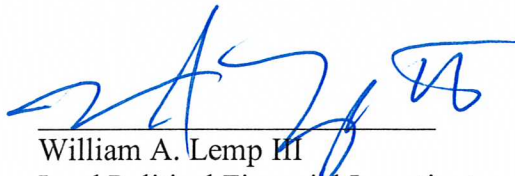
WAC 390-16-240 Earmarked contributions – Definition and use. States in part:

...an earmarked contribution is deemed to be for the promotion of, and attributable to any limit applicable to the candidate, authorized committee, bona fide political party, caucus of the state legislature or political committee designated by the original contributor... intermediary or conduit receiving the earmarked contribution shall notify the candidate or political committee for whose use or benefit the contribution is designated within two working days after receipt of the contribution.

WAC 390-16-308 Identification of source of contribution. States in part:

Any person who makes a contribution shall inform the candidate or treasurer, at the time the contribution is made, of the true and actual source of funds from which the contribution is made...further, that contributions made through an intermediary or conduit or transmitted by an intermediary shall identify the true and actual source of the funds...(1) A contribution drawn upon a single account shall be attributed to the account holder as identified by the name printed on the face of the check or negotiable instrument.

Respectfully submitted this 29th of February 2016.



William A. Lemp III
Lead Political Financial Investigator

EXHIBIT LIST

- Exhibit 1** – Complaint received from Mr. Steven Van Denver on November 19, 2013.
- Exhibit 2** – Response to complaint by Mr. Robert Knight, Chairman, 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee, dated January 15, 2015.
- Exhibit 3** – Letter from Mr. Robert Knight, dated March 23, 2015. Received at the PDC on April 9, 2015
- Exhibit 4** – Letter from Mr. Robert Knight, reference: Check Image, received at the PDC on April 30, 2015.
- Exhibit 5** – Response to the Subpoena Duces Tecum from Mr. Robert Knight, Reference: Fiona Klaus Check, received at the PDC on July 15, 2015, with a copy of the \$5,000 cancelled check written by Fiona Klaus.
- Exhibit 6** - Emails between PDC Staff and Knight – April 2014
- Exhibit 7** – Investigative Report of Interview with Ms. Virginia Beech on July 1, 2015
- Exhibit 8** – Investigative Report of Telephone conversation with Ms. Fiona Klaus on July 8, 2015
- Exhibit 9** – Subpoena and Investigative Report of Interview with Ms. Fiona Klaus on July 16, 2015.
- Exhibit 10** – Investigative Report of Interview with Mr. Josiah Rowell on July 31, 2015.
- Exhibit 11** - Subpoena and Investigative Report of Interview with Ms. Alicia Rowell on August 20, 2015.
- Exhibit 12** - Subpoena and Investigative Report of Interview with Ms. Virginia Beech on August 25, 2015.
- Exhibit 13** - Investigative Report of Interview with Ms. Dinah L. Griffey on September 30, 2015.
- Exhibit 14** – Telephonic Conversation with Ms. Diana Griffey on October 2, 2015.

Exhibit 15 - Investigative Report of Interview with Mr. Travis Couture on September 10, 2015.

Exhibit 16 – Copy of cancelled \$5,000 check written by Ms. Fiona Klaus. Check Number 12971, dated June 7, 2013, with comment in the “For” box “Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell”. Check received directly from Our Community Credit Union, Shelton, WA.

Exhibit 17 – Copy of cancelled \$5,000 check written by Ms. Virginia Beech, Treasurer, 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee to the Josiah Rowell Campaign. Check received directly from our Community Credit Union, Shelton, WA.

Exhibit 18 – PDC Staff Telephone Record, dated March 10, 2014, Subject: Interview under oath in Case 14-016 (35th LD Republicans) (Interview of Virginia Beech)

RECEIVED

Office Use Only: No. _____

NOV 19 2013



Public Disclosure Commission

**WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
COMPLAINT FORM**

(See instructions on the last page.)

Description of Complaint

1. RESPONDENT:

Identify who you are filing a complaint against and provide all contact information you have for them. Give names and titles, if any, for individuals, and the full name of any organization. Please note that the PDC does not enforce federal campaign finance laws or local ordinances.

Example #1: Joe Public, Mayor of My Town,

123 Main Street, Your Town, State, Phone: 555-123-4567, Email: unknown

Example #2: The Political Action Group (instead of P.A.G.), 123 Main Street, Your Town, State,

Phone: 555-123-4567, Email: pag@pag.org

JOSIAH ROWELL, CANDIDATE 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT POS 1

P.O. BOX 405, Union, WA. 98584

360-362-3257

2. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS:

Explain how and when you believe the people/entities you are filing a complaint against violated RCW 42.17/RCW 42.17A or Title 390 WAC. Be as detailed as possible about dates, times, places and acts. If you can, cite which specific laws or rules you believe were violated. Attach additional pages if needed. (Note that the RCW 42.17 citation applies to conduct before 2012 and the RCW 42.17A citation applies to conduct on or after January 1, 2012.)

CANDIDATE ROWELL RECEIVED A DONATION FROM THE 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ON 6/21/2013. THE AMOUNT WAS USED AS A TARGETED AMOUNT DONATED TO THE 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT BY "FIONA KLAUS" HIS MOTHER IN-LAW. THE AMOUNT DONATED EXCEEDS THE DONATION AMOUNT FOR THE PRIMARY AND THE GENERAL ELECTIONS BY SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS. SEE ATTACHED C-3

Evidence and Witnesses

3. EVIDENCE:

List the documents or other evidence you have that support your complaint, if any, and attach copies to this form. If you do not have copies, provide any information you have about where you believe the documents or evidence can be found and how to obtain it. Attach additional pages if needed.

Example: Emails between Joe public and Candidate X, attached OR

Joe Public has emails from Candidate X which describe an illegal campaign donation, and Joe Public's phone number is 555-123-4567.

C-3 DTD 6/24/2013

RECEIVED

NOV 19 2013

Public Disclosure Commission

4. WITNESSES:

List the names and contact information, if known, of any witnesses or other persons who have knowledge of facts that support your complaint. Attach additional pages if needed.

Example: Jane Public was present when Candidate X spoke to me about the illegal contribution. Jane Public's address is 123 Main Street, Your Town, USA 12345, and her phone number is 555-123-4567.

Robert Knight, CHAIRMAN, 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PO BOX 326 SHELTON WA 98546

Aneeta Knight, VICE CHAIR 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PO BOX 326 SHELTON WA 98546

Virginia Beech, TREASURER 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT PO BOX 326 SHELTON WA 98546

Certification

In signing this complaint:

- I have provided all information, documents and other evidence of which I am aware;
- If I become aware of additional information, documents or evidence related to my complaint, I will promptly provide it to the PDC; and,
- I am providing the PDC current information on how to contact me, and will promptly update that information if it changes.

Your name (print or type) Stephen E. Van Denver

RECEIVED

Street address 30 E Coleman Rd

NOV 19 2013

City, state and zip code Grapeview, WA 98546

Public Disclosure Commission

Telephone number (including area code) 360-790-7890

E-mail address (optional) stevev4455@gmail.com

Oath

Required for complaints against elected officials or candidates for elective office:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that this complaint is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

Your signature Stephen E Van Denver

Date signed 11/19/13

Place signed (city and county)

Grapeview WA.
City

Mason
County

Attachments

Check here if you are attaching copies of documentary evidence or extra pages explaining your complaint.

*RCW 9A.72.040 says that "(1) A person is guilty of false swearing if he makes a false statement which he knows to be false, under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) False swearing is a misdemeanor."

RECEIVED

Office Use Only: No. _____

NOV 19 2013

Public Disclosure Commission



**WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
COMPLAINT FORM**

(See instructions on the last page.)

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1. RESPONDENT:

Identify who you are filing a complaint against and provide all contact information you have for them. Give names and titles, if any, for individuals, and the full name of any organization. Please note that the PDC does not enforce federal campaign finance laws or local ordinances.

Example #1: Joe Public, Mayor of My Town,

123 Main Street, Your Town, State, Phone: 555-123-4567, Email: unknown

Example #2: The Political Action Group (instead of P.A.G.), 123 Main Street, Your Town, State,

Phone: 555-123-4567, Email: pag@pag.org

Robert Knight, Chairman, 35th legislative Republican District PO Box 326, Shelton WA
Aneeta Knight, Vice Chair, 35th Legislative Republican district PO Box 326, Shelton WA
Virginia Beech, Treasurer, 35th Legislative Republican District PO Box 326, Shelton WA

2. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS:

Explain how and when you believe the people/entities you are filing a complaint against violated RCW 42.17/RCW 42.17A or Title 390 WAC. Be as detailed as possible about dates, times, places and acts. If you can, cite which specific laws or rules you believe were violated. Attach additional pages if needed. (Note that the RCW 42.17 citation applies to conduct before 2012 and the RCW 42.17A citation applies to conduct on or after January 1, 2012.)

THE 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ON 6/27/2013, RECEIVED A TARGETED AMOUNT OF \$5000.00 TO BE DONATED TO JOSIAH ROWELL, CANDIDATE FOR 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT POS 1. THE AMOUNT WAS USED AS A TARGETED AMOUNT DONATED TO THE 35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT BY "FIONA KLAUS" HIS MOTHER IN-LAW. THE AMOUNT DONATED EXCEEDS THE DONATION AMOUNT FOR THE PRIMARY AND THE GENERAL ELECTIONS BY SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS. SEE ATTACHED C-3. THE TREASURE FAILED TO FILE SPECIAL FORM E WITHIN THE REQUIRED TIME FRAME OF 2 DAYS.

RECEIVED

NOV 19 2013

Evidence and Witnesses

Public Disclosure Commission

3. EVIDENCE:

List the documents or other evidence you have that support your complaint, if any, and attach copies to this form. If you do not have copies, provide any information you have about where you believe the documents or evidence can be found and how to obtain it. Attach additional pages if needed.

Example: Emails between Joe public and Candidate X, attached OR

Joe Public has emails from Candidate X which describe an illegal campaign donation, and Joe Public's phone number is 555-123-4567.

ATTACHED C-3,C-4

Multiple horizontal lines for writing evidence details.

4. WITNESSES:

List the names and contact information, if known, of any witnesses or other persons who have knowledge of facts that support your complaint. Attach additional pages if needed.

Example: Jane Public was present when Candidate X spoke to me about the illegal contribution. Jane Public's address is 123 Main Street, Your Town, USA 12345, and her phone number is 555-123-4567.

Multiple horizontal lines for writing witness details.

RECEIVED

NOV 19 2013

Certification

Public Disclosure Commission

In signing this complaint:

- I have provided all information, documents and other evidence of which I am aware;
- If I become aware of additional information, documents or evidence related to my complaint, I will promptly provide it to the PDC; and,
- I am providing the PDC current information on how to contact me, and will promptly update that information if it changes.

Your name (print or type) Stephen E. Van Denover

Street address 30 E Coleman Rd

City, state and zip code Grapeview, WA 98546

Telephone number (including area code) 360-790-7890

E-mail address (optional) stevev4455@gmail.com

Oath

Required for complaints against elected officials or candidates for elective office:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that this complaint is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

Your signature Stephen E. Van Denover

Date signed 11/19/13

Place signed (city and county)

Grapeview WA Mason
City County

Attachments

Check here if you are attaching copies of documentary evidence or extra pages explaining your complaint.

*RCW 9A.72.040 says that "(1) A person is guilty of false swearing if he makes a false statement which he knows to be false, under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) False swearing is a misdemeanor."

35th GOP Legislative District Committee
P.O. Box 741
Seabeck, WA 98380

Public Disclosure Committee
P.O. Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2014

Public Disclosure Commission

Mr. Tony Perkins

Re: 01/07/2014 Letter of Complaint PDC Case No. 14-016

Dear Mr. Perkins,

Please accept my sincere apology from the Committee for not responding sooner. Our Treasurer missed updating the P1cp document. Our recent C-3 & C-4 documents have our former correct PO Box listed. I will make sure our new Post Office box number will be updated by the end of this week.

I just received a copy of the complaint last night, (01/12/2014) and the Committee denies the allegations listed in the complaint. Along with this statement, I have attached 3 documents from our Bylaws and minutes.

Attached for clarity is a copy of the 35th Committee Bylaws, (amended on October 17, 2013), stating the structure of the 35th Committee. We do not have a position of Vice Chair. (marked #1)

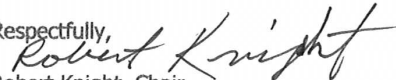
Minutes from the 35th GOP District Committee Reorganizational Meeting from January 30, 2013 showing the election of Robert Knight, Chairman and Treasurer Ginny Beech. (marked #2) Annetta Knight was not elected secretary until after the July meeting. Ms. Knight was not an officer and should be removed from the complaint.

Minutes from 06/20/2013 where the Committee discussed the \$5,000.00 contribution and determined that if Mr. Rowell passed the interview process the Committee would issue a \$5,000.00 check from our account the following Saturday June 22nd in Mason County.

The check came addressed to the 35th GOP legislative Committee and included the proper PDC reporting requirements from the donor. All the information the Committee possessed we obtained from the required and correct PDC remittance information. The check was not earmarked to anyone other than the 35th Committee.

This is all the information we have other than we try to adhere to all the PDC regulations. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Robert Knight, Chair
35th GOP Legislative District Committee
P.O. Box 741
Seabeck, WA 98380
360-830-4267

(1)

35TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 244, Shelton, WA 98584

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2014

BYLAWS

As amended 17 October, 2013

Public Disclosure Commission

1. Establishment: A political committee named the 35th Legislative District Republican Committee is hereby established pursuant to Article 10 of the Bylaws of the Republican State Committee of Washington, as adopted on January 19, 2013, and in accordance with the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 42.17

2. Definition: RCW 42.17A.005 (6)(c) defines "Bona fide political party" to include a "legislative district committee of a major political party."

3. Purpose: Support and achieve election of two Republicans to the Washington State House of Representatives and one Republican to the Washington State Senate and once elected, preserve Republican representation of the 35th Legislative District.

4. Composition: The 35th Legislative District Republican Committee shall consist of three members each from Kitsap County, Mason County, and Thurston County, as designated, or provided in the bylaws, of those county's Republican central committees. (Article 10.4, Republican State Committee Bylaws). Failure of a county's Republican central committee to provide three participating members shall not preclude the conduct of business by this committee.

5. Organization: The 35th Legislative District Republican Committee shall meet by June 30th of every odd numbered year and elect a chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer. (Article 10.4, Republican State Committee Bylaws)

a. The chairman's responsibilities shall include preparing agendas and calling meetings to conduct the business of the committee.

b. The treasurer's responsibilities include establishing a bank account and depositing and disbursing monies collected for committee activities.

c. The chairman shall work with the treasurer to ensure the filing of all forms and reports required by the Washington Public Disclosure Commission.

d. The secretary's responsibilities shall be to record, maintain and distribute minutes of the meetings and to conduct the correspondence of the committee.

6. Meeting Rules:

a. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

b. An absent member may be represented by a written proxy, with prior notification to the chairman, providing the proxy holder is approved by the county chair of the county being represented, or the by chairman of this committee, or is a member of this committee representing the same county.

c. The most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern meetings, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

d. Unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws, all decisions of the Committee shall be by majority vote.

e. E-votes via e-mail may be conducted by the chairman, as necessary.

7. Activities: Committee activities may include but are not necessarily limited to:

a. Recruiting, vetting and supporting a slate of Republican candidates for 35th District legislative positions.

b. Conducting fund raising activities and receiving and distributing campaign funds to 35th Legislative District candidates.

c. Advertisement and promotional activities to attract voters and volunteers to the Republican Party

d. Providing the members of the committee a handbook outlining expectations and processes.

8. Amendments: These bylaws may be amended by two-thirds of the committee members present.

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2014

Public Disclosure Commission

(2)
Minutes of the 35th District Reorganization Meeting

January 30, 2013

The reorganization meeting was called to order by Pat Tarzwell, chairman at 7:20 p.m. In attendance were Anita Knight, Bob Knight, Pat Tarzwell, MJ Hrbacek, all members of the committee. Also in attendance were Sharon Trask and Ginny Beech, new members. In observance were Dinah Griffey, Travis Couture and Ted Trask.

The Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation were performed.

A discussion about the State Party's indifference regarding the last election in the 35th district began and ended with Dinah Griffey, MCRCC Chair, mentioning that they are working on solutions.

MJ gave a Treasury report which included the balances of \$215.50 in the checking account and \$5.30 in the savings. She also reported that over \$5000. was given to candidates last year.

Next order of business was election of Bob Knight at new chair and Ginny Beech as Treasurer. The decision was made to move the accounts to My Community Credit Union on Wednesday Feb. 6, 2013 at 10 a.m.

The next meeting was set for May 15, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tarzwell Warehouse.

We adjourned at 8 p.m.

t

Approved
05-15-13



RECEIVED

35th GOP Legislative District Committee

JAN 15 2014

06-20-2013 Meeting Notes

Public Disclosure Commission

The meeting started around 6:45 and was called order by the Chairman.

members in attendance from memory, Jim Hunter, Anita Knight and Robert Knight, (Kitsap County), Jenny Beach, Sharon Trask, Pat Tarzwell, (Mason County), Ryan Stubbins, Paul Mehner , (Thurston County), Honored guest Ted Trask and Gerry Goodwin as well as our two candidates Josiah Rowell, Travis Couture

The invocation was given by Josiah Rowell and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pat Tarzwell

A declaration of a quorum was made by Anita Knight and there was a request for a permanent secretary, none being found, Pat Tarzwell was appointed as a temporary secretary. (side note not discussed in the meeting, but until we find a volunteer, maybe we should have a revolving secretary, just a thought)

The treasurers report was approximately \$5,240 in the in the bank and there was a comment about a dispersal of funds, (\$5,000) to Josiah assuming he passed the vetting process. The check was to be delivered Saturday to Josiah by Ginny. All other business was tabled until the end of the meeting so that we could continue with the vetting of Josiah Rowell as a potential candidate for the 35th District state representative position one.

Each member and some of the guests, (remaining with the consent of the Chair and Josiah), were given the opportunity to ask questions of Josiah to determine whether or not the committee would certify him as a Republican candidate for the 35th . Chairman Knight reviewed in summary the financial data gathered on Josiah and all non-committee members were asked to leave for the vote and a general discussion was held on the vetting of Josiah and a vote was taken and it was unanimous 8 to 0 to certify Josiah as a Republican candidate for the 35th GOP legislative committee.

The next meeting date was scheduled for July 25 at 6:30 at Tarzwell's warehouse and Both Josiah and Travis were asked to attend the next meeting for campaign strategy session or stump speech practice.

Jim Hunter made a motion to adjourn seconded by Anita Knight confirmed by all.

Meeting was adjourned approximately 8:45

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Tarzwell, interim secretary

RECEIVED

APR -9 2015

Robert Knight
35th GOP Legislative District Committee
PO Box 741
Seabeck, WA 98380
360-830-4267

Public Disclosure Commission

OCCU
PO Box 1670
Shelton, WA 98584

March 23, 2015

Dear Sir,

As per our phone conversation please consider this the written request for photocopies of check activity from our closed account. I am requesting scanned copies (both sides) of checks from our closed account, 789160776819. The first scanned check I would like a copy of is a check written by Ms. Fiona Klaus on or about June 6th, 2013. The amount was \$5,000.00.

The second check I'd like is check number 2002 written to Committee to elect Josiah Rowell by our treasurer Virginia Beech on June 21, 2013.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Robert Knight

RECEIVED

APR -9 2015

Public Disclosure Commission

**ROBERT KNIGHT
PO BOX 741
SEABECK, WA 98380**

RECEIVED

APR -9 2015

Public Disclosure Commission

Monday, March 23, 2015 1:34 PM CT

325182357 - Our Community Credit Union

Capture Date	Sequence #	Check #	Member #	HiLo	Amount	Return Reason	Return Date
6/25/2013	71153880	2002	789160776819		\$5,000.00		

35TH LEGISLATIVE REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE		2002
PAY TO THE ORDER OF		88-8235/3251 40
Committee to elect Obah Rowel		6-21-13 DATE
Five thousand and 10/100		\$ 5000 ⁰⁰
Our Community Credit Union 2948 Olympic Hwy. N Shelton, WA 98584 1-800-427-6161 1-800-426-5657		DOLLARS
FOR	Virginia Beech	
⑆325182357⑆ 789160776819⑆ 2002		

>325180223<
Kitsap Credit Union #39
2013-06-24
0039966007
883996638

DEPOSIT FOR CREDIT TO THE
ACCOUNT OF THE PAYEE
KITSAP CREDIT UNION

345 351

T180
JUN 24 2013
KITSAP CREDIT UNION
BREMERTON, USA

DATE FILED PDC

APR 3 '15

Robert Knight
35th GOP Legislative District Committee
PO Box 741
Seabeck, WA 98380

Mr. William A. Lemp III
Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way Rm 206
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

re: Check image

Dear Mr. Lemp,

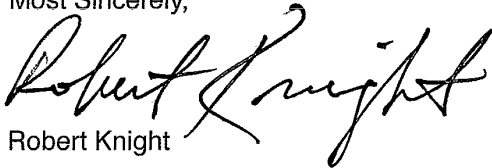
I am still awaiting photocopies of the check you have requested. The credit union is being remarkably slow in complying to my request.

The credit union is located in Shelton, an institution our former treasurer Virginia "Ginny" Beach selected because it was close to where she lives in Shelton. It is over a hour each way from my home or I would have camped out in the lobby until they provided the document.

I would appreciate additional time to obtain this image for you. I would think May 15th should suffice.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated agreement.

Most Sincerely,


Robert Knight

Robert Knight
PO Box 656
Seabeck, WA 98380

RECEIVED

JUL 15 2015

William Limp, III
PDC
711 Capitol Way RM 206
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 985040908

Public Disclosure Commission

re: Fiona Klaus Check

Dear Mr. Lemp,

As per the subpoena inclosed is a copy of the check in question.

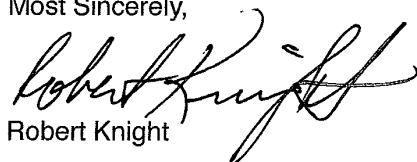
As I testified previously, Jenny Beech our former treasurer endorsed and handled the check. It is a surprise to me to see the footnote on the check.

Irregardless and as the minutes of the meeting illustrate, the committee discussed the check and how to disperse the funds according to the established rules. Even though it appears Ms. Klaus stated the check was a "Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell" the only member who saw that note was the treasurer and that information was never shared with the committee or myself.

Additionally the treasurer deposited the check on June 11, 2013 without stating anything about the footnote and the committee didn't meet to disburse the funds until June 20, 2013. Please note, this was an unanimous vote by all 8 members from the three counties that comprise the 35th legislative district. Attached for your convenience are the minutes from that meeting.

As you know, I am no longer affiliated with the 35th GOP LD Committee and any future correspondence should be conducted through the current Chairman Jerry Cummings who you have the contact information for.

Most Sincerely,


Robert Knight

35th GOP Legislative District Committee

06-20-2013 Meeting Notes

The meeting started around 6:45 and was called order by the Chairman.

members in attendance from memory, Jim Hunter, Anita Knight and Robert Knight, (Kitsap County), Jenny Beach, Sharon Trask, Pat Tarzwell, (Mason County), Ryan Stubbins, Paul Mehner , (Thurston County), Honored guest Ted Trask and Gerry Goodwin as well as our two candidates Josiah Rowell, Travis Couture

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Each member and some of the guests, (remaining with the consent of the Chair and Josiah), were given the opportunity to ask questions of Josiah to determine whether or not the committee would certify him as a Republican candidate for the 35th . Chairman Knight reviewed in summary the financial data gathered on Josiah and all non-committee members were asked to leave for the vote and a general discussion was held on the vetting of Josiah and a vote was taken and it was unanimous 8 to 0 to certify Josiah as a Republican candidate for the 35th GOP legislative committee.

The next meeting date was scheduled for July 25 at 6:30 at Tarzwell's warehouse and Both Josiah and Travis were asked to attend the next meeting for campaign strategy session or stump speech practice.

Jim Hunter made a motion to adjourn seconded by Anita Knight confirmed by all.

Meeting was adjourned approximately 8:45

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Tarzwell, interim secretary

325182357 - Our Community Credit Union

Monday, July 6, 2015 3:12 PM CT

Captured Date	Sequence #	HL	Check #	MICR Account	TC	Amount	Branch #	Teller	Depositor Account #
6/11/2013	49285170		0	473062029953	12971	\$5,000.00	1	109	

VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF THIS MULTI-TONE SECURITY DOCUMENT. CHECK BACKGROUND AREA CHANGES COLOR GRADUALLY FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

COUNTER CHECK

12971

FIONA A KLAUS
5287 OLYMPIC DR NW UNIT J
GIG HARBOR, WA 98335

Date 6/11/13

PAY TO THE ORDER OF The 35th Legislative District GOP Committee \$ 5000.00

Five Thousand Dollars & 00/100 Dollars

KeyBank National Association
728 - Stanwood Stanwood, Washington 98292
1-800-KEY2YOU Key.com

For Campaign Contribution Josiah Powell Fiona A Klaus

⑆125000574⑆ 00473062029953⑆ 12971

Standard Register
SECURE

CC 6/11/2013
0109 - 63497
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Our Community Credit Union
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Branch 1

Standard Register
SECURE

Virginia Beach
Standard Register
35th Legislative District
Republican Committee

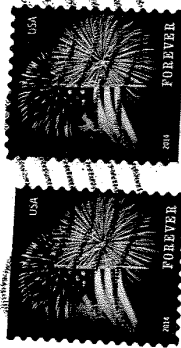
Standard Register
SECURE

**Robert Knight
PO Box 656
Seabeck, WA 98380**

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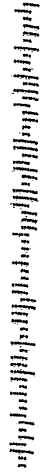
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Public Disclosure Commission

**William Lemp
PDC
711 Capitol Way RM 206
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-40908**

98504



Tony Perkins

From: Robert Knight <RobertKnight@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2014 1:00 PM
To: Tony Perkins
Subject: Re: Follow-up interview in PDC Case 14-016 (35th LD Republicans)

Sorry, I realized I didn't list a number after hitting the send tab. Please use my land line 360-830-4267. Cell reception at my home is spotty.

Sent from my iPhone

Robert Knight

On Apr 24, 2014, at 11:17 AM, Tony Perkins <tony.perkins@pdc.wa.gov> wrote:

Thanks for your email, Robert. Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 10:00 am will be just fine. I have two numbers for you, (360) 830-4267, and your cell line, (360) 509-0168. Which should I used for the call?

Tony Perkins

Lead Political Finance Specialist
Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

☎ (360) 586-1042

☎ (360) 753-1112

✉ tony.perkins@pdc.wa.gov

From: RobertKnight [<mailto:Robertknight@q.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2014 10:56 AM
To: Tony Perkins
Subject: Re: Follow-up interview in PDC Case 14-016 (35th LD Republicans)

Tony,

How would April 29, 2014, next Tuesday @ 10:00 AM work for you to do the phone follow-up?

Regards,

Robert Knight

----- Original Message -----

From: Tony Perkins
To: RobertKnight
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 2:08 PM
Subject: RE: Follow-up interview in PDC Case 14-016 (35th LD Republicans)

Thanks for your email, Robert, and for explaining your situation. I would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you again by telephone, and the call can happen at short notice, whenever it's convenient for you. Please call me at (360) 586-1042 anytime this week. If I am not at my desk, please leave a message with a time the same day that you will be able to speak. Whether that time is 15 minutes later or four hours later, I will make sure to promptly return your call.

Thanks for your attention to this. I look forward to our conversation.

Tony Perkins

From: Tony Perkins
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 12:30 PM
To: robertknight@q.com
Subject: Follow-up interview in PDC Case 14-016 (35th LD Republicans)

Dear Mr. Knight,

Following up on our interview on March 18, 2014 in PDC offices—as I indicated when we spoke in the lobby, I'd like to conduct a brief telephone interview with you to obtain clarification of some of the information you provided. Please reply to this email to let me know a time this week that you can set aside 15 minutes for a telephone interview.


I have several other interviews scheduled this week, and the times I am most reliably available are this Thursday and Friday afternoon, April 17 and 18, 2014. If you care to pick a time on one of those afternoons and give me the number where I can reach you, I'll initiate the call.


Thanks very much for your assistance in the PDC's investigation. I look forward to hearing from you.


Sincerely,

Tony Perkins

Lead Political Finance Specialist
Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

 (360) 586-1042

 (360) 753-1112

 tony.perkins@pdc.wa.gov

Tony Perkins

Lead Political Finance Specialist
Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

☎ (360) 586-1042

☎ (360) 753-1112

✉ tony.perkins@pdc.wa.gov

From: RobertKnight [<mailto:Robertknight@q.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2014 11:22 AM
To: Tony Perkins
Subject: Re: Follow-up interview in PDC Case 14-016 (35th LD Republicans)

Mr. Perkins,

Sorry it has taken me so long to respond. I should have told you at the last meeting, I am undergoing an experimental drug therapy for a medical condition I have been battling for a dozen plus years. We started the procedure back in late February and am scheduled to continue until the first of August.

Because it is experimental I spend a lot of time in the doctor office and U W Medical Center which is why I wasn't able to respond earlier. It is hard to schedule much of anything too far out because I don't know when or how my body will react to the therapy. One week I'm great, the next not so much.

There is this item the doctor said I should consider telling you, because of the "experimental" status of my treatment, I am not able to sign legal documents, drive, or make serious judgment decisions, it is against the law.

However, I do wish to help rectify the situation and am willing to answer any follow-up questions you may have for me. I do have possession of the former treasurer's file so I can answer any questions from her file that might be helpful for you.

Thanks again for your consideration.

Regards,

Robert Knight
Chair and acting Treasurer
35th Legislative District Republican Committee

----- Original Message -----

From: Tony Perkins
To: robertknight@q.com
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 12:30 PM
Subject: Follow-up interview in PDC Case 14-016 (35th LD Republicans)

Dear Mr. Knight,

Following up on our interview on March 18, 2014 in PDC offices—as I indicated when we spoke in the lobby, I'd like to conduct a brief telephone interview with you to obtain clarification of some of the information you provided. Please reply to this email to let me know a time this week that you can set aside 15 minutes for a telephone interview.

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Thanks very much for your assistance in the PDC's investigation. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Tony Perkins

Lead Political Finance Specialist
Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

☎ (360) 586-1042

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✉ tony.perkins@pdc.wa.gov



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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Case Name:	35 th Legislative District Republican Central Committee
PDC Case Number:	14-016
Investigative Activity:	Interview with Ms. Virginia Beech
Investigator:	Lemp
Date:	July 1, 2015

On July 1, 2015 at approximately 0830 hours, I, William A. Lemp III, Lead Political Financial Investigator, Public Disclosure Commission, interviewed Ms. Virginia (Ginny) Beech at the Shelton Denny's Restaurant, located at 301 E. Wallace-Kneeland Blvd, Shelton, Washington 98584.

I asked Beech how long she was Treasurer for the 35th District Legislative Republican Central Committee. Beech stated for a short period of time, in addition to trying to learn her responsibilities as a Treasurer, she was also the campaign manager for Daniel Griffey.

I told Beech we had received a complaint about a check for \$5,000 received by the 35th Dist. from Ms. Fiona Klaus. I asked her how she received the check, Beech stated she received a phone call from Robert Knight one evening (Does not recall date) to meet him at the Pickering Rd Park and Ride to pick up a check. Beech was told by Knight to deposit the check, so Beech followed his instructions. When asked if there was anything written on the check, Beech stated she did not remember anything on the check indicating the check was for Josiah Rowell. Beech stated that the check was either deposited that evening or early the next morning.

Beech also stated she had no idea how Knight got the check or where the check came from.

Beech stated she was not liked by Robert Knight, who kept telling her she was out of compliance with Public Disclosure Commission requirements. Beech stated that Knight just wanted to kick her out and started filing treasurer reports under her name "Ginny Beech". Beech stated once she discovered this was happening she wrote a letter to the PDC on February 9, 2014, stating she never signed her name Ginny Beech, only Virginia Beech.

Beech stated she was told to bring the checkbook with her for the June 20th meeting where Rowell was vetted. She forgot the checkbook, so was to get a check for \$5,000 to Rowell by

Saturday, June 22, 2013. Instead of her getting the check to Rowell, Knight delivered the check to Rowell on June 21, 2013. Beech stated that Fiona Klaus was not present during the vetting of Rowell by the 35th District.

While speaking with Beech and looking at the documentation noting the account at Our Community Credit Union (OCCU) was closed on February 28, 2014. I asked Beech if she thought her name may still be on the signature card. I asked Beech if she would be willing to go to OCCU and see if her name is still on the signature card for the closed account. Beech was willing to go and see if she could get me a copy of the deposited check written by Klaus to the 35th District to see if there was anything written on the check that may show earmarking. When we arrived at OCCU, the receptionist assisted Beech by checking to see if she was listed on the signature card for the 35th District Legislative Republican Central Committee. Beech's name was still on the card, Beech asked for a copy of a check written for \$5,000 dollars. The receptionist stated it was easy to find since there was only one check listed. A copy of the check was printed out only to discover it was the check written to Josiah Rowell from the 35th District Legislative Republican Central Committee. Beech ask if the receptionist could find the check that was deposited into the 35th account for \$5,000. That check was found and a copy was printed. Upon receipt of the checks, Beech handed the copies to me.

At approximately 1015 hours I terminated the interview, thanking Ms. Beech for her assistance.



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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Case Name:	35 th Legislative District Republican Central Committee
PDC Case Number:	14-016
Investigative Activity:	Telephone call from Ms. Fiona Ann Klaus
Investigator:	Lemp
Date:	July 8, 2015

On July 08, 2015, at approximately 1325 hours, I received a telephone call from Ms. Fiona Ann Klaus, who resides at 5287 Olympic Dr. NW, Gig Harbor, Washington 98335. Ms. Klaus wanted to know why she was being subpoenaed to the Public Disclosure Commission. It told her it was reference the check she wrote to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee.

Ms. Klaus stated she wrote the check in the hopes it would get to the Josiah Rowell Campaign.

Klaus was very confused on what was going on, stating the money did belong to her and she wanted to know why we were asking about it. I told her we received a complaint we have to investigate and I would be able to tell her more when she comes to the PDC office in Olympia.

Ms. Klaus asked how long the interview would last, concerned that she has doctor's appointments scheduled fairly frequently. She does not know when the next appointment will be until she is at her doctor's office. Ms. Klaus stated she recently had a double mastectomy and along with her doctor is worried about the cancer returning.

I told Ms. Klaus if she could not make it to Olympia due to the scheduling of her medical appointments, I would find a library or state office we can meet at and conduct the interview, which should not take more than an hour.

Also Ms. Klaus has stated that she has requested a copy of the cancelled check from her bank, however it will take up to 10 working days for her to receive a copy. I told her that would be fine when she received the check to please mail it to the PDC.

Ms. Klaus thanked me and I terminated the phone call at approximately 1331 hours on July 8, 2015.



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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Case Name:	35 th Legislative District Republican Central Committee
PDC Case Number:	14-016
Investigative Activity:	Interview with Ms. Fiona Ann Klaus
Investigator:	Lemp
Date:	July 16, 2015

On July 16, 2015, at approximately 1024 hours, I interviewed Ms. Fiona Ann Klaus, who resides at 5287 Olympic Dr. NW, Gig Harbor, Washington 98335. The interview took place at the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC), located 711 Capitol Way, Room 206, Olympia, Washington 98504-0908.

The purpose of this interview was to answer questions about a \$5,000.00 donation she made to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LDRCC), with the annotation in the memo block stating “Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell”

Prior to the start of the interview, Ms. Klaus was asked if she would consent to having the interview recorded. Ms. Klaus consented. Once she consented to the interview being recorded Mr. Stutzman, PDC Director of Compliance swore in Ms. Klaus.

Klaus was asked if she had spoken to anyone after our telephone conversation on July 8, 2015. Klaus stated she had spoken to her son-in-law, Mr. Josiah Rowell. Klaus stated that Rowell told her to come down and answer the questions and be truthful. Klaus was asked why the check was sent to the 35th LDRCC instead of directly to the Josiah Rowell Campaign. Klaus stated her “land lady” told her that she could only donate a certain amount directly to a candidate’s campaign. Klaus went on to say that she sent the money to the 35th LDRCC with the “Hope” that the money would be given to the Josiah Rowell Campaign. Klaus stated that she was told they voted on how much to give to the Josiah Rowell Campaign.

Klaus was not sure how the check for \$5,000.00 got to the 35th LDRCC, she stated it may have been mailed or she may have given it to her daughter to forward to the 35th LDRCC. She stated she did not remember how the check was forwarded to the 35th LDRCC, since it was more than two years ago.

Klaus did acknowledge that Josiah Rowell was told about the check after she sent it to the 35th LDRCC. Klaus also reiterated that she told Rowell she “Hoped” the money would get to his campaign.

Klaus was asked if she knew Robert Knight the Chairman of the 35th LDRCC. Klaus stated she did not know him. I told her he was Josiah Rowell’s campaign manager and Klaus stated she does not get involved with politics. Even though Klaus stated she did not get involved with politics, she knew the 35th LDRCC had to vote on where to send the \$5,000. Klaus again stated that she had no control over whether the money would go to Josiah Rowell Campaign. She could only “Hope” it went to his campaign.

I thanked Ms. Klaus for coming to the PDC for this interview and terminated the interview at 1043 hours on July 16, 2015.



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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Case Name:	35 th Legislative District Republican Central Committee
PDC Case Number:	14-016
Investigative Activity:	Interview with Mr. Josiah Rowell
Investigator:	Lemp
Date:	July 31, 2015

On July 31, 2015, at approximately 1100 hours, I interviewed Mr. Josiah Rowell, who resides at 2125 Commerce St, #802, Tacoma, Washington 98402. The interview took place at the North Mason Timberland Library, Belfair, WA 98528. Prior to the start of the interview, Mr. Rowell was asked if he would consent to having the interview being recorded, Mr. Rowell consented. Once he consented to the interview being recorded Mr. Stutzman, Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) Director of Compliance swore in Mr. Rowell.

The purpose of this interview was to answer questions about a \$5,000.00 contribution Ms. Fiona Klaus (Mother-In-Law) made to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LDRCC), with the annotation in the memo block stating “Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell”

Rowell was asked if he had spoken to Ms. Klaus after she received the subpoena. Rowell stated “Yes” and that she was concerned that she had received the subpoena and was not sure why. Rowell also stated he has spoken with Ms. Klaus since she was interviewed at the PDC, stating she was his Mother-in-law and would have course seen her after her interview at the PDC.

Rowell stated he had received a contribution from the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LDRCC) for \$5,000. However, he stated he did not know until after he had spent all the money that his mother in law had written a check for \$5,000 to the 35th LDRCC for the Josiah Rowell campaign.

Rowell was asked if he knew Robert Knight the Chairman of the 35th LDRCC. Rowell stated he knew Robert Knight was the former Chairman of the 35th LDRCC, however Knight had no dealings with the Rowell campaign. Rowell also stated that Knight was not a friend of the family.

Rowell stated that he was not aware that the check written by Ms. Fiona Klaus to the 35th LDRCC was earmarked for the Rowell Campaign. Rowell was aware of the dollar amount individuals could give during a campaign. Stating when his campaign started he believed the dollar amount per individual contributor was \$900.00 and then went up to \$950.00 per election.

When asked if he was aware that he was given a contribution more than double the well-known candidates. Rowell responded by stating he was not involved with the distribution of the funds.

I thanked Mr. Rowell for coming to the North Mason Timberland Library, Belfair, WA 98528 for this interview and terminated the interview at 1115 hours on July 31, 2015.



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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Case Name:	35 th Legislative District Republican Central Committee
PDC Case Number:	14-016
Investigative Activity:	Interview with Ms. Alicia Rowell
Investigator:	Lemp
Date:	August 20, 2015

On August 20, 2015, at approximately 0955 hours, I interviewed Ms. Alicia Rowell, who resides at 2125 Commerce St #802, Tacoma, Washington 98402. The interview took place at the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC), located 711 Capitol Way, Room 206, Olympia, Washington 98504-0908, with Ms. Jana Greer present during the interview.

The purpose of this interview was to answer questions about a \$5,000.00 donation made to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LDRCC), with the annotation in the memo block stating “Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell”

Prior to the start of the interview, Ms. Rowell was asked if she would consent to having the interview recorded. Ms. Rowell consented. Once she consented to the interview being recorded I swore in Ms. Rowell, with Ms. Jana Greer as a witness in the room.

Rowell was asked if she had spoken to anyone after receiving the Subpoena to appear at the Public Disclosure Office. Rowell stated she had spoken to her spouse, Mr. Josiah Rowell. A. Rowell was told by her spouse, J. Rowell to come down be cooperative and answer the questions.

Rowell was asked why Fiona Klaus (Mother) donate \$5,000 to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee. Rowell responded by stating she did not know. When asked why Klaus did not just donate the \$5,000 directly to the Josiah Rowell Campaign, Rowell stated she had no idea.

Rowell was asked when she heard about the \$5,000 being donated to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee. Rowell stated she did not recall the exact date when she learned of the money being donated to the 35th, however it could have been a couple of days or a couple

of weeks after she donated the money. Rowell stated she tries to stay out of her mother's financial affairs.

Since there was some confusion on how the money was delivered to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee. I asked Rowell if she had received a check for \$5,000 from her mother (Klaus) to give to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee. Rowell stated she did not know how the check for \$5,000 got to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee nor had she receive a check from Klaus to give to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee.

Rowell was asked when her spouse, Josiah Rowell, became aware that Klaus had contributed \$5,000 to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee in the hopes the \$5,000 would get to his campaign. Rowell responded by stating "Really don't know".

When told that Klaus stated she told J. Rowell about the check after it was forwarded to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee in the hopes that the \$5,000 would get to his campaign, before the money was given to the Josiah Rowell campaign. Rowell was asked why Klaus would make that statement, Rowell responded by stating "Don't Know" When told that Josiah Rowell stated that he did not know she had made a contribution of \$5,000 to the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee until after he received and spent all the money, all Rowell could say was "Uh huh, OK".

Rowell was asked if there was anything else she would like to add. Rowell stated that she does not know how she can help, everything was between Josiah Rowell and Fiona Klaus. During the time the \$5,000 check was received by the Josiah Rowell campaign, Megan Schenk was the Treasurer for the Josiah Rowell Campaign.

I thanked Ms. Rowell for coming to the PDC for this interview and terminated the interview at 1004 hours on August 20, 2015.



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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Case Name:	35 th Legislative District Republican Central Committee
PDC Case Number:	14-016
Investigative Activity:	Interview with Ms. Virginia Beech
Investigator:	Lemp
Date:	August 26, 2015

On August 26, 2015 at approximately 0958 hours, I, William A. Lemp III, Lead Political Financial Investigator, Public Disclosure Commission, interviewed Ms. Virginia Beech at the Public Disclosure Commission, located at 711 Capitol Way, Rm 206, Olympia, WA 98504. The interview was recorded with the consent of Ms. Virginia Beech and with Ms. Toni Lince present as a witness during the swearing in portion of the interview.

I asked Beech if she remembered our meeting on July 1, 2015 at the Shelton WA Denny's. Beech responded with "Yes". Beech stated that she was the Treasurer for the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LDRCC) for the period of possibly one year or less.

Beech was asked if she remembered speaking about a \$5,000 check received from Ms. Fiona Klaus for the 35th LDRCC. Beech remember the discussion and believed she received the check on the 20th or 21st of June. However later she changed that to believing she gave a \$5,000 check to the Josiah Rowell Campaign on one of those to dates, by delivering the check to Rowell's home. Beech stated that she received the check from Robert Knight, Chairman 35th LDRCC late one evening. She said she received a phone call from Knight telling her to meet him at the Pickering Road Park and Ride around 2300 hours. Knight handed Beech the check and told her to deposit it into the 35th LDRCC's bank account. Beech believed she either deposited the check that night or the following morning into the 35th LDRCC's bank account. Beech stated that her husband (Carl D. Beech) went with her to the Pickering Road Park and Ride to meet Knight and get the check. She believes her husband will be willing to testify to going to the Pickering Road Park and Ride to get the check, however she believes he does not know who gave her the check.

Beech did not know why Knight would state that neither he nor any other member of the committee, other than Beech, saw the \$5,000 check that came from Ms. Klaus. Beech also believed that the other members of the committee would not have seen the check since Knight handed it directly to her (Beech).

In a letter to the PDC from Robert Knight, dated January 15, 2015, Knight stated that the check came addressed to the 35th GOP Legislative Committee and included the proper PDC reporting requirements from the donor. Beech had no idea what Knight meant by this statement, since all she saw was the check when Knight handed it to her. I also asked if she (Beech) knew why Knight would say he never saw the check. Beech's response was that she had no idea why he would say that.

I asked Beech if the check was earmarked for the Josiah Rowell Campaign. She responded by stating she looked at the check, however did not pay attention to see if anything was written in the memo column.

Beech stated she eventually attended the PDC Treasurer training, however procrastinated in attending the course. She had volunteered to become Treasurer for the 35th LDRCC since she knew no one else would.

I asked Beech if she remembered me asking her if she would agree to go to the Our Community Credit Union and see if she was still on the signature card and request of copy of the check from Ms. Klaus. Beech remember me asking her and that we went to the OCCU and Beech requested a copy of the check from Klaus. I asked if she looked at the check when the credit union staff handed it to her. She stated she glanced at the check and handed it to me. I showed her a copy of a check and asked if this was the check she received from the OCCU staff and Beech stated it was the check. I read out the check number 12971 and the "For" column: "Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell".

I asked Beech if she had anything else she would like to add to this interview and she stated "No". I told her if she remembered anything to please give me a call. At approximately 1004 hours I terminated the interview, thanking Ms. Beech for her assistance.



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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Case Name:	35 th Legislative District Republican Central Committee
PDC Case Number:	14-016
Investigative Activity:	Interview with Ms. Dinah Griffey
Investigator:	Lemp
Date:	September 30, 2015

On September 30, 2015, at approximately 1500 hours, I interviewed Ms. Dinah Lee Griffey at the Olympic Bakery & Deli, located at 519 E. Pickering Rd, Shelton, WA 98584. Griffey consented to having the interview recorded and was sworn in by William A. Lemp III.

On June 20, 2013, the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee held a meeting and vetted Josiah Rowell. Griffey, who was the Chair of the Mason County Republican Party, was not present at the Rowell vetting. However prior to the Rowell vetting, Griffey received a phone call from Mr. Robert Knight, stating he had received \$5,000 from several businesses in Kitsap to give to Josiah Rowell, but told Griffey to “Keep it on the down low” he did not want a lot of people to know about the contribution. Initially Griffey was excited about the fact that so many businesses were willing to help Rowell start his campaign. Griffey received a call from a friend of hers (Name not given) to stated that Josiah Rowell had received a \$5,000 check after being vetted. Griffey explained that this was a very big deal for a candidate to receive this type of contribution so early in the campaign and it gave the appearance that the 35th LDRCC was endorsing Josiah Rowell. Representative MacEwen received a \$500.00 contribution from the 35th LDRCC after filing and the money was used as a “Kick-off” event. However Travis Couture and Dan Griffey did not receive any contributions from the 35th LDRCC.

Griffey became suspicious when Rowell asked her to be his campaign speech writer. Griffey told Rowell she would not be able to be his speech write, since it would be a conflict of interest with her being the Chair of the Mason County Republican Party. Griffey went on to tell Rowell that it would look like she was endorsing his campaign over other Republican who were running in the district. Griffey stated that Rowell responded by stating that no one would know she was writing his speeches for him.

On August 12, 2013, Dinah Lee Griffey resigned as the Chair for the Mason County Republican Party, since her husband, Dan Griffey announced he was going to be a candidate. Griffey

Interview of Dinah Lee Griffey
PDC Case 14-016
35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee

believed by maintaining her status as the Chair of the Mason County Republican Party, it would be a conflict of interest.

Griffey was asked why such a large donation (\$5,000) would be contributed to the Josiah Rowell Campaign. Griffey responded by stating there is some history, she started hearing rumors that the \$5,000 did not come from Kitsap County businesses. Griffey did not do any research and just took Robert Knight on his word. Griffey later discovered that the \$5,000 did not come from Kitsap County businesses, however it came from Fiona Klaus, mother-in-law to Josiah Rowell. Griffey became very concerned since she was lied to and the contributions did not actually come from Kitsap County businesses. Griffey also stated a theory she had that when a candidate receives that large of a contribution up front, people start flocking to that candidate give that candidate more money. She also stated that it gave the appearance that the 35th LDRCC had already selected their candidate, which is the past the 35th was careful not to do.

In July 2013, at the Allyn Dig, Rowell approached Griffey and asked her to write for his campaign. Griffey told Rowell "No" and stated as Chair of the Mason County Republican Party, it would give the impression that early in the campaign, I, as Chair of the Mason County Republican Party was endorsing you and there may be other candidates who want to run. Griffey stated Rowell responded back with a statement that struck her as an odd thing to say. Rowell said "Dinah No one has to know". Griffey went on to explain that she believed everything should be above board. Based on what Rowell told her, she began to start thinking about what other things are not known.

Griffey asked Travis Couture where the \$5,000 came from and Couture told her the money came from Rowell's mother-in-law. Initially Griffey did not believe Couture, since she conducted her own research to determine what happened. The records of the 35th showed only crumbs in their bank account, then a \$5,000 check was deposited and withdrawn within days. Griffey also noted that not one Kitsap business had contributed to the 35th. In fact, Fiona Klaus was from Pierce County and felt very deceived at that moment.

Griffey was asked who received the money and she responded by stating that Robert Knight told her he was in contact with Kitsap businesses who were donating to the Rowell campaign. However Knight did not name the businesses or specify the types of businesses. After conducting her own research Griffey does not believe any donations were received from any Kitsap businesses. Griffey believed that Klaus went through the 35th LDRCC instead of going directly to the Josiah Rowell campaign since the \$5,000 was over the limit an individual could give to a campaign.

While Robert Knight was the Chair of the 35th LDRCC, he was also working for the Josiah Rowell campaign in Kitsap County as a Coordinator/Manager. When Knight was questioned by Griffey about working on the Rowell campaign, Knight became very defensive.

Interview of Dinah Lee Griffey
PDC Case 14-016
35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee

Griffey believed the \$5,000 was earmarked for the Rowell campaign. In October or November 2013, Griffey started researching to see if she could determine where the money came from, that's when Griffey discovered that the money came from Fiona Klaus, Josiah Rowell's mother-in-law. During her research Griffey saw no evidence that any funds came from Kitsap businesses.

I thanked Griffey for her time and terminated the interview at 1523 hours on September 30, 2015.



**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

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Case Name:	35 th Legislative District Republican Central Committee
PDC Case Number:	14-016
Investigative Activity:	Telephonic conversation with Ms. Dinah Griffey
Investigator:	Lemp
Date:	October 2, 2015

On October 2, 2015, at approximately 1030 hours I called Dinah Lee Griffey and left a voice message. On October 2, 2015 at approximately 1115 hours, I received a call back from Ms. Dinah Lee Griffey. I informed Griffey that I had been listening to an interview of Robert Knight dated March 13, 2014. During that interview Knight stated that he had received a call from her (Griffey) asking Knight to interview Mr. Josiah Rowell as a possible candidate for the 35th LDRCC. Knight and his wife (Annette Knight) went to the Rowell home and spoke with Rowell to determine if he was a possible candidate for the Republican Party. Knight gave Rowell a candidate vetting package and conducted a pre-interview before bringing Rowell before the 35th LDRCC committee.

Griffey stated that she did not contact Knight about interviewing Rowell as a possible candidate for the 35th LDRCC. Griffey stated that while Rowell was in Afghanistan, he made contact with Representative Dan Griffey about running for the Legislature, however at no time they requested Knight interview Rowell.

I thanked Ms. Griffey for returning my call and terminated that telephone conversation at 1119 hours.



STATE OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Case Name:	35 th Legislative District Republican Central Committee
PDC Case Number:	14-016
Investigative Activity:	Interview with Mr. Travis Couture
Investigator:	Lemp
Date:	September 10, 2015

On September 10, 2015, at approximately 1317 hours, I interview Mr. Travis Couture at the Public Disclosure Office, located at 711 Capitol Way, Rm 206, Olympia, Washington 98504-0908. Couture consented to having the interview recorded and was sworn in, with Ms. Jana Greer as a witness.

On June 20, 2013, the 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee held a meeting and vetted Josiah Rowell. Couture was vetted prior to this meeting. Couture was in attendance during Rowell's vetting. Griffey was vetted at a later meeting and was not being vetted at the same meeting as Rowell.

Couture was vetted approximately one week before Rowell and did not receive a contribution from the 35th LDRCC. The only person to receive a contribution was Josiah Rowell, who received a contribution for \$5,000. Couture thought it was odd that an unknown candidate would receive such a large contribution from the 35th LDRCC. Couture went on to say that he had never seen anyone get a large amount of money immediately after being vetted, especially someone who the committee had just met. When Couture asked Robert Knight, Chair, 35th LDRCC where the money came from. Knight declined to say where the money came from and would only say it came from various business owners and people throughout the district. The money was lumped together and given to Josiah Rowell.

Couture asked Rowell where the money came from and after a few days of pressing the issue, Rowell stated that the money came from a family member of his, and they passed it through the 35th LDRCC, then donated the \$5,000 to the Josiah Rowell campaign. Couture immediately questioned whether it was legal or not for money to be given to a candidate in this manner. Rowell did tell Couture (face to face) that he (Rowell) did receive the money from his mother-in-law (did not remember mother-in-law's name). Rowell went up to meet his mother-in-law and

asked her for “seed” money for his campaign. Rowell’s mother-in-law wrote a check for \$5,000 to the 35th LDRCC to pass on the \$5,000 to the Rowell campaign immediately after the vetting.

Couture was not sure how the check got to the 35th LDRCC, he only knew where the check came from. When Robert Knight was approached, he told Couture and Dinah Griffey that the money came from various businesses and individuals. The money was pooled together and then given to the Rowell campaign.

Couture acknowledges that he knows Virginia Beech. Beech was the treasurer, even though Robert Knight allegedly gave the check to Rowell immediately after the vetting. Couture never saw Knight give the check to Rowell or Beech write or handle a check.

Couture believes that the money from Rowell’s mother-in-law was earmarked for the Rowell campaign. Couture stated it was a week or less after Rowell received the check that Rowell told Couture that he (Rowell) had received the check from his mother-in-law.

Believed it was an anomaly that the only candidate to receive a contribution from the 35th LDRCC was an unknown candidate. The well-known candidates, MacEwen and Griffey did not receive any funds from the 35th LDRCC.

At the time Rowell was given the check it came from the 35th LDRCC. Couture stated during his vetting and other vetting’s he witnessed he had never seen anyone receive such a large sum of money so quickly.

325182357 - Our Community Credit Union

Wednesday, July 1, 2015 11:37 AM CT

Captured Date	Sequence #	HL	Check #	MICR Account	TC	Amount	Branch #	Teller	Depositor Account #
6/11/2013	49285170		0	473062029953	12971	\$5,000.00	1	109	

VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF THIS MULTI-TONE SECURITY DOCUMENT. CHECK BACKGROUND AREA CHANGES COLOR GRADUALLY FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

COUNTER CHECK

FIONA A KLAUS
5287 OLYMPIC DR NW UNIT J
GIG HARBOR, WA 98335

Date 6/7/13

PAY TO THE ORDER OF The 35th Legislative District GOP Committee \$ 5000.00

Five Thousand Dollars & 00/100 Dollars

KeyBank National Association
728 - Stanwood Stanwood, Washington 98292
1-800-KEY2YOU Key.com

FOR Campaign Contribution Josiah Powell Fiona Klaus

⑆ 125000574⑆ 00473062029953⑆ 12971⑆

Standard Register SECURE


CC 6/11/2013
0109 - 63497
>325182357< - 0001

JUN 11 2013

Our Community Credit Union
325182357
Branch 1

Standard Register

Virginia Beach
Treasurer for
35th Legislative District
Republican Committee

35TH LEGISLATIVE REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE		2002 98-8235/3251 40
DATE <u>6-21-13</u>		
PAY TO THE ORDER OF	Committee to elect Bobah Rowell	\$ 5000 ⁰⁰
	Five thousand and 10/100	DOLLARS <input type="checkbox"/> Security Features Details on Back
 Our Community Credit Union	2948 Olympic Hwy. N Shelton, WA 98584 1-800-427-6161 1-800-426-5657	
FOR	Virginia Beech	MP
⑆325182357⑆ 789160776819⑆ 2002		

345 351

DEPOSIT FOR CREDIT TO THE
ACCOUNT OF THE PAYEE
KITSAP CREDIT UNION

>325180223<
Kitsap Credit Union #39
2013-06-24
0039966007
883996628,

T180

JUN 24 2013

← 325180223-0001 →
KITSAP CREDIT UNION
BREMERTON, USA

or

PDC Staff Telephone Record

Tony Perkins

Date: 3/10/2014 9:50AM Duration: 0.25

Subject: Interview under oath in Case 14-016 (35th LD Republicans)

From: Ginny (Virginia) Beech

To: TPERKINS

Returned: N Status:

Contact: 360-977-5220

Do you have any information about whether or not Finoa Klaus' \$5,000 contribution was earmarked for Josiah Rowell? Please tell me what you know.

--She did not have any information indicating that the contribution was earmarked.

Were you present when the contribution was solicited or offered? Who else was present?

Were you present when it was received? Who else was present?

--She wasn't present when the contribution was solicited, offered, or received. She knows only that Robert Knight received the contribution, and delivered it to her (Virginia) for deposit.

Who deposited the contribuion?

--She (Virginia) did.

Were you present or involved during any discussion of the intended use of the funds? When and where did these conversations happen? Who else was present? Did any person request or state that the \$5,000 would be used for a contribution to Rowell?

--She wasn't present for any discussion in which the contribution was described as an earmark. I read to her the meeting minutes for the 6/20/13 meeting at which Josiah was vetted and his contribution was approved. She said that the minutes accurately describe what took place at the meeting. The only thing not mentioned in the minutes was that Virginia was supposed to have the committee's checkbook with her in order to make a contribution following the vetting, and because she did not have the checkbook, she had to deliver the 35th LD GOP's contribution to Josiah later. She said that when she delivered the contribution, there was no discussion concerning the source of the funds, including that Josiah's mother-in-law had made a contribution to the committee.

What is the significance of your letter to the PDC dated 2/9/14?

--She was removed from filing duties, and was concerned that her name continued to appear on the committee's reports. After sending her 2/9 letter, she resigned from her post as treasurer. She said that she has a lack of trust for Robert Knight, having only to do with his management of the committee's vetting process. She felt that the committee's vetting of Dan Griffey was unfair. She felt that Knight should have recused himself from the vote to support Josiah Rowell, since he was Rowell's campaign manager, but Knight did not recuse himself. Virginia stated that she has no concerns that the committee's activity is being disclosed inaccurately.

I asked her whether 1) the committee has a formal or informal policy requiring that multiple endorsed legislative candidates each receive a portion of the committee's contributions in a given election, and 2) this policy was deviated from in Josiah Rowell's case. She said she is unaware whether there is or has ever been such a policy.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
RECORDED STATEMENT

Statement of Virginia Beech PDC Case # 14.016

The time is now 9:50, the date is 3/10/14

I am Tony Perkins of the Public Disclosure Commission

Also present is/are Phil Stutzman

Of PDC Staff

This statement is being recorded at PDC offices, Olympia WA

OATH ADMINISTERED BY: Phil Stutzman

Opening Questions:

Q: Do you understand this statement is being recorded?

Q: For the record and voice identification please say your full name and spell the last.

Q: What is your address?

Q: What is your work telephone number?

Closing Question:

Q: Do you have anything you would like to add or delete from this statement?

This recorded statement is now concluded, the time is 10:07, on 3/10/14.

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against:

Josiah Rowell, Fiona Klaus and the 35th
Legislative District Republican Central
Committee

Respondents.

Case No. 14-061

**STIPULATION AS TO FACTS,
VIOLATIONS AND PENALTY (35th
Legislative District Republican
Central Committee)**

I. INTRODUCTION

The parties to this Stipulation, namely, the Public Disclosure Commission Staff, through its Executive Director, Evelyn Fielding Lopez, and Respondent, Josiah Rowell, submit this Stipulation as to Facts, Violations and Penalty in this matter. The parties agree that the Commission has the authority to accept, reject or modify the terms of this Stipulation. The parties further agree that in the event that the Commission suggests modification to any term of this agreement, each party reserves the right to reject that modification. In the event either party rejects a modification, this matter will proceed to hearing before the Commission.

II. JURISDICTION

The Public Disclosure Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to RCW 42.17A, the state campaign finance disclosure law; RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedure Act; and the Commission's rules located at WAC 390.

III. FACTS

1. The 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LD RCC) is the official political committee supporting Republican candidates in the 35th Legislative District.

2. Mr. Josiah Rowell was a Republican candidate for State Representative in the 35th Legislative District. He filed his Candidate Registration Statement (PDC form C-1) on May 28, 2013.
3. On June 7, 2013, Ms. Fiona Klaus, Mr. Rowell's mother-in-law, wrote out a check for \$5,000.00 to "the 35th Legislative District GOP Committee." The check contained a handwritten notation in the lower left corner memo field stating: "Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell." Ms. Klaus resides in Gig Harbor, Washington, in the 26th Legislative District.
4. On or around June 11, 2013, Ms. Virginia Beech, Treasurer of the 35th LD RCC, received a phone call from Mr. Robert Knight, 35th LD RCC Chair. Mr. Knight asked Ms. Beech to meet him at a park-and-ride in Shelton, Washington. At that meeting, Mr. Knight gave Ms. Beech the \$5,000.00 check from Ms. Klaus. Ms. Beech then deposited the check into the 35th LD RCC bank account. The 35th LD RCC did not report the funds as "earmarked" for the Rowell campaign. On June 20, 2013, the 35th LD RCC held a meeting and voted unanimously to certify Josiah Rowell as a Republican candidate and to disperse \$5000.00 to the Rowell campaign. The 35th LD RCC filed form C3 with the PDC on June 29, 2013 disclosing receipt of \$5,000.00 from Fiona Klaus.
5. On June 21, 2013, the Rowell campaign accepted a \$5,000.00 contribution from the 35th LD RCC. The Rowell campaign filed form C3 with the PDC on June 24, 2013 disclosing receipt of \$5,000.00 from the 35th LD RCC. Mr. Rowell asserts he was told by the 35th LD RCC that this filing constituted proper disclosure of the contribution. The Rowell

campaign did not file PDC Special Report E to report the funds as an earmarked contribution.

6. Mr. Rowell acknowledged that he was aware of campaign contribution limits; that he knew at the beginning of his campaign that an individual contributor could only give \$900.00 per election, and he knew by the time his campaign was winding down that an individual contributor could give \$950.00 per election.

IV. LEGAL AUTHORITY

RCW 42.17A.405(2) and **WAC 390-05-400** provide the following campaign contribution limitations: No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus political committee, may make contributions to a candidate for a legislative office that in the aggregate exceed \$950.00 per election. No person may accept contributions that exceed the contribution limitations provided in the section (as adjusted for inflation by PDC rule).

RCW 42.17A.240 states that: Each report required under RCW 42.17A.235(1) and (2) must be certified correct by the treasurer and the candidate and shall disclose the following:

...
(2) The name and address of each person who has made one or more contributions during the period, together with the money value and date of each contribution and the aggregate value of all contributions received from each person during the campaign. ...

RCW 42.17A.435 states that: No contribution shall be made and no expenditure shall be incurred, directly or indirectly, in a fictitious name, anonymously, or by one person through an agent, relative, or other person in such a manner as to conceal the identity of the source of the contribution or in any other manner so as to effect concealment.

WAC 390-16-308 states in part that: Any person who makes a contribution shall inform the candidate or treasurer, at the time the contribution is made, of the true and actual source of funds from which the contribution is made. To identify the source of a contribution received by check or other written instrument in the absence of other information, a candidate or treasurer shall apply the following:

Provided, that in cases where the source of the contribution is known and differs from the guidelines set forth below, the known source of the contribution shall be reported;

Provided further, that contributions made through an intermediary or conduit or transmitted by an intermediary shall identify the true and actual source of the funds.

RCW 42.17A.270 states: A political committee receiving a contribution earmarked for the benefit of a candidate or another political committee shall:

- (1) Report the contribution as required in RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240;
- (2) Complete a report, entitled "Earmarked contributions," on a form prescribed by the commission that identifies the name and address of the person who made the contribution, the candidate or political committee for whose benefit the contribution is earmarked, the amount of the contribution, and the date that the contribution was received; and
- (3) Mail or deliver to the commission and the candidate or political committee benefiting from the contribution a copy of the "Earmarked contributions" report within two working days of receipt of the contribution.
- (4) A candidate or political committee receiving notification of an earmarked contribution under subsection (3) of this section shall report the contribution, once notification of the contribution is received by the candidate or committee, in the same manner as any other contribution, as required by RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240.

V. VIOLATIONS


Based on the stipulated facts sets forth above, Respondent 35th LD RCC stipulates to having violated: 1) RCW 42.17A.435 by concealing a contribution made by Ms. Fiona Klaus, earmarked for her son-in-law, Josiah Rowell, a candidate for State Representative in the 35th Legislative District; and 2) RCW 42.17A.270 by failing to appropriately process and report an earmarked contribution.

VI. PENALTY

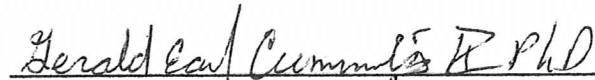
Based upon the stipulated facts and violations set forth above, Respondent 35th LD RCC agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$5,000. Of this total amount, \$2,500 will be suspended on the following conditions: 1) that Respondent complies with all current reporting obligations within 30 days from the date of entry of the Commission's Final Order in this matter; 2) that Respondent shall pay the non-suspended portion of the penalty (\$2,500) within 180 days from the date of entry of the Commission's Final Order in this matter, payable in five monthly installments of \$500, with the first payment due within 30 days of entry of the Commission's Final Order; and 3) that Respondent commits no further material violations of RCW 42.17A, or the rules promulgated thereunder, for four years from the entry of the Commission's Final Order

//

in this matter. Respondent affirms its intention to comply in good faith with the provisions of RCW 42.17A in the future.


Evelyn Fielding Lopez, Executive Director
Public Disclosure Commission

July 22, 2016
Date Signed


Jerry Cummings, Chair for 35th Legislative
District Republican Central Committee

7-21-16
Date Signed

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against:

Josiah Rowell, Fiona Klaus and the 35th
Legislative District Republican Central
Committee

Respondents.

Case No. 14-061

STIPULATION AS TO FACTS,
VIOLATIONS AND PENALTY
(JOSIAH ROWELL)

I. INTRODUCTION

The parties to this Stipulation, namely, the Public Disclosure Commission Staff, through its Executive Director, Evelyn Fielding Lopez, and Respondent, Josiah Rowell, submit this Stipulation as to Facts, Violations and Penalty in this matter. The parties agree that the Commission has the authority to accept, reject or modify the terms of this Stipulation. The parties further agree that in the event that the Commission suggests modification to any term of this agreement, each party reserves the right to reject that modification. In the event either party rejects a modification, this matter will proceed to hearing before the Commission.

II. JURISDICTION

The Public Disclosure Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to RCW 42.17A, the state campaign finance disclosure law; RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedure Act; and the Commission's rules located at WAC 390. This is a civil administrative action.

III. FACTS

1. The 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LD RCC) is the official

- political committee supporting Republican candidates in the 35th Legislative District.
2. Mr. Josiah Rowell was a Republican candidate for State Representative in the 35th Legislative District. He filed his Candidate Registration Statement (PDC form C-1) on May 28, 2013.
 3. On June 7, 2013, Ms. Fiona Klaus, Mr. Rowell's mother-in-law, wrote out a check for \$5,000.00 to "the 35th Legislative District GOP Committee." The check contained a handwritten notation in the lower left corner memo field stating: "Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell." Ms. Klaus resides in Gig Harbor, Washington, in the 26th Legislative District.
 4. On or around June 11, 2013, Ms. Virginia Beech, Treasurer of the 35th LD RCC, received a phone call from Mr. Robert Knight, 35th LD RCC Chair. Mr. Knight asked Ms. Beech to meet him at a park-and-ride in Shelton, Washington. At that meeting, Mr. Knight gave Ms. Beech the \$5,000.00 check from Ms. Klaus. Ms. Beech then deposited the check into the 35th LD RCC bank account. The 35th LD RCC did not report the funds as "earmarked" for the Rowell campaign. On June 20, 2013, the 35th LD RCC held a meeting and voted unanimously to certify Josiah Rowell as a Republican candidate and to disperse \$5000.00 to the Rowell campaign. The 35th LD RCC filed form C3 with the PDC on June 29, 2013 disclosing receipt of \$5,000.00 from Fiona Klaus.
 5. On June 21, 2013, the Rowell campaign accepted a \$5,000.00 contribution from the 35th LD RCC. The Rowell campaign filed form C3 with the PDC on June 24, 2013 disclosing receipt of \$5,000.00 from the 35th LD RCC. Mr. Rowell asserts he was told by the 35th

LD RCC that this filing constituted proper disclosure of the contribution. The Rowell campaign did not file PDC Special Report E to report the funds as an earmarked contribution.

6. Mr. Rowell acknowledged that he was aware of campaign contribution limits; that he knew at the beginning of his campaign that an individual contributor could only give \$900.00 per election, and he knew by the time his campaign was winding down that an individual contributor could give \$950.00 per election.

IV. LEGAL AUTHORITY

RCW 42.17A.405(2) and **WAC 390-05-400** provide the following campaign contribution limitations: No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus political committee, may make contributions to a candidate for a legislative office that in the aggregate exceed \$950.00 per election. No person may accept contributions that exceed the contribution limitations provided in the section (as adjusted for inflation by PDC rule).

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...

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Provided further, that contributions made through an intermediary or conduit or transmitted by an intermediary shall identify the true and actual source of the funds.

RCW 42.17A.270 states: A political committee receiving a contribution earmarked for the benefit of a candidate or another political committee shall:

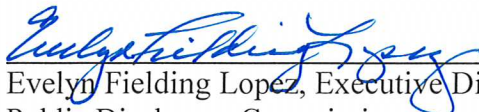
- (1) Report the contribution as required in RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240;
- (2) Complete a report, entitled "Earmarked contributions," on a form prescribed by the commission that identifies the name and address of the person who made the contribution, the candidate or political committee for whose benefit the contribution is earmarked, the amount of the contribution, and the date that the contribution was received; and
- (3) Mail or deliver to the commission and the candidate or political committee benefiting from the contribution a copy of the "Earmarked contributions" report within two working days of receipt of the contribution.
- (4) A candidate or political committee receiving notification of an earmarked contribution under subsection (3) of this section shall report the contribution, once notification of the contribution is received by the candidate or committee, in the same manner as any other contribution, as required by RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240.

V. VIOLATIONS

Based on the stipulated facts sets forth above, Respondent Josiah Rowell stipulates to having violated: 1) RCW 42.17A.240 by failing to report a contribution from Ms. Klaus to Mr. Rowell's campaign; 2) RCW 42.17A.405 by accepting an over-limit contribution of \$5,000.00 that came from Ms. Klaus, his mother-in-law, to be used by his campaign; and 3) WAC 390-16-308 by failing to identify the actual source of funds from *which* the contribution was made to his campaign.

VI. PENALTY

Based upon the stipulated facts and violations set forth above, Respondent Josiah Rowell agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$2,000. Josiah Rowell affirms his intention to comply in good faith with the provisions of RCW 42.17A in the future.


Evelyn Fielding Lopez, Executive Director
Public Disclosure Commission

July 22, 2016
Date Signed


Jeanne Cushman, Attorney for Josiah Rowell

July 15, 2016
Date Signed

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against:

Josiah Rowell, Fiona Klaus and the 35th
Legislative District Republican Central
Committee

Case No. 14-016

STIPULATION AS TO FACTS,
VIOLATIONS AND PENALTY
(**FIONA KLAUS**)

Respondents.

I. INTRODUCTION

The parties to this Stipulation, namely, the Public Disclosure Commission Staff, through its Executive Director, Evelyn Fielding Lopez, and Respondent, Fiona Klaus, submit this Stipulation as to Facts, Violations and Penalty in this matter. The parties agree that the Commission has the authority to accept, reject or modify the terms of this Stipulation. The parties further agree that in the event that the Commission suggests modification to any term of this agreement, each party reserves the right to reject that modification. In the event either party rejects a modification, this matter will proceed to hearing before the Commission.

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III. FACTS

1. The 35th Legislative District Republican Central Committee (35th LD RCC) is the official political committee supporting Republican candidates in the 35th Legislative District.

2. Mr. Josiah Rowell was a Republican candidate for State Representative in the 35th Legislative District. He filed his Candidate Registration Statement (PDC form C-1) on May 28, 2013.
3. On June 7, 2013, Ms. Fiona Klaus, Mr. Rowell's mother-in-law, wrote out a check for \$5,000.00 to "the 35th Legislative District GOP Committee." The check contained a handwritten notation in the lower left corner memo field stating: "Campaign Contribution Josiah Rowell." Ms. Klaus resides in Gig Harbor, Washington, in the 26th Legislative District.
4. On or around June 11, 2013, Ms. Virginia Beech, Treasurer of the 35th LD RCC, received a phone call from Mr. Robert Knight, 35th LD RCC Chair. Mr. Knight asked Ms. Beech to meet him at a park-and-ride in Shelton, Washington. At that meeting, Mr. Knight gave Ms. Beech the \$5,000.00 check from Ms. Klaus. Ms. Beech then deposited the check into the 35th LD RCC bank account. The 35th LD RCC did not report the funds as "earmarked" for the Rowell campaign. On June 20, 2013, the 35th LD RCC held a meeting and voted unanimously to certify Josiah Rowell as a Republican candidate and to disperse \$5000.00 to the Rowell campaign. The 35th LD RCC filed form C3 with the PDC on June 29, 2013 disclosing receipt of \$5,000.00 from Fiona Klaus.
5. On June 21, 2013, the Rowell campaign accepted a \$5,000.00 contribution from the 35th LD RCC. The Rowell campaign filed form C3 with the PDC on June 24, 2013 disclosing receipt of \$5,000.00 from the 35th LD RCC. Mr. Rowell asserts he was told by the 35th LD RCC that this filing constituted proper disclosure of the contribution. The Rowell

campaign did not file PDC Special Report E to report the funds as an earmarked contribution.

6. Mr. Rowell acknowledged that he was aware of campaign contribution limits; that he knew at the beginning of his campaign that an individual contributor could only give \$900.00 per election, and he knew by the time his campaign was winding down that an individual contributor could give \$950.00 per election.

IV. LEGAL AUTHORITY

RCW 42.17A.405(2) and **WAC 390-05-400** provide the following campaign contribution limitations: No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus political committee, may make contributions to a candidate for a legislative office that in the aggregate exceed \$950.00 per election. No person may accept contributions that exceed the contribution limitations provided in the section (as adjusted for inflation by PDC rule).

RCW 42.17A.240 states that: Each report required under RCW 42.17A235(1) and (2) must be certified correct by the treasurer and the candidate and shall disclose the following:

...
(2) The name and address of each person who has made one or more contributions during the period, together with the money value and date of each contribution and the aggregate value of all contributions received from each person during the campaign. ...

RCW 42.17A.435 states that: No contribution shall be made and no expenditure shall be incurred, directly or indirectly, in a fictitious name, anonymously, or by one person through an agent, relative, or other person in such a manner as to conceal the identity of the source of the contribution or in any other manner so as to effect concealment.

WAC 390-16-308 states in part that: Any person who makes a contribution shall inform the candidate or treasurer, at the time the contribution is made, of the true and actual source of funds from which the contribution is made. To identify the source of a contribution received by check or other written instrument in the absence of other information, a candidate or treasurer shall apply the following:

Provided, that in cases where the source of the contribution is known and differs from the guidelines set forth below, the known source of the contribution shall be reported:

Provided further, that contributions made through an intermediary or conduit or transmitted by an intermediary shall identify the true and actual source of the funds.

RCW 42.17A.270 states: A political committee receiving a contribution earmarked for the benefit of a candidate or another political committee shall:

- (1) Report the contribution as required in RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240;
- (2) Complete a report, entitled "Earmarked contributions," on a form prescribed by the commission that identifies the name and address of the person who made the contribution, the candidate or political committee for whose benefit the contribution is earmarked, the amount of the contribution, and the date that the contribution was received; and
- (3) Mail or deliver to the commission and the candidate or political committee benefiting from the contribution a copy of the "Earmarked contributions" report within two working days of receipt of the contribution.
- (4) A candidate or political committee receiving notification of an earmarked contribution under subsection (3) of this section shall report the contribution, once notification of the contribution is received by the candidate or committee, in the same manner as any other contribution, as required by RCW 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240.

V. VIOLATIONS

Based on the stipulated facts sets forth above, Respondent Fiona Klaus stipulates to having violated RCW 42.17A.405 and WAC 390-05-400 by making a contribution specifically earmarked for her son-in-law, Mr. Rowell, a candidate for State Representative for the 35th Legislative District, which was above the contribution limits for candidates for state legislative office.

VI. PENALTY

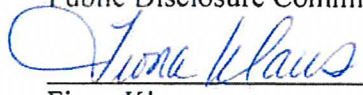
Based upon the stipulated facts and violations set forth above, Respondent Fiona Klaus agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$500. Respondent Fiona Klaus affirms her intention to comply in good faith with the provisions of RCW 42.17A in the future.



Evelyn Fielding Lopez, Executive Director
Public Disclosure Commission

July 22, 2016

Date Signed



Fiona Klaus

7/22/16

Date Signed