



## State of Washington

### PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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To: Anne Levinson, Commission Chair & Presiding Officer

From: Fox Blackhorn, Compliance Coordinator

Date: February 13, 2018

Re: Fire Commissioner Ronnie Little, PDC Case 25923

#### **Agenda Item**

PDC staff is alleging that Ronnie Little, an incumbent Fire Commissioner for King County Fire Protection District #40, violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) due no later than April 17, 2017, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2016.

#### **Background**

- Ronnie Little is an incumbent Fire Commissioner for King County Fire Protection District #40 (KCFPD 40), since being elected to office in 2009. Her current term is set to expire on December 31, 2022.
- As an incumbent Fire Commissioner, Ms. Little was required to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) in accordance with RCW 42.17A.700 not later than April 17, 2017, disclosing financial activities for calendar year 2016. As of the date of this memorandum, no F-1 report has been filed by Ms. Little.
- On June 19, 2017, PDC staff sent a warning letter to Ms. Little concerning the missing F-1 report to the address provided to the PDC by KCFPD 40, which was “14120 171<sup>st</sup> Way SE C303, Renton, WA 98058.” Ms. Little included the same address on the last F-1 report she filed, which was received on February 18, 2014.
- The June 19, 2017 warning letter sent to Ms. Little was returned to the PDC by the US Postal Service.
- On October 11, 2017, PDC staff sent out warning letters to two addresses associated with Ms. Little as follows: “PO Box 58414, Renton, WA 98058” and “18002 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Renton, WA 98055.” To date, neither of the warning letters have been returned to the PDC by the US Postal Service.

- On December 6, 2017, PDC staff queried the Lexis Accurant database to verify the mailing address for Ms. Little and to determine if there were other possible mailing addresses or telephone number associated with Ms. Little. PDC staff called the telephone number, and left a voice message on an unidentified voicemail box concerning the missing F-1 report.
- PDC staff also spoke with a KCFPD 40 staff member who verified that Ms. Little is still a Fire Commissioner. In reviewing the KCFPD 40 website, staff confirmed that Ms. Little's will service as Fire Commission until December of 2022. PDC Staff also left a voicemail on the voicemail box for the jurisdiction.
- On February 2, 2018, PDC Staff sent a hearing notice for the February 16, 2018, Brief Enforcement Hearing. This notice was sent to the physical mailing address, which had not returned mail, at "18002 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Renton, WA 98005." Consistent with WAC 390-37-060(4), the notice was also delivered electronically to the e-mail address provided by the jurisdiction, "ronnie751@yahoo.com."

#### **Prior PDC Enforcement History**

- PDC Case 16-039: At a July 30, 2015 Brief Enforcement Hearing, Ms. Little was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to file an F-1 report for calendar year 2014, which was due not later than April 15, 2015. Ms. Little was assessed a penalty of \$150 for the missing F-1 report, in accordance with F-1 penalty schedule adopted by the Commission which was in effect at the time.
- PDC Case 16-127: At an August 13, 2015 Brief Enforcement Hearing, Ms. Little was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.205 for failing to file a Candidate Registration (C-1 report), which was due to be filed within two weeks of declaring her candidacy for the 2015 election. Ms. Little was assessed a penalty of \$150 for the missing C-1 report, in accordance with Candidate C-1 and F-1 penalty schedule adopted by the Commission which was in effect at the time.

#### **Staff Recommendation/Comments**

- Ms. Little has not filed the missing F-1 report for PDC 16-039 or the missing C-1 report for PDC 16-127. WAC 390-37-143, the Brief Adjudicative Proceeding Penalty Schedule, states that a case will automatically be scheduled before the full commission when the Respondent "has not filed the disclosure forms that were the subject of the prior violation at the time the current hearing notice is being sent."
- Both penalties assessed against Ms. Little remain unpaid, and are at AllianceOne for collections. In addition, the rule also states that "If, on the third occasion, a respondent has outstanding penalties or judgments, the matter will be directed to the full commission for consideration."
- PDC staff recommends that based on the facts above, the Presiding Officer hold this matter over for a future enforcement hearing before the Full Commission.