



**State of Washington**  
**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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**Memorandum**

To: Public Disclosure Commission

From: Jennifer Hansen, Compliance Officer

Date: September 15, 2021

Subject: Charles (Rick) Hughes; PDC Case 94053; Reconsideration Hearing

**Matter for Review:**

During a Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, Charles (Rick) Hughes was found to have violated RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) no later than April 15, 2021. At the July 15, 2021 Brief Enforcement Hearing, an Order imposing a \$150 penalty was entered, which Charles (Rick) Hughes now requests the Commission review.

**Background:**

- Charles (Rick) Hughes (the “Respondent”) served as on the County Council for San Juan during calendar year 2020, until his term expired in December 2020. The Respondent has no prior violations with the PDC.
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.700, an elected or appointed official who held office in 2020 was required to file an F-1 report, disclosing financial information for calendar year 2020, no later than April 15, 2021.
- Between February and May of 2021, PDC staff sent email reminders to all elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020
- On May 11, 2021, PDC staff emailed warning letters to elected and appointed officials regarding their missing F-1 reports for calendar year 2020.

- On June 25, 2021, PDC staff emailed the Respondent a hearing notice for a Brief Adjudicative Proceeding (Brief Enforcement Hearing) to be held on July 15, 2021. The hearing notice was sent to the Respondent's email address-of-record.
- At the Brief Enforcement Hearing held on July 15, 2021, the Respondent was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.700 for failure to timely file the F-1 report no later than April 15, 2021, and was assessed a \$250 penalty, consistent with WAC 390-37-143, the Brief Enforcement Hearing penalty schedule adopted by the Commission.
- On August 16, 2021, PDC staff served the Initial Order memorializing the Commission's ruling, by email, to the contact email address-of-record.
- The Respondent filed the F-1 report covering calendar year 2020 activity on June 29, 2021.

**Request for Reconsideration:**

- On September 8, 2021, the Respondent, submitted written materials to PDC staff to appeal the August 16, 2021 Order based on the fact that he has been serving as a frontline worker during the filing period and has continued to do so throughout the pandemic. In addition, he stated that he inadvertently missed the earlier emailed notices regarding enforcement action.
- On September 15, 2021, PDC staff served the Respondent, by email, with a hearing notice for a September 23, 2021 Review Hearing before the Public Disclosure Commission, along with instructions on how to participate in the hearing remotely. On September 17, 2021, PDC staff served the Respondent with a corrected hearing notice to reflect the appropriate agenda time.