City of Seattle
Ethics and Elections Commission

September 14, 2015

BY E-MAIL ONLY

Dan DiLeva, Treasurer
Vote Sawant
P.O. Box 85862
Seattle, WA 98145-1862

Dear Mr. DiLeva:

The Vote Sawant Committee (the "Committee") failed to timely file 29 C-3 reports in the four weeks following the August Primary. Balancing the time remaining before the General Election with the significant amount of contributions that went unreported in August – $36,000 – I am imposing a penalty of $500.

BACKGROUND

Committees are required to file weekly reports of their deposits starting in June and continuing through the General Election. You told us that you believed that after the Primary the schedule reverted to monthly reporting. On September 1, staff told you that this was incorrect. You filed 29 reports showing deposits of more than $36,000 on September 10.

RELEVANT LAW

SMC 2.04.250.C requires that reports of deposits be filed weekly in the four months before the General Election.

The Seattle Elections Code authorizes the Commission's Executive Director to impose late filing penalties of up to $50 per day per report for late-filed reports. In the 30 days before an election, the penalties increase to $150 per day per report. SMC 2.04.330 B through D. (These penalties were recently adjusted upward to serve as a more effective deterrent.)

LATE FILING PENALTIES

The Committee failed to file weekly C-3s during the month of August. I am therefore imposing a late-filing penalty of $500.

700 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 4010, P.O. BOX 94729, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-4729
(206) 684-8500 FAX (206) 684-8590
An equal employment opportunity employer

RIGHT TO APPEAL

You may appeal this decision by submitting to this office, by 4:00 p.m., September 28, 2015, a written request for appeal, pursuant to the Commission's Administrative Rule 4.[1]

ACTION TO TAKE

No later than September 28, 2015, deliver a check payable to the City of Seattle to the Commission at 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4010, P.O. Box 94729, Seattle, WA 98124-4729, or your request for appeal.

CONCLUSION

A major purpose of the Seattle Elections Code is to give the public timely access to the campaign finances of each political committee. Any delay in reporting inhibits this purpose and prevents the opportunity for scrutiny, to which the public is entitled.

If you have any questions, please call me at 684-8577.

Very truly yours,

Wayne Barnett
Executive Director

cc: Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission
Phil Stutzman, Public Disclosure Commission

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[1] Rule 4 APPEALS

A. Upon the written request of a party aggrieved by the Executive Director's decision to dismiss a complaint, or to impose late-filing penalties under SMC 2.04.330, the action may be reviewed by the Commission.

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C. An appeal of late-filing penalties shall be served at the Commission's office no later than 14 days after the date of mailing the decision of which review is sought.

D. A request for review shall state the grounds therefor, and shall be no longer than twelve 8-1/2'' x 11" double-spaced pages in length with margins of at least 1" on every side, and no more than 12 characters per inch.