Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission-

The Vote Sawant Committee (the "committee") is appealing the fine imposed by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission ("SEEC") on January 7, 2016 in the amount of $1,500 for failure to timely report obligations. We believe the amount of the fine is excessive.

One concern we have is that one of the supposed obligations, of $599.00 from the vendor CallFire, has been erroneously included by the SEEC in the list of our failure-to-timely-report obligations. Apparently, the date noted by the SEEC for that "obligation" was 9/24/2015, when in fact there was neither an invoice nor an expense from CallFire with a date of 9/24/2015. There was an expense from CallFire with a date of 10/24/2015, which was reported as paid on that date. We assume an SEEC auditor made an honest mistake in noting the wrong month for that invoice/expense.

Another concern we have is that the SEEC did not specify which obligations were not reported in a timely manner. This is significant to our appeal, as the SEEC is apparently assuming that the date of an invoice is the same as the date the committee received the invoice from the vendor in question. The committee has used various vendors for the quality of their work, despite the fact that those vendors often do not send us invoices in a timely manner. We would especially appreciate receiving specific information on which vendor was referenced as "one obligation not being disclosed for 58 days", as noted in the first paragraph of the second page of the SEEC's notice of penalty.

While we agree with the fact that we did not report various obligations in a timely manner, we believe that both the monetary amount and the length of time of the failure-to-timely-report obligations have been overstated by the SEEC. We look forward to more specific information from the SEEC to allow us to fully explain the basis for our appeal.

Dan DiLeva
Vote Sawant Campaign Treasurer