



City of Seattle

Ethics and Elections Commission

August 28, 2020

**SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY TO
TAXAMAZONPAC@GMAIL.COM**

Eva Metz
Tax Amazon 2020
PO Box 22636
Seattle, WA 98122

Dear Ms. Metz:

The Tax Amazon 2020 Committee (the “Committee”) filed 25 C-3s reporting almost \$100,000 in contributions multiple days late. In addition, a C-4 that showed how much money the campaign had on hand in mid-July was filed almost a month late, and another amendment showing an additional \$23,000 in spending was filed today.

FACTS

The Committee filed a 21-day Pre-Primary C-4 on July 15, 2020, one day late. That C-4 showed five deposits made in June totaling \$39,119.10. The committee subsequently late-filed twenty more C-3s reporting deposits made during the 21-day Pre-Primary reporting period of \$56,594.05. An amended C-4 reflecting the Committee’s fundraising and spending through mid-July was not filed until August 8, 2020, and another amended C-4 was filed on August 28, 2020.

RELEVANT LAW

The Seattle Elections Code requires that all contributions and expenditures including obligations or debts, be timely reported. The Code authorizes the Commission’s Executive Director to assess penalties up to \$50 per day per report and \$150 per day for reports late-filed in the thirty days before the election. SMC 2.04.250 B., and SMC 2.04.330 B-D.

LATE FILING PENALTIES

The Committee late-filed 25 C-3s and two C-4s showing significant fundraising and significant spending multiple days late. I am imposing a penalty of \$2,500. (I fined Councilmember Sawant’s 2015 re-election campaign \$2,000 for late reporting, which I can only conclude did not have the desired deterrent effect.)

RIGHT TO APPEAL

You may appeal this decision by submitting to this office, by 4:00 pm. September 14, 2020, a written request for appeal, pursuant to the Commission's Administrative Rule 4.¹

ACTION TO TAKE

No later than September 14, 2020, deliver payment, payable to City of Seattle, to the Seattle Ethics and Elections 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 by law.

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

Very truly yours,

/s/

Wayne Barnett
Executive Director

Cc: Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission
Peter Lavalley, Public Disclosure Commission

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.

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.