

Cook, Scott

From: J Mangan <montanacopp@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 5:47 AM
To: Mangan, Jeff; Cook, Scott
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Complaint filed by David E Leslie of 456 Weber Heights, Corvallis, MT on Sept 1.
Attachments: COPPSept 17th.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Theresa Manzella <theresa@manzellaformontana.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 18, 2020, 3:47 PM
Subject: Fwd: Complaint filed by David E Leslie of 456 Weber Heights, Corvallis, MT on Sept 1.
To: <montanacopp@gmail.com>

Trying again!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Theresa Manzella <theresa@manzellaformontana.com>
Subject: Complaint filed by David E Leslie of 456 Weber Heights, Corvallis, MT on Sept 1.
Date: September 17, 2020 at 5:17:06 PM MDT
To: Jeff Mangan <jeff.mangan@mt.gov>, "Cook, Scott" <SCook3@mt.gov>

Sept 17th, 2020 Happy Constitution Day!

Dear Commissioner Mangan,

Your staff is, once again, to be commended for their commitment to customer service as this complaint has resulted in numerous calls to your department over the past few days, and they have pleasantly and patiently answered all my questions. After immersing myself in the program for several hours over multiple days, I know longer fear it, nor hold it in contempt. And - I'm probably much more likely to vote in support of an appropriation to upgrade the system. :-) It's actually been a positive learning experience for me.

Please consider this my formal response to a complaint filed by David E Leslie of 456 Weber Heights, Corvallis, MT on Sept 1. I will also send a hard copy.

I will respond to each allegation in the same order and format that they appear on the complaint.

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Please consider this my formal response to a complaint filed by David E Leslie of 456 Weber Heights, Corvallis, MT on Sept 1. I will also send a hard copy.

I will respond to each allegation in the same order and format that they appear on the complaint.

1. "Candidate Manzella became a candidate on May 17, 2019 when she accepted money for her "Senatorial Campaign" during a meeting if the Bitterroot North Valley Pachyderm Club per 13-1-101(8)(b) and 9(a) MCA."

I attended the meeting May 17th, 2019 to offer a summary overview of the legislative session. I was not campaigning and had not yet made the decision to run for the Senate seat. I did not solicit financial support. At the end of the mtg Jim Canton won the 50/50/raffle, and much to my surprise, he quickly came to the front of them room and put the money in my hand, and made some sort of exclamation about me running for the Senate seat. Quite frankly, I was stunned. Very shortly after, I realized that I should not have accepted the money and gave it back to his wife, Penny. Later, after I made the commitment to run, they gave the \$31. in winnings back to me, and I deposited it and recorded it on 8/8/2019. Friend, Rena Wetherelt also gave me a \$25. check as a campaign donation, but unassigned to a specific campaign. I returned her check to her within the next few days at her place of employment and explained to her that my previous campaign was closed and state law prevented me from accepting contributions until I had declared that I was running, and I had not yet made that commitment. She told me she would keep the check and returned the same check to me after I had made the declaration to run. The contributions were recorded on my report and dated 8/8/2020. The personal statements of the parties involved are also in the COPP evidence file.

MCA 13-1-101 states (8) "Candidate" means:

- (a) an individual who has filed a declaration or petition for nomination, acceptance of nomination, or appointment as a candidate for public office as required by law;
- (b) for the purposes of chapter 35, 36, or 37, an individual who has solicited or received and **retained** contributions, made expenditure...

It may also be worth noting that David Leslie was not in attendance of the NVP meeting, so this complaint is based off someone else's hearsay, and someone who obviously isn't privy to the whole story.

a. "Snacks associated with Constitution Day event." Thank you for bringing this oversight to my attention. The report has been amended and refiled. The event was attended by 17 people. List available upon request.

b. Stickers to cover up HD85 with SD44; **quantity 200**. Report has been amended and refiled.

c. 1) "...repair and replacement of lights on billboard that I'm renting..." I communicated with Commissioner Mangan via email and also spoke with him by phone concerning this issue on 2/14/20 to confirm that I was in compliance. The owner placed an \$80. per month value on his water tower "billboard", but he also needed the lights on the tower repaired. My husband is a Master Electrician, so he entered into contract with the owner to replace and repair the lights on the billboard. I paid my husband to replace and repair the lights, and in turn, I received use of the billboard throughout the primary election, or aprox 4 months. 2) The second "billboard" in the complaint is on private property owned by Karen Mhuller. There is no cost associated with it. Karen's phone number is 617-899-2280 and you are welcome to call her to confirm.

d. "custom campaign tail gate wrap" See picture of tail gate that states "paid for by Theresa Manzella."

e. "voting record campaign signs" were from a previous campaign cycle, are clearly attributed, and have been listed as an in kind donation.

f. "chances to win a rifle in exchange for a sign location" was discussed with Commissioner Mangan in advance. The rifle was owned and offered by me. No money was exchanged. See email of discussion and example of enrollment form attached. During our discussion Commissioner Mangan advised me to add the attribution to the form, which I did.

g. "flags added to signs" See picture of flags with attribution labels in file titled COPP Evidence.

h. "large banners used on wagon." Some are paid for by my campaign and some are paid for by me, personally. All are attributed appropriately. I added the bright white stickers as the black marker could be hard for some to see. See pictures with attribution labels in file titled COPP Evidence.

i. Expenses associated with Victory Party have been compiled, divided and report amended.

j. The expenses associated with the event titled Cook-out and Karaoke with Candidates have been compiled and divided amongst the candidates. I've added my share to my report. I'm still waiting on a bill from Sweet Pea for the port-a-potties.

I think that addresses all of the concerns presented in this complaint. It could not have come at a better time. The complaint, combined with the unhealthy smoke event, has provided the perfect window of opportunity to scrutinize the reports and learn the lessons appointed for me to learn.

Again, I want to compliment you and your exceptional staff on the spirit of assistance they contribute to the program.

Please let me know ASAP if there is anything in the COPP evidence file that you're unable to open. Again, I'll also put a hard copy in the mail to you.

Sincerely,

Rep Theresa Manzella

Below is the link to the COPP evidence file-

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dat7hjd513lzy/AAD8rllkBf3DRRgJ9yEsSfCpa?dl=0>

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Since I did not retain the contributions, this complaint doesn't apply.

It may also be worth noting that David Leslie was not in attendance of the NVP meeting, so this complaint is based off someone else's hearsay, and someone who obviously isn't privy to the whole story.

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e. "voting record campaign signs" were from a previous campaign cycle, are clearly attributed, and have been listed as an in kind donation. See picture of signs and screen shot of report in COPP evidence file.

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I think that addresses all of the concerns presented in this complaint. While not my favorite thing to do, It could not have come at a better time. The complaint, combined with the unhealthy smoke event, has provided the perfect window of opportunity to scrutinize the reports and learn the lessons appointed for me to learn.

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