

BEFORE THE ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION

VIRGINIA BONNIE LEMBO,)
)
 Complainant,)
)
 v.) APOC Case No. 22-03-CD
)
 FRIENDS OF DISTRICT 17 OPPOSED)
 TO ZACK FIELDS,)
)
 Respondent.)
 _____)

ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION

Virginia Bonnie Lembo alleges that an independent expenditure group, Friends of District 17 Opposed to Zack Fields, illegally coordinated with candidate Harriet Drummond and failed to timely disclose contributions and expenditures. Ms. Lembo asked the Alaska Public Offices Commission to hear her complaint on an expedited basis.¹ On September 16, 2022, the Commission considered her request and denied expedited consideration after hearing testimony from Ms. Lembo and the group.²

The Commission denied expedited consideration because the group acknowledged that reporting and organizational violations occurred³ and planned to dissolve the group,

¹ See AS 15.13.380(c).

² Testifying for the group were the chair, Martin Hansen, and the group's first contributor, Elstun Lauesen, who is also Rep. Drummond's spouse.

³ Mr. Lauesen denied that the group coordinated with Rep. Drummond.

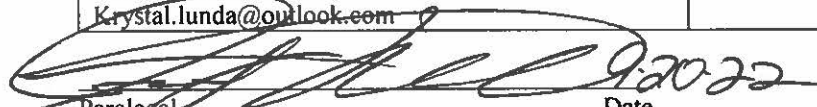
not engage in any elections activity, and return the contributions.⁴ Thus, although there is “reasonable cause to believe that . . . violation[s] ha[ve] occurred,” Ms. Lembo did not establish that the alleged violations, “if not immediately restrained, could materially affect the outcome of an election” or “could cause irreparable harm that penalties could not adequately remedy.”⁵ Ms. Lembo agreed that dissolution of the group would resolve the need for an urgent resolution.

The Commission accepts the complaint for consideration on a regular basis under AS 15.13.380(e) and refers the complaint to staff for investigation.

Dated: September 20, 2022.

BY ORDER OF THE ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION⁶

<p>Certificate of Service: I hereby certify that on this date, I served, by certified mail and email a true and correct copy of the foregoing in this proceeding on the following:</p>	
<p>Virginia Bonnie Lembo 1342 W. 12th Avenue Anchorage, AK 99501 lembob@gci.net</p> <p>Krystal Lunda Friends of House District 17 Opposed to Zack Fields 1352 Inlet Plaza Anchorage, AK 99501 Krystal.lunda@outlook.com</p>	<p>and by email to: Heather Hebdon Executive Director Alaska Public Offices Commission heather.hebdon@alaska.gov</p>


Paralegal Date

⁴ See Independent Expenditures Form 15-6 for Friends of District 17 Opposed to Zack Fields (Aug. 30, 2022) (available at <https://aws.state.ak.us/ApocReports/Common/View.aspx?ID=5584&ViewType=IE>).

⁵ AS 15.13.380(c); 2 AAC 50.888.

⁶ Commissioners Anne Helzer, Richard Stillie, Lanette Blodgett, Suzanne Hancock, and Dan LaSota participated in this decision. The decision was made on a 5-0 vote.