# **Complaint Description**

Tallman Trask (Wed, 24 Jul 2019 at 3:00 PM)

Please see the attached complaint.

# What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

Commercial advertisers are expected and required to maintain certain records, and make those records publicly available, about political advertising. Such records, which include information about ad targeting, specific costs, and other information which is not otherwise easily accessible, are an important part of Washington's campaign finance disclosure system. The transparency these disclosures allow is, in fact, key, and Washingtonians ought to be able to inspect these records. Facebook, Inc. is either preventing individuals from inspecting these records in the "prompt" fashion required by law, or simply not keeping these records. No matter which, it is important that advertisers meet the expectations set in law if they are to participate in our state's political process, no matter how inconvenient it may be for them.

## List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.

Included in the attached complaint is:

- -- Evidence of significant political advertising purchases related to Washington races (specifically Seattle City Council races) on Facebook
- -- An email exchange between myself and Facebook in which Facebook makes it clear that the records required by RCW 42.17A.345 and/or WAC 390-18-050 are not available for in-person inspection
- -- In the same email exchange, information which suggests that the records required by RCW 42.17A.345 and/or WAC 390-18-050 are not available to supply electronically "promptly, upon request"

## List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Not applicable

#### **Complaint Certification:**

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Public Disclosure Commission 711 Capital Way South, #206 Olympia, WA 98504 July 24, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2018, Facebook, Inc. settled a complaint with the Attorney General's Office alleging they had failed to comply with RCW 42.17A.345. Now, less than eight months from the date that settlement was announced, Facebook, Inc. is again selling political advertising in Washington and continues to fail to meet their disclosure obligations under RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050.

### • Evidence of Political Advertising Purchases

Facebook advertising purchases have been disclosed in filings by candidates and political action committees. While it is possible, and perhaps even likely, that other candidates and committees have purchased advertising, this complaint will focus on Seattle City Council races as the specific disclosure requirements of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission make it simpler to track sub-vendor spending than in might be in other municipalities.

In Seattle City Council races alone, reported spending on Facebook advertising and costs associated with the advertising are approaching \$100,000, and Facebook advertising has been purchased for races in each of the seven council districts.

This spending, outlined below, has been split between direct spending by candidates and political committee spending on independent expenditures.

#### **Committee Spending**

Moms for Seattle: \$48,000

Expenditures by Moms For Seattle 2019 Election Cycle

As of 7/23/2019

Expenditures		
Name	Aggregate	Details
Western Consultants LLC	\$69,000.00	7/15/2019 - \$12,000.00 - Digital Campaign Pat Murakami/Support - Facebook Ads estimate running 7/15/2019-8/6/2019 7/15/2019 - \$12,000.00 - Digital Campaign Alex Pedersen/Support - Facebook Ads estimate running 7/1-8/6/2019 7/15/2019 - \$12,000.00 - Digital Campaign Heidi Wills/Support - Facebook Ads estimate running 7/15/2019-8/6/2019 7/15/2019 - \$12,000.00 - Digital Campaign Michael George/Support - Facebook Ads estimate running 7/15/2019-8/6/2019 7/15/2019 - \$5,250.00 - Campaign consulting for IE - Pat Murakami/Support 7/15/2019 - \$5,250.00 - Campaign consulting for IE - Heid Wills/Support 7/15/2019 - \$5,250.00 - Campaign consulting for IE - Heid Wills/Support 7/15/2019 - \$5,250.00 - Campaign consulting for IE - Heidhel George/Support
Total Expenditures	\$69,000.00	

http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=698&listtype=vendors

## Unite Here Local 8 Political Action Committee: \$9,299.38

Expenditures by UNITE HERE Local 8 Political Action Committee 2019 Election Cycle

As of 7/23/2019

Expenditures		
Name	Aggregate	Details
Total Expo	enditures \$0.00	
Outstanding Loans and Debts		
Name	Aggregate	Details
Total Outstandin	ng Loans \$0.00	
Special Reports of Independent Expenditures		DUPLICATE expenditures reported above under "Expenditures" or "Debts". These are expenditures reported pursuant to the Special Reporting of Late hich requires committees making independent expenditures to report those within 24 hours on a special report. They then later include that expenditure in
Name	Aggregate	Details
Comcast Spotlight	\$109,000.00	7/16/2019 - \$109,000.00TV Ads 7/16 - 8/6 Supporting Andrew Lewis Seattle CD-7
KIRO-CBS	\$16,000.00	7/20/2019 - \$16,000.00TV Ads 7/21 - 7/28 Supporting Andrew Lewis Seattle CD-7
Print Logistics	\$10,000.00	7/11/2019 - \$10,000.00Video Production - Supporting Andrew Lewis Seattle CD-7
Facebook	\$9,299.38	7/12/2019 - \$9,299.38Video Ads 7/12 - 8/6 Supporting Andrew Lewis Seattle CD-7
Seattle Times	\$2,700.00	7/15/2019 - \$2,700.00Online Banner Ads 7/15 - 8/6 Supporting Andrew Lewis Seattle CD-7
The Stranger	\$720.00	7/15/2019 - \$720.00Online Banner Ads 7/15 - 8/6 Supporting Andrew Lewis Seattle CD-7
Alphabet Google	\$580.00	7/15/2019 - \$580.00Video Ads 7/15 - 8/6 Supporting Andrew Lewis Seattle CD-7

http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=514&listtype=vendors

## Service Employees International Union 775 Quality Care Committee: \$3000 (minimum)

Expenditures by SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION 775 QUALITY CARE COMMITTEE 2019 Election Cycle

As of 7/23/2019

Expenditures		
Name	Aggregate	Details
Eckrosh Marketing HOPKINS + SACHS	\$9,000.00 \$3,600.00	7/15/2019 - \$9,000.00 - Digital campaign in support of Jay Fathi City Council of Seat 7/15/2019 - \$3,600.00 - Digital campaign in support of Jay Fathi City Council of Seat
Total Expendi	tures \$12,600.00	
Outstanding Loans and Debts		
Name	Aggregate	Details
otal Outstanding Loans	and \$0.00	
Independent In		rependitures reported above under "Expenditures" or "Debts". These are expenditures reported pursuant to the Special Reporting of Late ommittees making independent expenditures to report those within 24 hours on a special report. They then later include that expenditure in
Same	Aggregate	Detail
Fuse Votes	\$5,000.00	7/17/2019 - \$1,500.00Digital ad FB - Lisa Herbold - City Council Seattle - supp 7/17/2019 - \$1,000.00Digital ad MSFT - Lisa Herbold - City Council Seattle - supp 7/17/2019 - \$1,500.00Digital ad FB - Tamumy Morales - City Council Seattle - supp 7/17/2019 - \$1,000.00Digital ad MSFT- Lisa Herbold - City Council Seattle - supp
Total Special Repor	ts of \$5,000.00	
ttp://web6.sea	attle.gov/ethics/elections	s/poplist.aspx?cid=381&listtype=vendors

## Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy: \$120

Expenditures by Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy Sponsored by the Seattle Chamber 2019 Election Cycle

As of 7/23/2019

Expenditures		
Name	Aggregate	Details
Zero Week Solutions	\$50,000.00	6/27/2019 - \$14,447.09 - Canvassing/Phones/Text/Tavel/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 6/27/2019 - \$14,922.71 - Canvassing/Phones/Text/Solomon/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 6/27/2019 - \$20,630.20 - Canvassing/Phones/Text/Orion/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support
Archway Consulting Group	\$17,650.00	7/9/2019 - \$4,550,00 - Literature/Tavel/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/9/2019 - \$4,900.00 - Literature/Egan/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/9/2019 - \$8,200.00 - Literature/Egan/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support
Moore Campaigns	\$13,679.00	7/15/2019 - \$2,133.46 - Direct Mail/Tavel/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/15/2019 - \$2,133.46 - Direct Mail/Solomon/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/15/2019 - \$2,133.46 - Direct Mail/Pedersen/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/15/2019 - \$1,041.06 - Direct Mail/Juarez/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/15/2019 - \$1,041.02 - Direct Mail/Juarez/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/15/2019 - \$1,041.02 - Direct Mail/Fath/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/15/2019 - \$1,011.03 - Direct Mail/Fath/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/15/2019 - \$1,011.03 - Direct Mail/George/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/15/2019 - \$2,133.46 - Direct Mail/George/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support 7/15/2019 - \$2,133.46 - Direct Mail/George/SC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support
Monument Policy Group	\$120.00	7/15/2019 - \$120.00 - Digital Ads/Facebook, Menlo Pk, CA/Tavel/SCC/S. Independent Expenditure to Support
Total Expenditures	\$81,449.00	

http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=704&listtype=vendors

# **Candidate Spending**

Ann Davison Sattler/Neighbors for Ann: \$3,309.53

Expenditures by NEIGHBORS FOR ANN 2019 Election Cycle

As of 7/23/2019

Expenditures		
Name	Aggregate	Details
VERONICA GARCIA	\$13,581.44	3/1/2019 - \$2,400.00 - Staffii 3/15/2019 - \$2,400.00 - Staffii 4/22/2019 - \$600.00 - Staffii 4/22/2019 - \$600.00 - Staffii 5/18/2019 - \$600.00 - Staffii 5/31/2019 - \$3,000.00 - Staffii 6/12/2019 - \$100.00 - Mother Aeric 1: 8201 Lake City Way Seattle, Way 81134; Catering Suppli
FACEBOOK	\$3,309.53	3/21/2019 - \$50,00 - INKIND: Facebook: Online Advertising - Mar 3/22/2019 - \$122.00 - Online Advertising - Mar 3/25/2019 - \$125.00 - Online Advertising - Mar 3/25/2019 - \$250,00 - Online Advertising - Mar 3/25/2019 - \$250,00 - Online Advertising - Mar 3/29/2019 - \$400,00 - Online Advertising - Mar 4/4/2019 - \$160,07 - Online Advertising - Ap 4/15/2019 - \$600,00 - Online Advertising - Ap 4/15/2019 - \$600,00 - Online Advertising - Ap 5/6/2019 - \$600,00 - Online Advertising - Ap 6/4/2019 - \$498.83 - Online Advertising 5/3 - 7 5/2019 - \$447.84 - Online Advertising 6/3 - 7 5/2019 - \$447.84 - Online Advertising 6/3 - 7

http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=639&listtype=vendors

### Ari Hoffman/Hoffman for Seattle: \$1,429.71

Expenditures by HOFFMAN FOR SEATTLE 2019 Election Cycle

As of 7/23/2019

Expenditures | 12/11/2018 - \$53.95 - Squareup.com: Credit Card Reader | 12/5/2019 - \$44.90 - Lotties Lounge: Food and Beverages | 12/5/2019 - \$44.90 - Lotties Lounge: Food and Beverages | 12/5/2019 - \$44.91 - Sea. Reactorus: Event Food and Beverages | 12/5/2019 - \$44.91 - Signs on the Cheap; 50 Signs and 50 Wire Stakes | 12/5/2019 - \$44.91 - Signs on the Cheap; 50 Signs and 50 Wire Stakes | 12/5/2019 - \$29.01 - Sea. On the Cheap; 50 Signs and 50 Wire Stakes | 12/5/2019 - \$29.01 - Sea. On Eacebook: Online Advertising | 17/- 1/10 | 2/5/2019 - \$23.29 - Constant Contact: Email Services | 2/25/2019 - \$28.00 - Hong Kong Association of WA Foundation: Event Registration | 2/5/2019 - \$23.00 - Facebook: Online Advertising | 12/5 - 1/29 | 2/5/2019 - \$13.1 - Signs on the Cheap; 100 Signs | 3/12/2019 - \$25.00 - Facebook: Online Advertising | 12/5 - 1/29 | 2/5/2019 - \$13.1 - Signs on the Cheap; 100 Signs | 3/12/2019 - \$25.00 - Security Services NW Inc: Security | 3/12/2019 - \$25.00 - Security Services NW Inc: Security | 3/12/2019 - \$25.00 - Facebook: Online Ads | 17/2 - 2/11 | 3/12/2019 - \$37.00 - Business Cards | 3/12/2019 - \$37.00 - Business Cards | 3/12/2019 - \$47.00 - Facebook: Online Ads | 17/2 - 2/11 | 3/12/2019 - \$57.60 - Island Crust Cafe: Food and Beverages | 3/12/2019 - \$10.56 - Vista Print: Business Cards | 3/12/2019 - \$10.56 - Vista Print: Business Cards | 3/12/2019 - \$50.00 - Facebook: Online Ads | 17/4 - 2/18 | 3/12/2019 - \$523.18 - Signs on the Cheap: 100 Signs with wire stakes | 4/9/2019 - \$593.80 - Signsonthecheap.com: 100 Signs with wire stakes | 5/29/2019 - \$13.36 - Vista Print: Business Cards | 5/29/2019 - \$13.06.64 - Georgetown Ballroom: 15/2019 - 513.06 - Vernight Principus Maller Print: 2500 Business Cards | 5/29/2019 - \$13.06.64 - Georgetown Ballroom: 15/2019 - 513.06 - Vernight Principus Maller Print: Print Name Aggregate Details AMERICAN EXPRESS \$13,457.20

## http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=613&listtype=vendors

#### Isabelle Kerner/Kerner for Council: \$683.73

Expenditures by Kerner for Council 2019 Election Cycle

As of 7/23/2019

Expenditures		
Name	Aggregate	Details
KING COUNTY ELECTIONS	\$1,233.59	5/15/2019 - \$1,233.59 - Filing Fee
FACEBOOK INC.	\$683.73	3/29/2019 - \$25.00 - Online Ad 4/1/2019 - \$25.00 - Facebook Ad 4/1/2019 - \$35.50 - Facebook Ad 4/1/2019 - \$35.51 - Facebook Ad 4/3/2019 - \$35.00 - Facebook Ad 4/3/2019 - \$35.00 - Facebook Ad 4/6/2019 - \$35.00 - Facebook Ad 4/9/2019 - \$50.00 - Facebook Ad 4/9/2019 - \$50.00 - Facebook Ad 4/9/2019 - \$50.00 - Facebook Ad 5/10/2019 - \$65.55 - facebook/instagrama 480.5/01/2019 - 05/11/2019 5/3/1/2019 - \$18.73 - Facebook Ad 05/10/2019-05/30/2019 6/19/2019 - \$75.00 - FACEBOOK AD S0/2/2/2019-06/17/2019 6/19/2019 - \$75.00 - Facebook Ad \$6/18 - 6/28 7/1/2019 - \$10.94 - Facebook Ad \$6/18 - 6/28 7/1/2019 - \$75.00 - FACEBOOK AD S0 - 29 - July 3 7/1/2/2019 - \$125.00 - FACEBOOK ADS - 07/04-07/12

http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=629&listtype=vendors

## Eugene Burrus/Friends of Gene Burrus: \$500

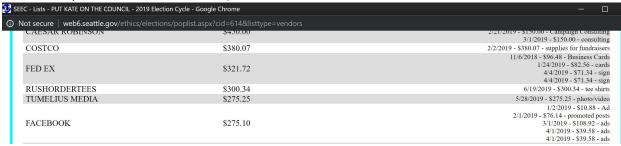
# Expenditures by FRIENDS OF GENE BURRUS 2019 Election Cycle

As of 7/23/2019

Expenditures		
Name	Aggregate	Details
EUGENE BURRUS	\$1,402.58	4/22/2019 - \$140.00 - INKIND: Gave a PO Box for campaign mailing purposes. 5/17/2019 - \$1,262.58 - INKIND: Candidate Filing Fee
FACEBOOK	\$500.00	6/5/2019 - \$100.00 - Campaign Facebook "post boost" was purchased 6/7/2019 - \$100.00 - Campaign Facebook "Post Boost" 6/26/2019 - \$100.00 - Facebook Post Boosted 7/2/2019 - \$100.00 - Boosted Facebook Post 7/12/2019 - \$100.00 - Boosted Facebook Post

http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=680&listtype=vendors

Kate Martin/Put Kate on the Council: \$275.10



http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=614&listtype=vendors

Christopher Rufo/Rufo for City Council: \$150

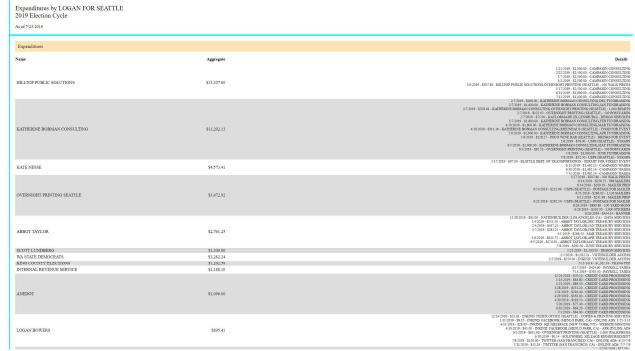
Expenditures by Rufo for City Council 2019 Election Cycle

As of 7/23/2019

Expenditures		
Name	Aggregate	Details
DOCUMENTARY FOUNDATION	\$10,000.00	12/10/2018 - \$10,000.00 - charitable contribution
UNION GOSLEP MISSION	\$5,600.00	12/10/2018 - \$5,600.00 - charitable donation
SASHA KOMATSUBARA	\$1,679.03	9/22/2018 - \$426.64 - Photography services 10/3/2018 - \$426.64 - Photography 10/29/2018 - \$825.75 - Photography
PHINNEY RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER	\$420.00	10/29/2018 - \$170.00 - Room rental for campaign launch event 10/29/2018 - \$250.00 - Deposit for room rental
CROWDSPRING	\$356.50	9/19/2018 - \$299.00 - Design services 9/19/2018 - \$57.50 - Design services
Expenses of \$50 or less	\$269.38	10/1/2018 - \$269.38 -
GODADDY	\$162.35	9/26/2018 - \$42.59 - Website fees 9/26/2018 - \$119.76 - Website fees
FACEBOOK	\$150.00	10/27/2018 - \$75.00 - Online Advertising 10/27/2018 - \$75.00 - Online Advertising
STARBUCKS	\$126.62	10/29/2018 - \$126.62 - Coffee for campaign launch event
M&M BALLOONS	\$118.13	10/29/2018 - \$118.13 - Balloons for campaign launch event

http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=612&listtype=vendors

### Logan Bowers/Logan for Seattle: \$54.15



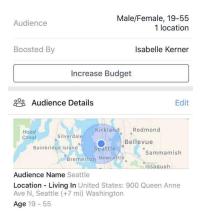
http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=625&listtype=vendors

Daniela Lipscomb-Eng/Daniela for Seattle: \$39.99



http://web6.seattle.gov/ethics/elections/poplist.aspx?cid=640&listtype=vendors

While the ads have been designed to influence Seattle City Council races, they also have potentially reached voters and Washingtonians outside of Seattle. See, for example, the geotargeting information provided to me (on Twitter) by Seattle City Council candidate Isabelle Kerner:



These ads potentially only scratch the surface of political ads sold by Facebook during 2019, after the settlement reached following the prior complaint. There may be extensive advertising buys in other municipalities, or which have simply been misreported by candidates and committees. The ads above are merely those which were purchased in relation to Seattle City Council races and which list Facebook as the vendor.

#### Evidence the Information has been Requested, but not Disclosed

On Tuesday, July 23 at approximately 11:15 AM I contacted Facebook, Inc. via their online support system. I used the system to contact both Facebook's Political and Government support and their Advertising/Business support. The content of my request is below (the images attached were similar to the images included above):

Hello,

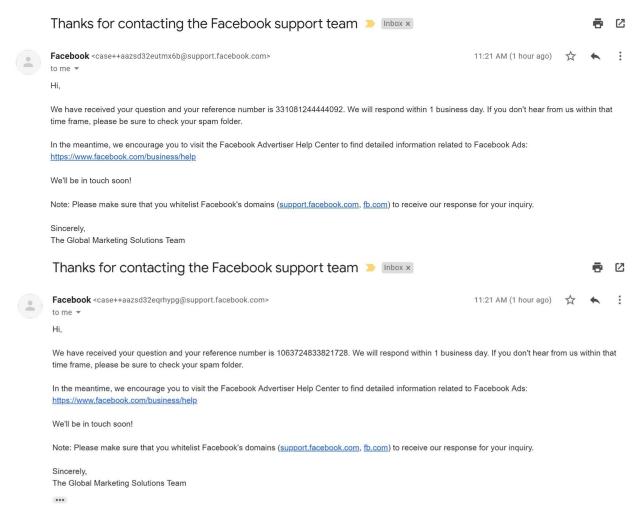
I would like copies of the disclosures required by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 42.17A.345) and the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 390-18-050) for the following political ads which have run for or by Seattle candidates during this year's election cycle.

- -- All ads run in 2019 by Seattle City Council candidates Ari Hoffman, Logan Bowers, Gene Burrus, Kate Martin, Chris Rufo, Ann Davison Sattler, Daniella Lipscomb-Eng, Isabelle Kerner.
- -- All ads run by the page Moms for Seattle, linked here: https://www.facebook.com/momsforseattle/
- -- Ads run in 2019 by the Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy (image of disclosure attached)
- -- Ads run in 2019 by SEIU 775 (image of disclosure attached)
- -- Ads run in 2019 by Unite Here Local 8 PAC (image of disclosure attached)
- -- Ads run in Washington in 2019 by Unite Here

I've also submitted a request with advertising/business support. You are required, by law, to allow inspection of these records.

Thanks!

Approximately five minutes after I contacted Facebook, I received confirmation that my request had been received, and assigned a number, via email at 11:21 AM. Because I filed the request using two of Facebook's support tools, I received two emails, images of which are included below:



At 12:30 on July 23, I received an email in response to my request via the Politics and Government support portal from Dean, a Facebook Client Support Analyst, informing me that my requests had been merged and would be handled by another analyst.



That email was followed up, at 12:55 PM on July 23, by an email from Erick with Facebook Client Support. Erick directed me to the Facebook Ad Library which does not contain the extent of the information required by the RCW and WAC, a fact which was the basis of Facebook's decision to cease selling political ads in Washington. I have included an image of the email below:

## Requesting Commercial Advertiser Disclosures for Washington State Political Ads | Job: 331081244444092 > Inbox x





Facebook <case++aazsd32eutmx6b@support.facebook.com> to me 🔻

12:55 PM (27 minutes ago)



Hi Tallman,

This is Erick with Facebook Client Support and I will be glad to assist you today.

It is to my understand that you are wanting to know more about political ads by the Seattle Candidates. You can find more information on that using our Ad

https://www.facebook.com/ads/library/?active\_status=all&ad\_type=political\_and\_issue\_ads&country=US&impression\_search\_field=has\_impressions\_lifetime

You can access all active ads through the Ad Library. It provides advertising transparency by offering a broad collection of all ads currently running from across

If you have any additional questions at the time feel free to reach out.

Thanks,

Facebook Client Support Analyst - To learn more about growing your business on Facebook visit: https://fb.me/learn-blueprint or http

I responded to Erick's email at 1:34 PM on July 23, requesting the specific information noted in RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050, and asking Erick if they would be able to supply me with that information. I also offered to travel, if necessary, to Facebook's Seattle office, or another Seattle location of their choosing, in order to get the information. An image of my email is below.



1:34 PM (0 minutes ago)





Hi Erick.

Thanks for getting back to me. You are correct that I'm looking for information on political ads purchased by Seattle candidates (and political committees). I'm specifically looking for the information required by Washington Administrative Code 390-18-050; that is, "description of the demographic information (e.g., age, gender, race, location, etc.) of the audiences targeted and reached, to the extent such information is collected by the commercial advertiser as part of its regular course of business, and the total number of impressions generated by the advertisement of communication." I'm also looking for the information required by RCW 42.17A.345; that is, "a) The names and addresses of persons from whom it accepted political advertising or electioneering communications; (b) The exact nature and extent of the services rendered; and (c) The total cost and the manner of payment for the services."

That specific information doesn't seem to be included in the Ad Library. Is there anyway you can supply it to me? If necessary, I'd be happy to go to Facebook's Seattle office, or another convenient Seattle location, to get the information or view the records.

Thanks again,

Tallman Trask

Erick responded by email at 2:36 PM on July 23 informing me that he would be "working with [his] team to review the request." I have included a copy of that email below:



At 3:30 PM on July 23 I responded to briefly thank Erick for continuing his work, and to gently remind Facebook of their obligation to supply the information "promptly." I have included an image of that email below:

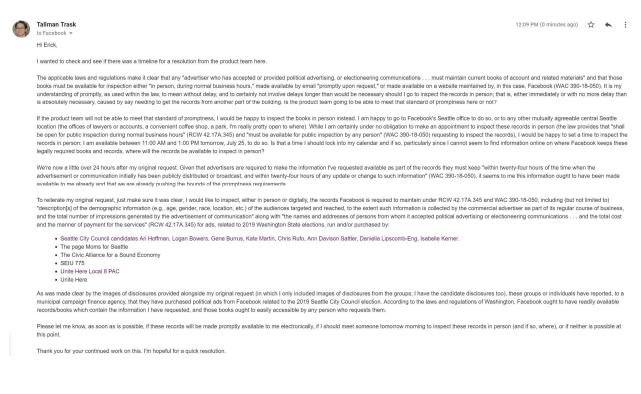


At 3:38 PM on July 23 I received a further response, letting me know that the product team is "working to get a resolution for me." I have included that email below:



The following day, July 24, having received no further information from Facebook, I followed up again. In a more extensive email sent at 12:09 PM, slightly more than 24 hours after I first requested the information, an image of which is included below, I reiterated my request for specific information on specific political ads which have been run in Washington. As a portion of that request, I again included names of the candidates and organizations who have reported, to the Seattle Ethics and Elections commission, purchases of advertising from Facebook related to the 2019 Seattle City Council elections. I also, by substantially quoting the text of WAC 390-18-050 and RCW 42.17A.345, made certain that Facebook was aware of the specific information I was requesting, to keep records of the specific information I was requesting and enter information into their books/make information available within 24 hours of ads beginning to run, and their obligation to provide access to those records "promptly upon request." I attempted, once again, to offer multiple options to Facebook on how they could provide me with access to the records, again offering to travel to their offices in Seattle or another Seattle location to inspect the records. I also asked Erick to provide me with a timeline for when

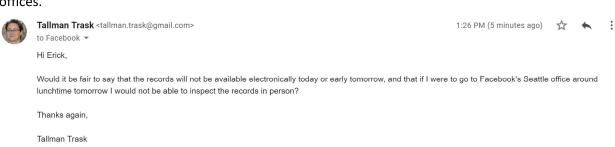
Facebook would be able to supply the information, or information on where I could inspect the records in person, or to let me know if neither of those would be possible to provide at this point.



About an hour later, just before 1:00 PM on July 24, I received a response indicating that there was "no firm timeline" for the production of the records I had requested.



Shortly before 1:30 PM on July 24, I briefly replied again asking for clarification on two items, asking if it was "fair to say" that the records would not be available on July 24 or early on July 25, and to confirm that records would not be available for inspection in person at Facebook's offices.



On the afternoon of July 24, I received a response from Facebook which made it clear that the records were not available to inspect in person, and continued to make me believe that the records not only have not been provided to me to me promptly, but will not be provided to me promptly.



It is clear that Facebook has an obligation to provide the information I requested in a timely manner in order to comply with the law, and to make it possible for the information to be accessible in person. Beyond that, it is the case that they ought to have the information readily accessible. Yet they have been unable, at this point, to supply me with the information required by RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050.

While I may be mistaken, I further believe that it is likely only the case that I have been able to get as close to the information as I have been able to because I am a Facebook verified political advertiser (though I have not purchased ads related to Washington elections since Facebook stated that they would no longer sell such ads) and have a history of purchasing ads using their platform. Whether do to my own knowledge of the platform and how to access support, or do to Facebook's own gatekeeping, I simply believe it would be a struggle for most Washingtonians to even begin to get information about political advertising, or to learn that Facebook will not allow people to inspect records in person.

I also feel that the reason Facebook cannot seem to provide the records in a timely fashion, either "promptly, upon request" or "in person during normal business hours" is because Facebook does not keep or maintain the required records in a form which can be shared, accessed, or inspected.

Given the lawsuit and settlement, there is simply no excuse for their inability to supply the information. Facebook is clearly aware of the requirements, and in fact claimed they had ceased to sell political ads because of them. It is clearly and obviously the case, however, that Facebook continues to sell political ads in Washington races and continues to be unable to meet the basic requirements of the law.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter, and please don't hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or require any further information. As much of this complaint is based on disclosures made to the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, I have also sent them a copy as a courtesy.

Tallman Trask