

John Weidenfeller replied Mon, 12 Aug 2019 at 3:41PM
to: "PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>
cc: julieparker@thurstonpud.org

Hi Tabatha,

Thank you for providing the email below and for the opportunity to respond to it. I have attached a response. I have copied Ms. Julie Parker on this email since she was mentioned in Mr. Saturn's complaint. Don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything else.

Respectfully,

John

John Weidenfeller
General Manager
Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County
1230 Ruddell Road SE
Lacey, WA 98503-5748
(360) 763-5838
Toll Free: (866) 357-8783

Letter to PDC RE Case No. 55699_August 9, 2019.pdf
1.09 MB

Commissioners

Linda Oosterman – District 1

Russell E. Olsen – District 2

Chris Stearns – District 3



Providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable service.

August 9, 2019

Public Disclosure Commissioner
PO BOX 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

Subject: Case #55699

Dear Public Disclosure Commission:

This letter responds to your email of August 5, 2019, requesting a response by August 12, 2019. Thank you for forwarding a copy of the complaint filed by Andrew Saturn against me alleging violation of RCW 42.17A.555 by authorizing use of public office or agency facilities to assist an election campaign. I serve as the General Manager of the Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County (Thurston PUD or District). Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the complaint filed by Andrew Saturn.

Linda Oosterman is approved to attend and represent Thurston County PUD at Thurston County, Lacey and Yelm Chamber of Commerce events as approved by the Thurston PUD Board of Commissioners. Her attendance to business meetings is upheld per RCW 54.12.080(4). Her involvement with this association is deemed a legal and common practice as most government agencies have memberships to both public and private organizations and associations for support purposes.

In response to the allegation that "[John Weidenfeller] and Julie Parker, the Assistant General Manager, are the individuals ultimately responsible for approving expenditures at the PUD," this is an accurate statement. I am responsible for reviewing and approving expenditures, including Commissioner expenses. Linda Oosterman attends Thurston County Chamber of Commerce meetings as part of her duties as a Thurston PUD Commissioner. Commissioners are also approved to attend as alternate delegates, if the primary delegate is unable to attend. Her attendance and any expenses incurred are considered reimbursable expenses, and any such expenses from her attendance would not have raised any concerns from me or from Assistant General Manager Julie Parker. On paper, Commissioner Oosterman was acting within the scope of her duties.

I was not present at the Thurston Chamber of Commerce meeting and had no knowledge of how or in what capacity Commissioner Oosterman conducted herself during the event.

Any conduct by individual employees and Commissioners outside of election rules, regulations and PUD policies and procedures are not a reflection of Thurston PUD practices or core beliefs.

1230 Ruddell Rd. SE, Lacey, WA 98503

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Our first knowledge of Commissioner Oosterman's alleged conduct at the Chamber event was brought forward when we received Mr. Saturn's first wave of complaints through the PDC. I debriefed affected staff members with an overview of related election laws and policies to ensure my team was equipped with the appropriate level of knowledge.

Since the allegations have come forward, Commissioner Oosterman has paid the full amount for the Chamber event in question. (Attachment 1)

In summary, I did not authorize the use of public funds to assist an election campaign. I authorized the payment of her documented duties as Commissioner of Thurston PUD.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Weidenfeller

RECEIPT		DATE <u>7/12/19</u>	No. <u>980122</u>
RECEIVED FROM <u>L. Oosterman</u>		\$ <u>25.00</u>	
		10/10/18 KM DOLLARS	
<input type="radio"/> FOR RENT <input checked="" type="radio"/> FOR <u>reimb. chamber lunch</u>		<u>✓</u> # <u>3739</u>	
ACCOUNT		<input type="radio"/> CASH <input checked="" type="radio"/> CHECK <input type="radio"/> MONEY ORDER <input type="radio"/> CREDIT CARD	FROM _____ TO _____ BY <u>K. Miller</u>
PAYMENT	<u>25.00</u>		
BAL. DUE		3-11	

LINDA L OOSTERMAN

3739

98-8101/3251

7.12.19 DATE

CHECK ARMOR
FACED PROTECTION

Pay to the
Order of

Shawston PUD

\$ 25.00

Twenty-five and 00/100

Dollars

Photo
Safe
Deposit
Box on back

Olympia Branch
800-258-3115
P.O. Box 718
Olympia, WA 98507-0718

PRIME ADVANTAGE CLUB

TwinStar
CREDIT UNION

Check Verification: 360-754-8228 or 1-800-782-8228

For 10/10/18 Chamber Lunch Linda L Oosterman

1: [REDACTED] :

[REDACTED]

Member's Name