

Dear Mr. Blackthorn,

I write to respond to Ms. Kendra Shirley's complaint dated August 10, 2019. We are providing this response in a best-faith effort, given that several of Ms. Shirley's complaints are either vague or so lacking in information to preclude a specific response. However, none of Ms. Shirley's complaints are remotely meritorious.

The first complaint regards alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.320, which requires sponsorship disclosures on paid political advertising. Ms. Shirley fails to demonstrate that the political communications – which appear to constitute an intentionally-unconvincing satirical Photoshop edit, and a voter's guide created in Microsoft Word or similar – were paid or constitute in-kind contributions of monetary value. More importantly, Ms. Shirley fails to establish a nexus between the screenshots and the campaign committee or any campaign materials. If Ms. Shirley wishes to provide evidence that the creator of the image should have reported an independent expenditure, she would need to provide evidence for this assertion and direct the complaint toward the appropriate third-party entity, not Ms. Macias' campaign committee. This complaint fails on every level.

The second complaint alleges violations of RCW 42.17A.335, which prohibits campaign committees from engaging in libelous or defamatory communications. This complaint relates to a voter's guide that presents biographical and issue position information about all three primary candidates in this race, including Ms. Shirely's preferred candidate, Mr. Kent

Gartrell. For this complaint, Ms. Shirley seems to allege that every declarative sentence written about Mr. Gartrell is false, without specifying why, let alone demonstrating that they reach the standards of defamation or libel per se. More importantly, Ms. Shirley again relies on communications that did not originate from the campaign committee or campaign materials.

In summary, even generously construed, both of Ms. Shirley's complaints fail to reach the basic threshold of viability. Ms. Shirley's complaint presents as a disingenuous attempt to chill the First Amendment rights of community members who disagree with her preferred candidate's political views and character. Hopefully, Ms. Shirley will not abuse the PDC complaint process further.

We appreciate the Public Disclosure Commission's diligence in these matters.

Best regards,

Victoria

Victoria Guerrero
Treasurer
Friends of Eliana