

Respondent Name
Mike Sheetz
Complainant Name
Jeffrey Brittig
Complaint Description
<p><u>Jeffrey.brittig</u> reported via the portal Fri, 25 Oct 2019 at 7:46AM</p> <p>Incumbent Mason County Fire District 6 (MCFD 6) Commissioner Mike Sheetz violated RCW 42.17A.555 when he, or MCFD 6 used MCFD 6 facilities to aid his re-election. Facilities include: agency equipment, buildings, employees, work time, and agency publications.</p> <p>1. Sheetz used a Facebook page published by MCFD 6 to aid his campaign for re-election.</p> <p>a. PDC Interpretation 04-02 states that agency publications may not be used to support or oppose a candidate.</p> <p>b. <u>Sheetz</u> did this in a way that was not an objective or fair presentation of the facts, and contained inflammatory language and indented sentences to scare the citizens in his electorate.</p> <p>c. The Oct 11, 2019 Facebook post is at Exhibit A and contains the following language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. “wouldn’t you want us [MCFD 6] to have all the current available, best tools and equipment to help you?” ii. “something Ms. Ozaki [Sheetz’s opponent] has never done” iii. “The scary part is he supports Ms. Ozaki” iv. “We [the agency] have a lot of questions about Ms. Ozaki, that remain unanswered” v. “I feel like she is being pushed by disgruntled community members to take a position of power solely to get revenge. I believe this WILL hurt your emergency services in Union”. vi. Would you vote for an armchair quarterback, getting information from disgruntled ex members of the fire department” vii. Exhibit A (MCFD 6 Facebook post) purports to be unofficial; however Exhibit B shows that this Facebook page is the agency’s primary method of communicating electronically to the public. <p>1. Exhibit B shows that this was a publication of the agency because of its normal and regular use as an official means to communicate with the public.</p> <p>2. Among other factors to consider are the timing, tone, and tenor of this October 11, 2019 post by candidate Sheetz on the agency’s Facebook page so close to the election.</p> <p>3. Commissioner Sheetz, as an elected official, should also have clarified that he was speaking on his own behalf. Instead, he made statements as if the MCFD 6 was endorsing his re-election campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> viii. Finally, Section 703, Chapter 204, Laws of 2010 – “2010 PSA Law”: No municipal officer may speak or appear in a public service announcement that is distributed in any form whatsoever during the period beginning January 1st and continuing through the general election if that official or officer is a candidate. <p>2. Commissioner Sheetz used MCFD 6 volunteer employees, wearing agency-issued uniforms (i.e., shirts, hats, jackets, patches, and logos) and used MCFD 6 facilities to stage a photo to assist his campaign. (see attached Flyer as Exhibit C)</p>

- a. PDC Interpretation 04-02 states that public facilities may not be used to support or oppose a candidate. This includes agency equipment, buildings, employee work time, and uniforms.
 - b. Agency employees shall not make special arrangements for or to “stage” the taking of an agency photo in uniform so the photo can be used for campaign purposes.
 - c. Candidates are not allowed to pressure or condone employees' use of agency facilities, time or resources to support a candidate.
- 3. Commissioner Sheetz coordinated his campaign activities with the entity’s non-profit corporation (the Union Firefighters Association) to support his campaign. Sheetz and the non-profit corporation willfully and intentionally acted to conceal the identity of the non-profit corporation.**
- a. The non-profit Union Firefighters Association’s By-laws state, “*This Association is an organization of those on the current MCFD#6 roster*” (**Exhibit D**).
 - b. This non-profit changed their identity in the Sheetz election Flyer (**Exhibit C**) and deceptively called themselves the “*Union Volunteer Firefighters*” instead of their true identity which is the Union Firefighters Association.
 - c. The Union Volunteer Firefighters is an opposition group to Mr. Sheetz who support opposition candidate Ms. Ozaki but have no affiliation or coordination with her campaign. (**Exhibit E**)
 - d. Aggravating factors include a letter sent by the non-profit Union Firefighters Association (under the guise of current Union Volunteer Firefighters) to the address of the Union Volunteer Firefighters group supporting Ozaki using the same signatures as were in the flyer to further muddy the waters and conceal their identity as a non-profit organization supporting Commissioner Sheetz. (**Exhibit F**).

Jeffrey.brittig replied Fri, 25 2019 at 1:11PM
to: "PDC Support" cdc@cdc.wa.gov

Sheetz Complaint Exhibits Attached

 [Sheetz Exhibits.zip](#)

Jeffrey.brittig replied Fri, 25 2019 at 1:11PM
to: "PDC Support" <cdc@cdc.wa.gov>

Please strike 1 b "and indented sentences" and replace with "intended".

Thank you,

Jeff Brittig

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

The actions of Mike Sheetz and Mason County Fire District 6 (MCFD 6) have compromised an on-going election.

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

Attachment function does not work, please contact me and I will send the exhibits under separate cover.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

See narrative below

Certification (Complainant)

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.