



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

December 19, 2019

Delivered electronically to "sbabich@rentonrfa.org and Brian@snurelaw.com"

Subject: Complaint filed by Marcie Maxwell, PDC Case 60381

Dear Renton Regional Fire Authority Officials:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Marcie Maxwell concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Marcie Maxwell, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff is reminding you about the importance of prohibitions of using commissioners and facilities to support or oppose any candidate or ballot proposition, and encourage you to not feature any elected officials in business-related communications or publications concerning relevant RRFA issues when that official is up for election or re-election. PDC staff expects in the future that you will refrain from using any elected official that is up for election or re-election in business related communications or publications in order to be in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

If you have questions, you may contact Tabitha Townsend at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s

Tabitha Townsend
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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December 19, 2019

Delivered electronically to “marcie.maxwell@live.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Renton Regional Fire Authority Officials, PDC Case 60381

Dear Marcie Maxwell:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on November 21, 2019. The complaint alleged that Renton Regional Fire Authority Officials (RRFA) (Respondent), public officials in the Fire Districts comprising the RRFA may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 for misuse of public facilities by publishing political advertising in support or opposition of a candidate up for election or re-election in the 2019 election cycle.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint to determine whether a formal investigation or enforcement action is warranted. Staff reviewed all attachments submitted with the complaint, the statute, rules, and PDC Interpretation 04-02 “Guidelines for Local Government Agencies in Election Campaigns,” and the December 9, 2019, response from Brian Snure, Attorney for the Renton Regional Fire Authority Officials.

Based on staff’s review, we found the following:

- In October of 2019 the RRFA published the first annual mailer that included a Public Service Announcement from the RRFA Board Chair, Armondo Pavone, who was up for election for the elected office of Mayor of the City of Renton in the 2019 election cycle.
- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.555 the Respondent is prohibited from using public funds and facilities to support or oppose any candidate or ballot proposition.
- The Message from the Board Chair, Armondo Pavone, did not mention the 2019 election or his campaign for Mayor of the City of Renton, it was similar to the greeting printed in the 2018 Annual Report, which is published on the website under annual reports (2018).

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, there is no evidence that supports finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

However, the PDC staff is reminding the Renton Regional Fire Authority Officials about the prohibitions of using commissioners and facilities to support or oppose any candidate or ballot proposition, and encouraged the RRFA to not feature any elected officials in RRFA business related communications or publications concerning relevant RRFA issues when that official is up for election or re-election.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Tabitha Townsend at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s

Tabitha Townsend
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Renton Regional Fire Authority