



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](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdcc.wa.gov](http://www.pdcc.wa.gov)

June 9, 2020

Sent electronically to Glen Morgan and Kevin Schofield at [glen@wethegoverned.com](mailto:glen@wethegoverned.com) and [kevinsch@sccinsight.com](mailto:kevinsch@sccinsight.com)

Subject: Complaints regarding Kshama Sawant, PDC Case 65026

Messrs. Morgan and Schofield:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its investigation of your complaints received on February 11, 2020 against Councilmember Kshama Sawant. Your complaint(s) alleged that Kshama Sawant, an incumbent City Councilmember for the City of Seattle, committed violations of RCW 42.17A.

Specifically, your complaints alleged that Kshama Sawant (Respondent) may have:

1. Misused public facilities to support a ballot proposition/campaign - (RCW 42.17A.555). You provided receipts/documents showing the City of Seattle's reimbursements related to the production of flyers and posters associated with the Tax Amazon 2020 Committee, to document the alleged violations. You also provided a copy of the Notice of Charges filed against Councilmember Kshama Sawant by the City of Seattle's Ethics and Election Commission (SECC).

**RCW 42.17A.555** states, in part: "No elective official nor any employee of his or her office nor any person appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition."

PDC staff reviewed your complaint(s), the response from Kshama Sawant, and the appropriate reports filed by the respondent with the PDC.

As a result of the investigation, staff found the following:

*Alleged use of public facilities to support a ballot proposition/campaign.*

- You provided receipts/documents showing the City of Seattle's reimbursements related to the production of flyers and posters associated with the Tax Amazon 2020 Committee, including a copy of

the Notice of Charges filed against Councilmember Kshama Sawant by the City of Seattle's Ethics and Elections Commission (SECC) to document the alleged violations (RCW 42.17A.555).

- The alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.555 are substantially similar to the Notice of Charges filed by the City of Seattle's Ethics and Elections Commission (SECC).
- On or about February 10, 2020, the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SECC), by way of its Executive Director Wayne Barnett, filed a Notice of Charges (Case No. 20-0116-1) against Councilmember Kshama Sawant containing allegations substantially similar to the allegations in your complaint(s).

Staff also reviewed whether Councilmember Kshama Sawant may have used public facilities to engage in lobbying not permitted under RCW 42.17A.635, but found no such evidence.

Based on the above, the PDC will defer this matter to the SEEC for adjudication/disposition of your allegation(s) concerning the improper use of public facilities by Councilmember Kshama Sawant.

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina, Compliance Officer, at (360) 753-1111, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Peter Lavallee*

Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Derry and Dmitri Iglitzin, Attorneys for Kshama Sawant