



**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.pdcc.wa.gov

March 23, 2020

Delivered electronically to “koswlp913@gmail.com, papabutch@koswradio.com and cdingler@osgov.com”

Subject: Complaint filed by Donald Williams, PDC Case 65295

Dear City of Ocean Shores Officials:

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

As noted in the letter to Donald Williams, 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 monitoring and informing staff and volunteers of the policies regarding restrictions on use of facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures, including school levies and bonds. PDC staff expects in the future that you that the review and enforcement of these policies is as important as the initial handbook and guideline notifications in accordance with PDC laws and rules.

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

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s

Tabitha Townsend
Compliance Coordinator

/s

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director



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March 23, 2020

Delivered electronically to “dsw1222@earthlink.net”

Subject: Complaint regarding City of Ocean Shores Officials, PDC Case 65295

Dear Donald Williams:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on February 14, 2020. The complaint alleged that City of Ocean Shores Officials, public agency officials, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 for misuse of public facilities to either appose or support a candidate or ballot measure.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements and the response provided by the Respondent to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- Pursuant to RCW 42.17A.555 the Respondent is not allowed to or authorize any anyone else to use facilities to either support or oppose a candidate or ballot measure.
- Radio station KOSW is owned by the City of Ocean Shores and is run by volunteers.
- On February 6, 2020 temporary, fill-in DJ Mr. Canfield was on air and gave information about the local school Levy for the February 11, 2020 election; he gave costs and information as allowed; then at the end of the discussion urged listeners to vote yes on the Levy.
- After receiving the complaint from the PDC the station, KOSW, notified DJ Canfield of the violation and suspended his volunteer DJ duties in accordance with the agreements all volunteer DJs sign before being allowed on the air.
- The station has guidelines and rules in place prohibiting the misuse of facilities and expression of political views on air.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, the misuse of facilities by a volunteer DJ does not appear to be a violation that warrants further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding City of Ocean Shores Officials about the importance of monitoring and informing staff and volunteers of the policies regarding restrictions on use of facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures, including school levies and bonds; the review and enforcement of these policies is as important as the initial handbook and guideline notifications.

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 or 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: City of Ocean Shores Officials