

Mark Lamb replied (Tue, 27 Oct 2020 at 11:40 AM)

To: "PDC Support" <pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov>, evergreenprogress.washington@gmail.com  
Cc: jeffdavis@madisoncorp.biz, brettbader@madisoncorp.biz, mark@northcreeklaw.com

Kurt,

My response is below, sorry for any confusion with the two emails.

Kurt,

I have reviewed the complaint in question and have the following response.

The mailer is neither defamatory nor libelous and thus the PDC has no jurisdiction over the political speech contained in it.

Sharon Shewmake called the march by Young Activists of Whatcom County "excellent" on Twitter as accurately depicted in the mail piece.

Young Activists of Whatcom County believes "All Cops are Bastards". The mailer makes this clear by spelling out the acronym A.C.A.B which is occasionally confused with the more sedate "All Cops are Bad". Young Activists of Whatcom County takes particular exception to this conflation and expounds on it at some length on their website (see below):

***"What does ACAB stand for?"***

***"ACAB stands for "All Cops Are B\*stards". It doesn't stand for "all cops are bad". There is a very large difference between the two which is explained further below."***

***"What does it mean?"***

***"In this usage, the word "bastard" is not defined as the normal curse word. Here, the word is derived from the term "bastardize", which is synonymous with "to corrupt". The phrase "All Cops Are B\*stards" does not mean that all cops are evil. It does not mean that individual cops are incapable of good deeds. Rather, it highlights the fact that the system is corrupt and beyond reform. There are no "good" cops, as they stand beside the unjust actions of the institution and continue to harm Black people disproportionately."***

Source: <https://bellinghammetronews.com/news/young-activists-of-whatcom-county-yawc-has-acab-section-on-official-website/>

The march in question was under the banner of BLM which believes:

**We know that police don't keep us safe — and as long as we continue to pump money into our corrupt criminal justice system at the expense of housing, health, and education investments — we will never be truly safe.**

**That's why we are calling to #DefundPolice and #InvestInCommunities.**

Source <https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-defunding-the-police-really-means/>

Ms. Shewmake could have criticized either BLM or Young Activists of Whatcom County for these anti-police statements but she has instead applauded both.

I believe this concludes the matter but feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss further.

Best,

Mark

## **Mark Lamb**

**The North Creek Law Firm**

A Professional Corporation

12900 NE 180<sup>th</sup> Street

Suite #235

Bothell, WA 98011

(425) 368-4238

(425) 489-2824 (FAX)

[www.northcreeklaw.com](http://www.northcreeklaw.com)

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