



**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

October 21, 2020

Delivered electronically to “dalew@co.adams.wa.us and randyf@co.adams.wa.us”

Subject: Complaint filed by Sean Bates, PDC Case 78009

Dear Dale Wagner:

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

As noted in the letter to Sean Bates, 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.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), this serves as a formal written warning concerning the misuse of public facilities. Staff expects you to not misuse public facilities to either support or oppose candidates or ballot propositions in the future. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or 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,

Electronically signed

Tabitha Townsend
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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October 21, 2020

Delivered electronically to “seanoneilly@hotmail.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Dale Wagner, PDC Case 78009

Dear Sean Bates:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on October 11, 2020. The complaint alleged that Dale Wagner, Adams County Sheriff, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by posting personal political support and opposition on the Adams County Sheriff Department’s Facebook page.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements; the responses 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 use public facilities to support or oppose any candidates or ballot propositions.
- The Respondent posted to the Adams County Sheriff Department’s Facebook page supporting Dan Blankenship and Jay Weise, two candidates running in the area for County Commissioner.
- The Respondent posted to the Facebook page support for Dan Blankenship and Mark Schoesler, with a picture of all three, the Respondent and both candidates, in t-shirts supporting Dan Blankenship’s campaign.
- The Respondent included on the Facebook page opposition to a current County Commissioner; although the post did not specifically identify the candidate there was enough information to infer the identity of the aforementioned.
- The Respondent removed one of the Facebook posts upon receipt of the complaint.
- The other Facebook post was removed soon thereafter, and the Respondent posted an apology to the Adams County Sheriff Department’s Facebook page.

Based on our findings staff has determined that, in this instance, the misuse of public facilities does not amount to a violation that warrants further investigation.

Pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), however, Dale Wagner will receive a formal written warning concerning the misuse of public facilities. The formal written warning will include staff’s expectation that Dale Wagner will not use public facilities to either support or oppose

candidates or ballot propositions in the future. The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

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,

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed

Tabitha Townsend
Compliance Coordinator

Electronically signed

Peter Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Dale Wagner, Respondent
Randy Flyckt, Adams County Prosecutor