

November 4, 2020

Public Disclosure Commission
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Public Disclosure Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the complaint filed by Robert Parker on 10/14/20. I believe there is some confusion concerning the rules around use of public spaces. As soon as this issue was brought to our attention, we erred on the side of caution and removed all photos/posts where there might be a perception of a possible violation.

The photo posted to my Instagram account was taken from my classroom but taken and posted on my personal cell phone during non-work hours. In the past I have posted images of myself on my personal Facebook. As a first time candidate, I did not realize the oversight of posting this to my campaign account. As soon as the complaint was brought to my attention, I took the photo down and was careful to not use any photos from day job further on my campaign social media.

The photo taken inside my school was taken early this year, on a weekend, and with the permission of the school admin and superintendent (See page 2). There is confusion around the rules around use of the classroom if it's freely available to the public and not using any public resources (using a personal phone or campaign-paid photographer), but as soon as this issue was brought to our attention, we erred again on the side of caution by removing the photo from all public spaces, campaign communications, etc.

We take full responsibility for our misunderstanding of the rules and did what we could to rectify the situation by discontinuing use as soon as it was brought to our attention.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our explanation,

Sincerely,

Jani Hitchen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **MATTHEW YARKOSKY**
Date: Sat, Oct 31, 2020 at 9:55 AM
Subject: Permission Clarifications
To: <jhitchen@electjanihitchen.com>

Jani,

I just wanted to clarify that you had asked about taking pictures at our school last year. I had given permission as long as you did three things: not identify students, not identify the school, and ask permission from Superintendent Seigel as well. You did all three of those things and thus you had my permission to take pictures at our school. Let me know if you need any further clarification!

Matt Yarkosky

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Matt Yarkosky
Principal
Graham-Kapowsin High School
253-800-6191 *New Number

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Jani Hitchen
jhitchen@electjanihitchen.com
Candidate for Pierce County Council District 6
Together making a better Pierce County