



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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November 5, 2021

Delivered electronically to "dannycole2005@gmail.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Mead School District Officials and Jolene Andres, PDC Case 98873

Dear Lee Daniel Cole:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on September 24, 2021. Your complaint alleged Mead School District Officials may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by posting to the District's Facebook page, information favorable to Carmen Green, a Mead School District board member and candidate for re-election in 2021.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and interpretations; and the responses provided by Mead School District Officials, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- Todd Zeidler, Public Information Officer for Mead School District, stated information supporting Carmen Green was inadvertently posted to the District's Facebook page by Jolene Andres, a Mead School District employee who, in the past, served as an administrator for the District's Facebook page.
- The Facebook story was posted on September 10, 2021. A community member discovered the Facebook story and alerted District administrators, who removed the post immediately. The post was viewable on the District's Facebook page for approximately two hours. Mr. Zeidler said Ms. Andres mistakenly thought she was sharing the post on her personal Facebook page.
- Mr. Zeidler stated he conducted a training session with Ms. Andres concerning how to separate personal posts from posts on the District's pages and is developing a deeper training for employees who have been granted administrative access to the District's social media pages.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, the posting of information supporting Carmen Green, a candidate for Mead School District School Board, does not amount to a finding of a violation warranting further investigation.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), Mead School District Officials and Jolene Andres will receive a formal written warning concerning the use of the District's Facebook page to assist Carmen Green's 2021 campaign for re-election to the Mead School Board. The formal written warning will include staff's expectation that Mead School District Officials will ensure a similar mistake does not happen 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 Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically Signed Philip E. Stutzman

Phil Stutzman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

Electronically Signed Peter Frey Lavallee

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Mead School District Officials and Jolene Andres