



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: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

March 17, 2022

Sent electronically to William Armacost at soundcutters@hotmail.com

Subject: Complaint filed by Marsha Maguire, PDC Case 102111

Dear Mr. Armacost:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Marsha Maguire concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) on December 31, 2021.

As noted below in the letter to Ms. Maguire, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into this allegation or take further enforcement action in this matter.

If you have questions, you may contact Erick Agina, Compliance Officer at (360) 586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/_____
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer

s/_____
Kim Bradford, Deputy Director for
Peter Lavalley, Executive Director



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March 17, 2022

Sent electronically to Marsha Maguire at mmaguireb3@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Mayor William Armacost, PDC Case 102111

Dear Ms. Maguire:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on December 31, 2021. The complaint alleged that William Armacost, the former Mayor of the City of Sequim, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using public facilities to promote a candidate or ballot proposition.

PDC staff reviewed the allegation listed in the complaint to determine whether a formal investigation or enforcement action is warranted. Staff reviewed the attachment(s) submitted with the complaint, the relevant statutes(s) and rules; PDC Interpretation 04-02 "Guidelines for Local Government Agencies in Election Campaigns," and the January 26, 2022, and March 1, 2022, responses from William Armacost, former Mayor of the City of Sequim.

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

- On or about November 18, 2021, former Mayor Armacost, in response to a public records request submitted to the City of Sequim, conducted a search on his personal cell phone for responsive documents/information. The search did not produce the record. Former Mayor Armacost submitted a declaration acknowledging that he sent the message in question in the form of a text message, and attesting that the message had since been deleted per his normal text message retention practices.
- In his responses to the complaint, received by PDC staff on January 26, 2022, and March 1, 2022, former Mayor Armacost stated: "We are not provided a cell phone for city business. The Sequim City website gives citizens a phone number that is forwarded to our personal cell phone. We are NOT given a stipend to pay for our personal cell phone. We are totally

responsible for this cost on our own.” Mr. Armacost further stated: “My message response was from a text from Julie to my personal cell phone.”

- Staff noted that former Mayor Armacost reported using only his personal cell phone in the receipt of the message from “Julie” and his response to her. He did not have a cell phone issued and paid for by the City of Sequim, nor was any evidence found that city facilities were used to facilitate the conversation with “Julie” in violation of the statutory requirements/prohibitions delineated in RCW 42.17A.555 against the use of public facilities to promote a candidate or ballot proposition.

Based on the above review, staff has determined that, in this instance, no evidence supports a finding of a violation that warrants further investigation.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed your complaint in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1)(a).

If you have questions, you may contact me at (360) 586-2869, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at erick.agina@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

s/ _____
Erick Agina, Compliance Officer

s/ _____
Kim Bradford, Deputy Director for
Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: William Armacost

