

Respondent Names
Spokane County Sherriff Ozzie Knezovich
Complainant Name
Paul Dillon
Complaint Description
<p>Jamespauldillon 7 Mar 2022 at 3:57 PM</p> <p>Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich has used public facilities to assist a candidate's campaign for Spokane County Commission in violation of RCW 42.17A.555 by posting a YouTube video (available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UgxCoH6fsU) which amounts to an independent expenditure opposing the candidacy of a candidate for County Commission. As there is only one other candidate for that district at the time the video was made, negative comments and attacks directed at one candidate is assistance to the other candidate.</p> <p>From 7:30 to 8:50 of this video, Sheriff Knezovich attacks Amber Waldref, a candidate for Spokane County Commission, clearly using official County facilities. As the video shows, Sheriff Knezovich is in his official uniform, and the video plainly uses both his elected title and the logo of the Spokane County Sheriffs office in the opening shot. Presumably, another person - likely a county employee - is operating the camera, and used official staff time and resources to edit the video and post it to YouTube on Friday, February 18, 2022.</p> <p>RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits the use by any elective official of public resources to, directly or indirectly, assist a campaign for election of any person to any office. Official resources includes, without limitation, the use of funds, facilities, personnel, or other official resources, such as the use of equipment, the use of employees of the office or agency during working hours, office space, and publications of the office or agency.</p> <p>Amber Waldref is a Democrat running for Spokane County Commission. Michael Cathcart is a Republican also running for Spokane County Commission. Both candidacies are shown on the PDC's candidate filing website: https://www.pdc.wa.gov/browse/more-ways-to-follow-the-money/candidates/county?category=Candidates</p> <p>Waldref and Cathcart are the only candidates for Spokane County Commission's district 2.</p> <p>The video attacks 9 Democrats and three African American members of the public who are working for police reforms in Spokane. No Republicans are mentioned in the video.</p> <p>This video and its attacks targeted at candidate Waldref are an effort by Sheriff Knezovich to assist Mr. Cathcart in his election to County Commission, and are essentially an independent expenditure using County facilities, and therefore constitutes a violation of RCW 42.17A.555.</p>

There are no valid exceptions to the prohibition on the use of public facilities for campaign purposes here - this is not an action taken at an open public meeting by members of an elected legislative body or by an elected board, council, or commission; it is not a statement by an elected official in support of or in opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or in response to a specific inquiry; and it is not an activity which is a part of the normal or regular conduct of the office or agency, as the term is defined in the PDC's regulations. See WAC 390-05-273.

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

This video and its attacks targeted against Spokane County Commissioner candidate Amber Waldref are an effort by Sheriff Knezovich to assist Michael Cathcart in his election to Spokane County Commission and are essentially an independent expenditure using County facilities, and therefore constitutes a violation of RCW 42.17A.555.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found

Here is the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UgxCoH6fsU>

From 7:30 to 8:50 of this video, Sheriff Knezovich attacks Amber Waldref, a candidate for Spokane County Commission, clearly using official County facilities.

I have also attached the relevant section of video as well as an image from the video.

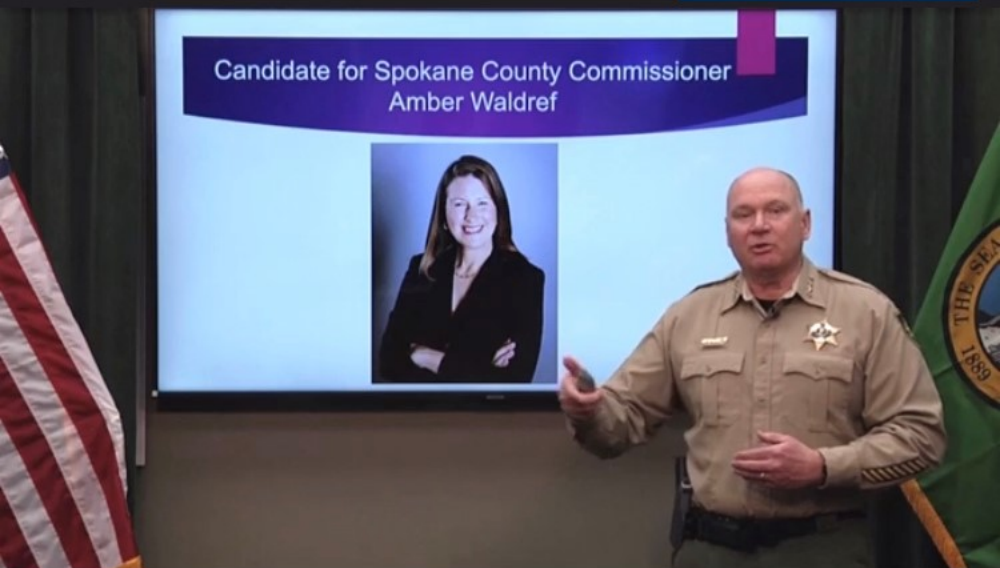
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich OKnezovich@spokanesherriff.org

Spokane County Commissioner candidate Amber Waldref amber.spokane@gmail.com

Certification (Complainant)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



(Part 2/2) Sheriff Knezovich addresses Shootings/Violent Crime in our Community & what You can do.

1.3K views · 2 weeks ago



49



Dislike



Share



Save



Report



SpokaneSheriff

1.3K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE