

**Darrin E. Wallace** reported via email (Wed, 30 Nov 2022 at 10:17 AM)

To: "'pdc@pdc.wa.gov'" [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov)

Cc: [rscott@graysharbor.us](mailto:rscott@graysharbor.us), [baj@graysharbor.us](mailto:baj@graysharbor.us), [edmcgowan@graysharbor.us](mailto:edmcgowan@graysharbor.us), [mtaylor@graysharbor.us](mailto:mtaylor@graysharbor.us)

External Email

Good morning,

Attached is the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office response to Michael Catlett's complaint against Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office Employees mentioned in complaint #4, #5, #6, and #7. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

v/r,

Darrin Wallace

This letter is in response to Michael Catlett's Public Disclosure Commission complaint dated November 7, 2022. This response is for Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office employees Sheriff Rick Scott (Complaint #4), Chief Deputy Darrin Wallace (Complaint #5), Deputy Director Ed McGowan (Complaint #6), and Support Specialist Michelle Taylor (Complaint #7).

**Complaint #4:**

In the email Sheriff Rick Scott sent to all Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office staff. Sheriff Scott simply provided an explanation on why he was not running for re-election due to medical diagnosis and that he would finish out his term to the end of the year. Sheriff Scott informed staff members that Chief Darrin Wallace was going to file to run for Sheriff and that he was both endorsing and supporting him in that endeavor. At no time did Sheriff Scott ask or solicit any staff members to support Chief Darrin Wallace, only that he was supporting him. The email was sent to Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office employees and was intended for internal use only and not for public dissemination. The email was informational in nature and not designed for political influence.

**Complaint #5:**

In the email Chief Darrin Wallace sent to Washington State Attorney General Attorney Katharine Hemann. Chief Darrin Wallace only provided an explanation of his slow response in reference to follow up on a cold case they were working on, to get funding for genealogy testing on an unidentified suspect in the case. At no time did Chief Wallace ask or solicit Katharine Hemann to support him or his campaign for election to Sheriff. Chief Darrin Wallace just informed her that he was running for Sheriff. It should also be noted that Katharine Hemann was not a resident of Grays Harbor County and has no ties to Grays Harbor County residents. The email was intended to be only between Chief Darrin Wallace and Katharine Hemann and not intended for public disclosure. The email was informational in nature and did not have any political purpose behind it.

**Complaint #6:**

In the email Deputy Director Ed McGowan sent to all Grays Harbor Deputy Sheriff's Association members. Deputy Director McGowan announced that Sheriff Scott was retiring, and that Chief Darrin Wallace stepped up to run for Sheriff and that an association member requested the Grays Harbor Deputy Sheriff's Association endorse Chief Darrin Wallace for Sheriff. Deputy Director McGowan added that it had been a long time since they have had an election of officer's and asked who wanted to step up. Deputy Director McGowan also added that there were other items on the agenda to include fund raisers and scholarships and that the meeting was set for May 17, 2022, at 1730 hours. It should be noted that Deputy Director McGowan has been the president of the Grays Harbor Deputy Sheriff's Association since 2013 and has used Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Department email to communicate Grays Harbor Deputy Sheriff's Association meetings and the agenda to association members during that time. The email was sent to Grays Harbor Sheriff's Association members and was intended for internal use only and not for public dissemination. At no time did Deputy Director McGowan ask or solicit

association members to support Chief Darrin Wallace or his campaign for election to Sheriff. The email was informational in nature and not designed for political influence.

**Complaint #7:**

In the email Support Specialist Michelle Taylor sent to all Grays Harbor Deputy Sheriff's Association members. Support Specialist Michelle Taylor informed all association members that they would be receiving two ballots attached to payroll sheets. The first ballot was to vote for the association's support of Darrin Wallace for Sheriff. The second ballot was to vote for \$1,000 campaign donation to Darrin Wallace for Sheriff. Support Specialist Taylor asked members to vote, sign, and detach the signature portion and place all pieces in the ballot boxes located in the front office and squad room. It should be noted that Support Specialist Michelle Taylor has been the Treasurer of the Grays Harbor Deputy Sheriff's Association since 2017 and has used Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Department email to communicate Grays Harbor Deputy Sheriff's Association members during her role as Treasurer. The email was sent to Grays Harbor Sheriff's Association members and was intended for internal use only and not for public dissemination. At no time did Support Specialist Michelle Taylor ask or solicit association members to support Chief Darrin Wallace or his campaign for election to Sheriff. The email was informational in nature and not designed for political influence.