



**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

June 26, 2019

Sent electronically to ewan@workerlaw.com and brucef87@live.com

Subject: Complaint filed by Glen Morgan, PDC Case 29832

Dear: Laura Ewan, Counsel for Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington and Bruce Fischer, Commissioner Chair, Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Glen Morgan, concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) alleging Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington staff violated RCW 42.17A.555 for using government resources to support a 2016 campaign for Teresa Purcell.

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

PDC staff is reminding Bruce Fischer and Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington staff about the importance of compliance with the requirements regarding the use of public facilities to assist a political campaign. PDC staff expects Fischer and Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington staff to review [PDC guidance](#) regarding the use of public facilities to assist a political campaign.

If you have questions, you may contact Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s_____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s_____

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director

For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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June 26, 2019

Delivered electronically to glen@wethegoverend

Subject: Complaint regarding Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington, PDC Case 29832

Dear Glen Morgan:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed January 2, 2017 alleging the Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington (HOSWWA) violated RCW 42.17A.555 for using government resources to support a 2016 campaign for Teresa Purcell.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, the applicable statutes, rules, and reporting requirements, the response provided by Laura Ewan, Counsel for HOSWWA and any applicable PDC reports and data in the PDC contribution and expenditure database, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

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

- Teresa Purcell filed a Candidate Registration (C-1), April 29, 2016, for the House of Representatives from the 19th Legislative District, listing People For Teresa Purcell as the Committee name, with Dianne Quast as Treasurer.
- On November 8, 2016, Teresa Purcell was not elected to the House of Representatives from the 19th Legislative District.
- On April 19, 2018, People for Teresa Purcell filed an amended Full Campaign Contribution and Expenditure (C-4) report, which listed a \$60 expenditure made June 19, 2016 and paid to Jo Brewer for "delivering yard signs."
- In response to the complaint, Laura Ewan, Counsel for Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington, noted "As outlined in HOSWWA's filings with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Public and Indian Housing, its Annual Plan addresses 'Self Sufficiency Programs' which are expressly authorized as

a service the HOSWWA and other such agencies may provide to their communities. One example of such supportive services is HOSWWA's Veterans Employment Opportunity Center, outlined within the HOSWWA's strategic planning documents, which is designed to increase opportunities for social engagement, community involvement, and skills growth. Within this program, veterans looking for work can be placed with entities with staffing needs. Such opportunities are passed along to veterans on a nondiscriminatory, equal access basis. Jo Brewer, the campaign manager for Ms. Purcell, contacted Kortney Mershon in our Veterans Employment Opportunity Center with a work opportunity. Ms. Brewer was looking for individuals to distribute and place signs for Ms. Purcell's campaign, and Ms. Purcell's campaign would pay the individuals for their work. Ms. Brewer served on HOSWWA's board for several years prior to retiring in 2011. She is a strong supporter of veterans, which is why she thought to call the Veterans Employment Opportunity Center when faced with a need for workers. Ms. Brewer hired several veterans to distribute and place signs. Ms. Brewer left the signs with Ms. Mershon, but Ms. Brewer paid the veterans directly for their services. Ms. Mershon stored the signs in an upstairs area of unused office space, out of the public eye. However, when it was brought to management's attention that the signs themselves were briefly stored on Housing Opportunities property, Ms. Mershon was asked to remove the signs— which she promptly did.”

- Ewan noted receipts are unavailable as “the ‘payments’ made involved two days’ worth of work for two volunteers at the rate of \$30 for each volunteer total. The two volunteers were handed cash. Jo Brewer paid them.”

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, the use of public facilities to briefly store campaign signs for use by its Veterans Employment Opportunity Center does not amount to an actual violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Bruce Fischer and Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington staff about the importance of reviewing [PDC guidance](#) regarding the use of public facilities to assist a political campaign.

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 Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

/s _____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,
Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley
Executive Director