

November 19, 2024

City of Sunnyside Response to PDC Complaint Number 161747

To PDC:

The City of Sunnyside and its named officials reserve the right to supplement this request, after review of the additional documents and whether they apply to the complaint filed by Kenton Gartrell.

Mr. Gartrell alleges that the City of Sunnyside participated in the “Illegal use of government resources staff, facilities such as their extensions on Facebook to facilitate an edge to an active campaign as though to legitimize it.”

RCW 42.17.555 Reads as follows:

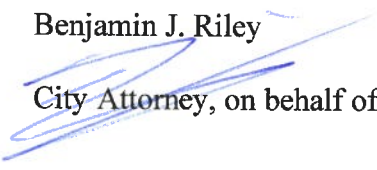
No elective official nor any employee of his or her office nor any person appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition. Facilities of a public office or agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of employees of the office or agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the office or agency. However, this does not apply to the following activities:

- (1) Action taken at an open public meeting by members of an elected legislative body or by an elected board, council, or commission of a special purpose district including, but not limited to, fire districts, public hospital districts, library districts, park districts, port districts, public utility districts, school districts, sewer districts, and water districts, to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body, members of the board, council, or commission of the special purpose district, or members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view;
- (2) 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;
- (3) Activities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.
- (4) This section does not apply to any person who is a state officer or state employee as defined in RCW 42.52.010.

Enclosed please find the City of Sunnyside’s Facebook Page posting of information for an invitation to the grand opening of the campaign office for Chelsea Dimas. The City of Sunnyside has a policy of posting civic events and grand openings of businesses on its Facebook page. Businesses can contact the city and make requests for the posting of grand openings of businesses

on the City of Sunnyside's Facebook Page. The City of Sunnyside was contacted to post the grand opening of the campaign office of Chelsea Dimas. This posting occurred on February 16, 2024 and was posted to the City of Sunnyside's Facebook for an event that occurred on February 17, 2024. The City of Sunnyside posted this event inadvertently without regard to the candidacy of Chelsea Dimas. The city did not endorse the candidacy of Chelsea Dimas for State Representative. The City of Sunnyside also did not encourage anyone to attend the event posted on Facebook.

Benjamin J. Riley

City Attorney, on behalf of the city of Sunnyside and its named officials.

8:39



chelsea dimas for state...



All

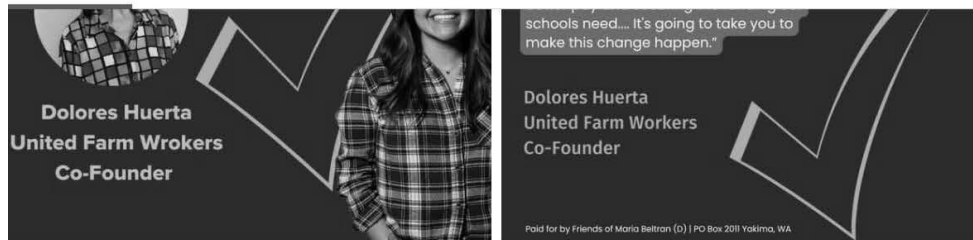
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23

7 comments 1 share



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City of Sunnyside, WA



Feb 16 · 🌐

City Staff and City Council have been invited to "Chelsea Dimas for State Representative" campaign office grand opening at 505 S. 7th Street, Suite 104, Sunnyside, WA, 98944 on February 17, 2024 at 3 PM.

***It is possible for a quorum of the Sunnyside City Council to be present, but they will not discuss City business amongst themselves.**

4

3 comments 3 shares



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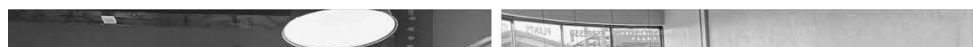


Maria Beltran · Follow



6d · 🌐

Our last Tri-Cities Meet and Greet were a huge success!... **See more**



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