

# State of Washington PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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July 14, 2025

Delivered electronically to Jennifer Senescu at <a href="mailto:senescu3@comcast.net">senescu3@comcast.net</a>

Subject: PDC Case 170564 regarding Jennifer Senescu

#### Jennifer Senescu:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint filed by Tammy Weisman on April 10, 2025. The complaint alleged a violation of: RCW 42.17A.555 for use of public facilities or resources for the purpose of supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot measure.

# Applicable Laws and Rules

<u>RCW 42.17A.555</u> prohibits elected or appointed officials, their employees, and employees of a public office or agency from using, or authorizing the use of, public office/agency facilities (resources), directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting an election campaign or for the promotion of, or opposition to, any ballot proposition.

RCW 42.17A.555(2) makes an exception when an elected official makes a statement in support of or in opposition to a ballot proposition in response to a specific inquiry.

### Background and Findings

- You currently hold office as an elected Council Member of the City of Camas, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, Position 1.
- Proposition 1, titled Creation of Camas-Washougal Regional Fire Protection Service Authority, was voted on by the City of Camas Council and placed on the ballot for the special election held on April 22, 2025. Voters did not pass Proposition 1.
- You and other members of the City of Camas Council held a town hall meeting on March 25, 2025, at the Camas Library. You indicated in your response the intent of the meeting was to offer an opportunity for dialogue between the people you serve and their elected officials. There was no formal agenda for the meeting, but a poll was taken that informed the topics discussed. One of the topics intended for discussion was Proposition 1.
- During the discussion at the town hall about Proposition 1, you confirmed your vote on the City Council to put the proposition on the ballot for voters to decide, and you also stated that you, "as a citizen, was not in favor" of the Regional Fire Protection Service Authority (RFA).

- In response to the complaint you stated:
  - "I hope that my impact was to inform people that the RFA is a separate taxing entity and share facts. The Fire Chief and another councilmember in attendance did a good job of pointing out the pros of an RFA, but no cons were presented. My comments were less than 30 seconds in length. I was there to listen to people and provide information."
- The town hall meeting was not recorded so PDC staff inquired of other persons in attendance at the town hall and they confirmed your statements during the meeting. As well, these people also indicated their understanding of the situation to include their belief that you and other members of the council were asked to share your opinion about the RFA. PDC staff learned that other members of the council also made statements about the RFA during this discussion.
- You do not have similar previous warnings or violations of PDC requirements.

## **Summary and Resolution**

The available evidence, and that it is a permissible activity for an elected official to respond to a direct inquiry, does not support a finding that you violated RCW 42.17A.555 in this instance.

PDC staff is reminding you about the prohibition on the use of public facilities to support or oppose any ballot proposition. The town hall format is considered a more casual environment for dialogue between elected officials and the public but as an elected official there is no time when said elected official would be considered a citizen participant at the meeting. While the tone of conversation may be casual, an elected official still speaks with the gravity and authority of their office.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, you may contact Tanya Mercier by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely, Endorsed by,

/s/ Tanya Mercier/s/ Kim BradfordTanya MercierKim BradfordCompliance OfficerDeputy DirectorFor Peter Frey La

For Peter Frey Lavallee Executive Director

cc: Tammy Weisman