

Complaint Description

File a Formal Complaint - Andrew Koeppen

Andrew Koeppen (Thu, 24 Jan 2019 at 11:39 AM)

On January 22, 2019 at around 7:00PM in Redmond City Hall council chambers, Mayor John Marchione, Councilor Tanika Padhye and Councilor Angela Birney held an event for members of a group of children and their parents. This event was setup by Councilor Tanika Padhye and approved by Mayor John Marchione.

- Councilor Angela Birney is a declared candidate for Mayor.
- Councilor Tanika Padhye is a supporter and endorser of Angela Birney.
- Mayor John Marchione is a supporter of Angela Birney.

Councilor Tanika Padhye specifically asked for Councilor Angela Birney and Mayor John Marchione to be present at the meeting to answer questions. As far as I understand, none of the other councilors were asked to participate nor were they notified of the event.

During the event, questions were directed to, and Candidate Angela Birney answered, from both the children and the parents. The questions ran the gambit of what they would do for homelessness, city planning, what the city can do about issues, and **why they ran or are running for elected office**. Candidate Angela Birney gave a candidate type speech of why she got/is involved in government as an elected official.

While documenting this meeting, I was approached by Mayor John Marchione and told that the meeting was not an open public meeting and that I could not record the meeting.

I was also told by Mayor John Marchione in an email, that members of the public cannot hold the same type of events at City Hall due to not having a system to allow this.

This was obviously a campaign event, using city facilities for Councilor Angela Birney, setup by Councilor Tanika Padhye and supported by Mayor John Marchione.

The way this event was held, the timing of it, that no other councilors were informed or participated in it, and that members of the public cannot do the same, raises the question if Public Facilities are being used in Candidate Angela Birneys campaign.

Also a picture of this event is on Redmond Cities Facebook page. No other event such as this is shown over the last year on the Facebook page.

If this Activity was normal and regular conduct of the office or agency, there would be procedures around holding such an event. There would be similar pictures of groups getting a tour in city hall.

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
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.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.
Several minutes of Video (not high quality), several pictures, and email response from the Mayor can be provided if needed by Andreas Koeppen (425) 985 5124
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.
Steve Fields (425) 444-3180 David Carson (425) 556-2113
Complaint Certification:
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.