Respondent Name

William Armacost

Complainant Name

Marsha Maguire

Complaint Description

Marsha Maguire (Tue, 15 Sep 2020 at 6:07 PM)

Mr. Armacost used his position as (non-partisan) mayor of Sequim, WA, to promote a political candidate, Donald Trump, for re-election in declaring, "Elections matter!" immediately after suggesting that listeners view a Trump-promoting QAnon video, a video made by "Joe M." The mayor did this on the KSQM-FM community radio program, "Coffee with the Mayor" on Aug. 27, 2020. The audio of the program was posted on the KSQM website, but more importantly (using City of Sequim resources) on the City of Sequim's official website. RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits this https://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.17A.555.

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

William Armacost, the mayor of Sequim, WA, is a follower of the QAnon conspiracy theories, which is his right. However, on Aug. 27, 2020, in his position as mayor (in Sequim, a supposedly non-partisan position), Mr. Armacost recommended a specific QAnon video (Q: The Plan to Save the World) and a specific QAnon promoter (Joe M.) that listeners should view. He did this on Coffee with the Mayor on KSQM-FM community radio (reposted on the City of Sequim website). In the first moments of the recommended QAnon video, the narrator declares that members of the "cabal" (thousands of Jewish bankers and "pedophile/child eaters," Democrats, the Clintons, the Obamas, the Pope, Hollywood entertainers, and more, who supposedly control the world) will soon be "eradicated" from the earth. This is a reference to the QAnon belief that "the Storm" is coming, during which, via martial law, the "cabal" will be rounded up, locked up, and executed. The video promoted by the mayor also specifically and repeatedly promotes a "re-elect Donald Trump" message. Note that the mayor, in conjunction with recommending this QAnon video, states, "Elections matter." This is a violation of RCW 42.17A.555.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found

https://www.sequimwa.gov/600/Coffee-with-the-Mayor?fbclid=IwAR1dg-_HNhiOZNdJsE19I4Oz6Q5yqYQWupwDDbWLyJAxK1O7nxrmRwZ0-98 Hear the audio recording of Coffee with the Mayor, Aug. 27, 2020. QAnon and the video recommending the re-election of Donald Trump is the final topic of discussion on the program.

The video Mayor Armacost recommends is viewable at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsofIU8bmKY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1dg_HNhiOZNdJsE19I4Oz6Q5yqYQWupwDDbWLyJAxK1O7nxrmRwZ0-98&ab channel=BlessedToTeach

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Karen Hogan karenlhogan@me.com

Shenna Younger shennastraling 77@gmail.com

Certification (Complainant)

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.