



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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September 24, 2020

Delivered electronically to “mmaguireb3@gmail.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding William Armacost, PDC Cases # 77044

Dear Marsha Maguire:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed on September 15, 2020. The complaint alleged that William Armacost, the Mayor of the city of Sequim may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 for misuse of public facilities in support or opposition of a candidate or ballot proposition.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes and rules; and the recording of the Coffee with Mayor Armacost dated August 27, 2020, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations. Based on staff’s review, we found the following:

- Pursuant to [RCW 42.17A.555](#) no public facilities can be used by or authorized to be used by any state or local public employee, elected or appointed official, directly or indirectly, to either support or oppose any candidate or ballot proposition.
- The Public Disclosure Commission only enforces campaign finance violations within RCW 42.17A and WAC 390 within the State of Washington.
- Staff reviewed the recording concerning the QAnon question and the response from Mayor Armacost on the August 27, 2020 Coffee with the Mayor program.
- The discussion did not support or oppose any candidate in Washington State or any federal candidate, nor any Washington State ballot proposition or political action committee in the State of Washington. However, the discussion did involve Mayor Armacost offering personal opinions on issues that did not appear to have any nexus to City of Sequim official business.
- Mayor Armacost stated the following in a September 11, 2020 article in the Peninsula Daily News, “While I believe that people should fight for truth and freedom, it was inappropriate to respond to this question as mayor during a program designed to talk about City of Sequim issues.”

Based on these findings, staff has determined that in this instance, there is no evidence supporting the finding of a violation of RCW 42.17A.555. Therefore, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and WAC 390-37-060.

If you have questions, you may contact Tabitha Townsend at 1-360-586-4555 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s_____

Tabitha Townsend

Compliance Coordinator

CC: William Armacost