Respondent Names

Northshore Fire District #16

Complainant Name

Richard A. Verlinda

Complaint Description

Rverlinda reported via the portal (*Tue*, 20 Apr 2021 at 4:25 PM)

The Northshore Fire District has violated state RCW and WAC requirements to ONLY provided objective and any opposing view to this merger. The mailer, their website, the powerpoint presentations, everything they have produced is used for the purpose of supporting the merger ballot. Concerns have been voiced with questions raised concerning this issue with no response or actions taken to cease. The majority of the Board of Commissioners voted to oppose a voters pamphlet stating it was a poor use of public funds. The pamphlet would have provided an "oppose" statement. I do not believe you will find ANY information on the Northshore website, Facebook page, the mailer, or any written documents that show any negatives or opposition to the ballot measure. Finally, Northshore and Woodinville hired a PR Consultant and paid \$70K contract to sell and assist in getting the ballot measure passed. The contract clearly outlines actions to be taken that will ensure the ballot measure passes.

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

The public are being mislead to a Vote Yes bias from the Northshore Fire District. Per PDC 04-02 under activities and resources / Technology websites...) "not permitted" - Agency websites shall not be used for the purposes of supporting or opposign a candidate or ballot measure. https://www.northshorefire.com/news/ - Guest op-ed: Thoughts on proposed fire merger from two Board Commissioners. District posted Op-Ed in support of merger but did not post the Op-Ed opposing the merger which is also attached to the Bothell-Kenmore Reporter website. Under Northshore - Woodinville presentation, information was developed and presented by the Fire Chief and Staff during normal working hours. Plus the information only provides supporting information with some of that information being completely biased and misleading.

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

https://www.northshorefire.com/news/

link to Op-Ed - https://www.bothell-reporter.com/opinion/guest-op-ed-thoughts-on-proposed-fire-merger-from-two-board-commissioners/

(if you look at the bottom of the article you will see under "previous" the opposing view which is NOT listed on the Northshore website)

Northshore-Woodinville merger presentation - under "Opportunities for Increased Service" those numbers are truly misleading. They are taken from a small span of days in February using the most beneficial numbers which do not translate to a merged agency or throughout the year. Totally misleading

Voter's mailer from District - under "what else do I need to Know?" - states "Under Woodinville's current policy, Northshore residents would receive no-cost basic life support patient transports instead of having to pay for that service. This is totally misleading and has been spoken to at both the Kenmore and Lake Forest Park City council meetings. Northshore residents could currently receive no-cost transport but the Northshore Fire Commissioners have not voted to enact that policy. A merger with Woodinville is not required and the Commissioners and Fire Chief are aware of that.

I have voiced my concerns regarding the biased and misleading information being provided to the public at our open public meetings as a Fire Commissioner.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Jerimiah Ingersoll - President Northshore Firefighters Union Local #2459 - 425.765.5454. Josh Pratt - Fire Commissioner - 206.484.1990

Rick Verlinda - Fire Commissioner - 425.488.3059

Jeremy Jamerson - Treasurer Northshore Firefighters Union Local #2459 - 425.422.3086

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.