



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908  
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

**Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdca.wa.gov](http://www.pdca.wa.gov)**

August 9, 2021

Delivered electronically to [etheldaburke@gmail.com](mailto:etheldaburke@gmail.com)

Subject: PDC Case 95982

Dear Ethelda Burke:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Bradley Loetzke concerning a complaint filed July 9, 2021 with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) alleging violations of RCW 42.17A.555 for using public facilities to promote a candidate.

As noted in the letter below, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into the allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

PDC staff reminds you about the importance of full compliance with statutes and rules regarding the use of public facilities and expects you to review RCW 42.17A.555 and PDC Interpretation 01-03 Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns and ensure any future campaign-related activities fully comply with PDC statutes and rules.

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s

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Alice Fiman  
Compliance Officer

/s

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Kim Bradford  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavalley  
Executive Director



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August 9, 2021

Delivered electronically to [bradley.loetzke@treehouseforkids.org](mailto:bradley.loetzke@treehouseforkids.org)

Subject: Complaint regarding Ethelda Burke, PDC Case 95982

Dear Bradley Loetzke:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) completed its review of the complaint you filed July 9, 2021. The complaint alleged Ethelda Burke, a University Place School Director since 2015 and current candidate for Position 1, violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using public facilities to promote a candidate, specifically allegations Burke posted photos taken on school district property to promote re-election.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, and interpretations, the evidence provided in the complaint and a response from Ethelda Burke, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

We found the following:

- According to PDC records, there are three registered candidates for University Place School District, Pos. 1, indicating there was a primary election for this office on August 3, 2021. Unofficial results show Burke advancing to the 2021 General Election.
- The Commission adopted PDC Interpretation 01-03, Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns, which provides information concerning the use of public facilities including activities that are permitted or prohibited, activities which are part of the “normal and regular conduct” of the school equipment, space, staff time and other general considerations.
- The complaint alleged Burke misused the school space belonging to the public school where she is a School Board member.
- The complaint included two photos, both taken on high school property. One is a photo of Burke with high school cheerleaders in uniform. Another is of Burke with a teacher at the school. Both were posted on Burke’s “Retain Ethelda Burke” Facebook page.
- In response, Burke stated “The Website, [retainetheldaburke.com](http://retainetheldaburke.com) which included photos that were taken on public facilities, was completely removed on or before July 16, 2021.

A completely new Website (voteetheldaburke.com) was launched within a week after the original Website was removed. I offer my most sincere apology for the infraction. Had I been aware that the photos were a violation of the PDC regulations, I never would have allowed the photos to be placed on my website.”

- Burke has no prior PDC violations.

Based on these findings, PDC staff has determined that, in this instance, the does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Ethelda Burke about the importance of statues and rules regarding the use of public facilities to promote a candidate and expects Burke to review RCW 42.17A.555 and PDC Interpretation 01-03 Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns and ensure any future campaign-related activities fully comply with PDC statutes and rules.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman toll-free at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s

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Alice Fiman  
Compliance Officer

/s

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Kim Bradford  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director