

Phil Stutzman

replied

Wed, 12 Jan 2022 at 4:26 PM

To:jcerna@toppenish.wednet.edu

Cc:kim.bradford@pdc.wa.gov

John Cerna,

I am following up on a complaint sent to you on 11/9/2021, requesting a written response to the allegations within 14 days, or no later than **November 23, 2021**. To date we have received no response from you. This case is separate from Case 99943, closed 1/2/2022 with a formal written warning concerning the placement of campaign signs on school district property.

This complaint, Case 100637, alleges District employees used the high school's large format printer to print 100 campaign signs for Rosa Ortiz, a 2021 candidate for Toppenish School Board, and sent a bill for the fair market value of the work totaling \$1,200, a cost of \$12 per sign. The complaint alleged Mike Romero, also a school district employee, called the first employee telling the first employee to lower the price to \$600, a cost of \$6 per sign. The complaint alleged the first employee who completed the work went to the employee's supervisor and said it was not right to lower the price, but was told by the supervisor, "If they do it for one person they will have to do it for anyone" and the price was lowered to \$600.

It is a violation of RCW 42.17A.555 to use District facilities to assist the campaign of a candidate for public office. Please provide a written response to these allegations immediately. As part of your response, please answer the following questions:

1. Does the school district offer printing services for the public?
2. Is there a policy concerning printing services for the public? If so, please provide a copy of the policy.
3. How are prices set?
4. Does the school district charge the fair market value for its work?
5. What was the fair market value for printing the 100 signs printed for the Rosa Ortiz campaign?
6. Has the school district printed campaign signs prior to the 2021 election? If so, provide details of the work.
7. Did the school district print signs for candidates other than Rosa Ortiz in 2021?
8. What is the name and contact information for the employee who printed the campaign signs for the Rosa Ortiz campaign?
9. What is the name and contact information for the supervisor of the employee who printed the signs, who approved lowering the price from \$1,200 to \$600?

PDC staff is required to resolve complaints following an initial review/investigation within 90 days of receipt of a complaint. If that cannot be done, an Initial Hearing (Case Status Review) must be held by the Executive Director and a formal investigation opened. The 90 days for this case expires February 7, 2022, which is 27 days from today. Because we have received no response to the allegations and may not be able to resolve these issues by February 7, we may need to Schedule an Initial Hearing (Case Status Review) and open a formal investigation. If we decide to schedule an Initial Hearing for next week, I will let you know.

Please provide a written response to the allegations in the complaint, providing as much information as possible and the requested information. I am attaching an additional copy of the complaint for your review. Thank you.

Phil Stutzman
Compliance Officer
(360) 664-8853

John Cerna

replied

Thu, 13 Jan 2022 at 2:28 PM

To: "PDC Support" <cdc@cdc.wa.gov>

External Email

Dear Mr. Stituman,

To my knowledge Mr. Mke Romero was not involved in any of the transactions. I will answer your questions to the best of my abilities

1. Yes
2. No
3. Price comparison to the private sector
4. Yes
5. \$600
6. Not to my knowledge
7. No
8. Shawn Hayden
9. Monica Saldivar

If you have any other questions feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John M. Cerna, Superintendent