



City of Burien
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September 6, 2024

Sent Via Email Only to pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer
Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
P. O. Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

Re: City of Burien response to PDC Complaint Case Number 158607

Dear PDC Compliance Officer Fiman,

I am responding to the recent allegation that the City of Burien has improperly used public facilities or resources to support or oppose a ballot measure violating RCW 42.17A.555. The City of Burien respectfully requests that this complaint be dismissed as unfounded or frivolous.

Burien takes such allegations very seriously and thoroughly reviewed the article ([Burien's New Minimum Wage Among Highest in Nation - City of Burien \(\[burienwa.gov\]\(http://burienwa.gov\)\)](https://www.burienwa.gov/Burien-s-New-Minimum-Wage-Among-Highest-in-Nation-City-of-Burien)). Based on this review, Burien is confident that it was not opposing the ballot measure or a proposed increase in the minimum wage.

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has consistently advised that local governments may provide a jurisdiction-wide, objective, and factual presentation of information concerning topics of interest, including ballot measures. The PDC's Interpretation No. 04-02 states that it is the right and responsibility of local government to inform the public in an unbiased manner. Our article adhered to these guidelines by presenting factual information without advocating for or against any ballot measure to inform the Burien community and possibly foster informed public discussion on the topic.

Furthermore, publishing information and updates on Burien's website is a routine aspect of our operations, reflecting our commitment to transparency and public service.

Regrettably, though unsurprisingly, this complainant is using the PDC complaint process to seek retribution for Burien removing him from an advisory body, which results in diverting Burien's attention and resources from genuine issues.

Burien respectfully urges the PDC to review the facts and find that the City of Burien's actions were entirely appropriate and in compliance with RCW 42.17A.555.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Adolfo Bailon
City Manager