

Owen Rowe
Response to Complaint 176261

On July 10th, I received an inquiry from a journalist, at my city email address (orowe@cityofpt.us), about whether I was endorsing anyone in this year's City Council election. On July 13th, I provided the information by reply, from my city email.

Although the story published on July 16th did not include this information, I realized that I should not have used my city email for this communication, since my endorsement was provided in my personal capacity, not my official city role. On July 22nd, I replied again to the journalist, this time from my personal email (owen@rowehouse.com), to explain my mistake and correct my oversight. I cc'd my city email to ensure that this correction would be available to the public record.

I have attached copies of both of these emails.

On July 23rd, when I had already attempted to correct the mistake which forms the substance of this complaint, Reverend Crystal Cox filed Complaint 176261. The other issues raised—about an endorsement unfairly influencing or intimidating voters—are entirely without merit.

I recognize that I must not use city resources for election matters. When I realized that I had inadvertently done so, I took steps to correct my error. In the future, I will be sure not to repeat this mistake.

I'll also note that I only received notice of this complaint from the PDC on November 21st. Apparently previous notices had been sent to a different person with the same name. I replied immediately, attended the Initial Hearing on November 24th, and was given a due date of December 3rd for this response.

Owen Rowe (Matthew O. Rowe)
owen@rowehouse.com

Owen Rowe

Subject: Re: PT Leader Media Request - Council candidates
Date: Sunday, July 13, 2025 at 9:38:01 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Owen Rowe
To: Mallory Kruml
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Mallory,

I'm endorsing Dylan Quarles. Here's the statement I wrote:

"Dylan Quarles brings plenty of ideas as a voice for working people and families in Port Townsend. But he recognizes that community leadership is collaborative work, so he listens to others' concerns and perspectives too—learning, adjusting, and adapting to find an approach that's best for everyone. He's already putting in the time to forge working relationships with council, staff, and many diverse groups in our community. We don't need someone who's stuck fighting old battles. We need someone who's curious, collaborative, and committed to helping guide Port Townsend in responding to the challenges and opportunities of the future, and I think Dylan fits the bill."

Thanks
Owen

Owen Rowe | Council Member



City of Port Townsend | <http://www.cityofpt.us/> | orowe@cityofpt.us
250 Madison St. Suite 2, Port Townsend, WA 98368
P:(360) 379-2980 | F:(360) 385-4290

Email may be considered a public record subject to public disclosure under RCW 42.56

From: Mallory Kruml <mkruml@ptleader.com>
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 3:38 PM
To: Owen Rowe <orowe@cityofpt.us>
Subject: PT Leader Media Request - Council candidates

CAUTION: External Email

Hi Owen,

I just have a quick question for you.

Are you planning on endorsing any of the three candidates vying for Position 1 on city council?

If so, which one and why?

If not, why not?

I'd appreciate your response by Monday at noon, but the sooner the better.

Thank you!

Mallory Kruml
Reporter
Port Townsend Leader

From: Owen Rowe owen@rowehouse.com 
Subject: Re: PT Leader Media Request - Council candidates
Date: July 22, 2025 at 7:10 AM
To: mkruml@ptleader.com
Cc: Owen Rowe orowe@cityofpt.us



Hi Mallory,

My email to you, quoted below, should properly have been sent from my personal email account, since I made the endorsement in my personal capacity, not my city role.

Note that I am cc'ing this to my city email, only in order to ensure that this clarification is on the public record.

thanks
Owen

Owen Rowe
owen@rowehouse.com

On Sun, Jul 13, 2025 at 9:38 PM Owen Rowe <orowe@cityofpt.us> wrote:

Hi Mallory,

I'm endorsing Dylan Quarles. Here's the statement I wrote:

“Dylan Quarles brings plenty of ideas as a voice for working people and families in Port Townsend. But he recognizes that community leadership is collaborative work, so he listens to others' concerns and perspectives too—learning, adjusting, and adapting to find an approach that's best for everyone. He's already putting in the time to forge working relationships with council, staff, and many diverse groups in our community. We don't need someone who's stuck fighting old battles. We need someone who's curious, collaborative, and committed to helping guide Port Townsend in responding to the challenges and opportunities of the future, and I think Dylan fits the bill.”

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Owen

Owen Rowe | Council Member 

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Mallory Kruml
Reporter
Port Townsend Leader