



**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: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

NOTE: [On Jan. 1, 2026, Chapter 42.17A was recodified to Title 29B RCW](#)

February 24, 2026

Delivered electronically

Subject: PDC Case 180925 regarding Markham McIntyre

Markham McIntyre:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint filed by Paul Chapman on Oct. 29, 2025. The complaint alleged that you may have used City of Seattle facilities to collect information that was used to aid the 2025 mayoral campaign of Bruce Harrell.

Applicable Laws and Rules

RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits elected or appointed officials, their employees, and employees of a public office or agency from using, or authorizing the use of, public office/agency facilities (resources), directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting an election campaign or for the promotion of, or opposition to, any candidate or ballot proposition. The law makes narrow exceptions for actions taken at an open public meeting provided specific conditions are met, certain statements by an elected official, and activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of an agency.

Background and Findings

- Markham McIntyre served as director of the City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development.
- McIntyre was named to that position by Mayor Bruce Harrell, who was running for re-election in the 2025 election.
- In August 2025, McIntyre used the city's Microsoft Teams system to request that other department directors provide him with their personal contact information.
- Using that information, McIntyre sent emails from his personal email account to the directors' personal email accounts on Sept. 8, 2025.
- At the request of PDC staff, McIntyre provided a copy of the Sept. 8 email. It read: "A little while ago, I asked for your personal information. Part of my intent is to help the campaign. If you are not OK with me sharing your contact information with them, please let me know by tomorrow night. For those you are interested in helping out: we need ideas! Yes, we can do all of

the traditional campaign activities (door knocking, phone banking, etc.) but is there something special that we could contribute as City leaders? Now's the time to get in the game!"

- McIntyre stated he later sent a follow-up email to clarify the separation between official and campaign activities. That email read, "I want to clarify that I'm not suggesting that we use our offices or official positions in support of the campaign – there's a bright line separating official and campaign activities."

Response to Complaint

- McIntyre denies that he used city resources to benefit a political campaign. He stated that his request for directors' personal emails was intended to help separate personal from professional communications. "There have been numerous instances when I wanted to reach out to a fellow director about a personal matter, such as attending a concert or discussing a topic not germane to our work."
- McIntyre further stated that he did not share any contact information with the Harrell campaign, except to connect interested individuals with the campaign for volunteer purposes. He stated he was unaware of whether the Harrell campaign solicited financial contributions from those volunteers.

Summary and Resolution

- As demonstrated by the content of the Sept. 8 email McIntyre sent to fellow directors, a primary reason he used city resources to request their email addresses was to solicit their help in supporting the Harrell campaign.
- While the use of the Teams chat channel appears to have been minor and PDC staff have no evidence there was further use of public facilities, state law does not permit any use of public facilities to benefit a campaign outside the narrow exceptions stated in the law. PDC staff determined that the use of City of Seattle resources in this case does not qualify for one of those exceptions.

Based on our findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, the evidence does not support the finding of a violation that warrants further investigation or formal enforcement action for a prohibited use of public facilities to assist election campaigns.

However, pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(d), you are receiving a formal written warning concerning your use of City of Seattle systems to assist a campaign. Staff expect that you will refrain from any use of city equipment, staff or other resources for any effort tied to support or opposition of a candidate or ballot measure. The Commission will consider this formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, contact PDC staff at 1-877-601-2828 or by e-mail at pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Electronically signed by Kim Bradford

Kim Bradford
Deputy Director

Endorsed by,

Electronically signed by Peter Frey Lavallee

Peter Frey Lavallee
Executive Director

cc: Paul Chapman