



**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

May 6, 2024

Delivered electronically to Clay Myers at horses1242@gmail.com

Subject: Complaints filed by Terry Parker, Alyssa Duarte, and Mike Curtis, Case 150082

Dear Sheriff Clay Myers:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to the Complainants concerning their complaints filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to the Complainants the PDC has dismissed this matter per RCW 42.17A.755(1) and WAC 390-37-060(1)(a) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

If you have questions, contact Tanya Mercier by e-mail at pdc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s/ Electronically Signed
Tanya Mercier
Compliance Officer

/s/ Electronically Signed
Kim Bradford, Deputy Director
for Peter Frey Lavallee, PDC
Executive Director



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May 6, 2024

Delivered electronically to Terry Parker at terryparkerhinunen@gmail.com, Alyssa Duarte at msalyss85@yahoo.com, and Mike Curtis at michelcurtis20@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint regarding Clay Myers Case 150082

Dear Mr. Parker, Ms. Duarte, and Mr. Curtis:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaints you filed in February 2024. The complaint alleged that Clay Myers (the “Respondent”), the elected Sheriff of Kittitas County, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 for misuse of public facilities to support a candidate running for elected office in election year 2024.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations; the applicable statutes, rules, the response(s) provided by the Respondent; and other relevant information, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff’s review, we found the following:

- In 2019 Clay Myers was appointed to the office of Sheriff in Kittitas County. He ran for election in 2020 for which he won and took office. In 2023 he ran for re-election and is the current Sheriff of Kittitas County.
- It was alleged that Sheriff Clay Myers, as an elected official, violated RCW 42.17A.555 by causing the misuse of public facilities when he participated in a Zoom call and interview that resulted in materials used for an endorsement video promoting the candidacy of Dave Reichert in election year 2024 for Washington State Governor.
- PDC Interpretation No. 04-02, states in part, local government elected officials may engage in political activities on their own time, if no public equipment, vehicle, or facility is used. An elected official may use their title so long as they clarify that they are speaking on their own behalf, and not on behalf of the agency. They may also attend events and voice their opinion about a candidate or ballot proposition if they are not compensated and are not using any public equipment, vehicle, or other facility.

- Per WAC 390-37-060, in complaints where it cannot be decided the allegations are “obviously” baseless we open a case to conduct an initial review of available materials and ask questions.
- In this instance, based on the video, the PDC opened a case because we could not figure out if Sheriff Myers was in a county issued uniform, using county issued technology while conducting the interview, or had intentionally used the Kittitas County Sheriff’s office shield and title. After questioning, PDC staff found that the Sheriff was not in uniform, had not used public resources while taking the call or giving the interview, and had no prior knowledge the Kittitas County Sheriff’s office shield or his elected office title would be used.
- The PDC has contacted the Reichert4Governor campaign and requested the voluntary removal of the endorsement video because it does include other Washington State Sheriffs who are in county issued uniform or using public facilities. The campaign has not responded to the PDC’s request.
- The Respondent does not have other similar warnings or violations of PDC requirements.

Based on our findings, the evidence does not support a violation of RCW 42.17A.555 for misuse of public facilities to support a candidate running for elected office in election year 2024.

The PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter per RCW 42.17A.755(1) and WAC 390-37-060(1)(a).

If you have questions, contact Tanya Mercier by e-mail at pdcc@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s/ Electronically Signed
Tanya Mercier
Compliance Officer

/s/ Electronically Signed
Kim Bradford, Deputy Director
for Peter Frey Lavalley, PDC
Executive Director

cc: Clay Myers