



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against

Mia Gregerson, City of SeaTac Council
Member

Respondent.

PDC Case No. 12-165

Notice of Administrative Charges
(Brief Enforcement Hearing)

I. JURISDICTION

1. The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to Chapter 42.17A RCW, the state campaign finance and disclosure laws; Chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act; and Title 390 WAC. These charges incorporate the Report of Investigation and all related exhibits by reference.

II. ALLEGATIONS

2. PDC staff alleges that Mia Gregerson, City of SeaTac Council Member, violated RCW 42.17.130 by using facilities of the City of SeaTac to oppose Proposition 1, a local City of SeaTac ballot measure on the November 3, 2009 general election ballot, and to assist the 2009 campaigns of candidates for SeaTac City Council.

III. FACTS

3. Mia Gregerson has been an incumbent SeaTac City Council member since being elected to that position in 2007 when she ran unopposed. She was re-elected in 2011 and is currently serving as Deputy Mayor.
4. In 2009, three SeaTac City Council positions were up for election. Five candidates filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) for the three positions, as follows:

- a. Jonathan Standridge and Rick Forschler for position #2;
 - b. Tony Anderson for position #4; and
 - c. Barry Ladenburg and Pamela Fernald for position #6.
5. Proposition 1 was a proposal to change SeaTac's form of government from Council Manager to Strong Mayor (sometimes referred to as COG or Change of Government). It was on the November 3, 2009 general election ballot.
 6. In an email dated June 15, 2009 sent from her city email account to John Gallup, Captain of the City of SeaTac Fire Department, and President of the SeaTac local firefighters union (IAFF Local 2919) Ms. Gregerson stated, *"I am wondering if we can get together and chat? I would like to discuss candidate Jonathan Standridge. He is running against Rick Forschler."*
 7. In an email dated June 15, 2009 sent from her city email account to Dave Bush, and Jonathan Standridge, a candidate for SeaTac City Council, Ms. Gregerson provided Mr. Standridge's email address to Mr. Bush, and stated:

"Dave has been a community leader for many years. He will be a great resource. He will also help educate you on some of the "issues" that he has seen and faced over the years and recently. He can probably give you a little bit of information on Rick your opponent...."
 8. In an email string on June 15 and June 16, 2009 between Mia Gregerson and Colleen Brandt-Schluter, both using their city email accounts, Ms. Gregerson stated:

"Rick wanted to inform me that he was running for council, in case I didn't know and that he wanted to assure me that when he is elected I didn't need to worry my head about him making changes with human services until he could find an alternative method from taxpayers dollars..." "...I said when you are elected? And he back peddled a bit saying well if I am elected....he is nuts! He argued with me most of the night." Ms. Gregerson

replied “...I told him that rick had requested to meet with you and I couldn’t show up. It would be too obvious! Rick is so weird! I took Jonathon to ptsa last night...”

9. In the same email string, Ms. Gregerson stated;

“I have Dave and Jonathon meeting too. I am hopeful that rotary will put a forum together. Do u think it’s too early to get a fire fighter endorsement? We want to beat rick to that one....” Ms. Brandt-Schluter stated “Go after the firefighter endorsement...can you do Barry, Tony and Jonathon...” to which Ms. Gregerson responded “...good idea. We will get all three endorsed at the same time...”

10. In an email string on July 7 and July 8, 2009 between Ms. Gregerson and Ms. Brandt-Schluter, both using their city email accounts, Ms. Gregerson said:

“Trying to put together a steering committee for the opposition for the COG [Change of Government] and that she was frustrated about having the same people “doing all of the leg work.”

11. In the same email string, Ms. Gregerson asked Ms. Brandt-Schluter if she had an individual’s telephone number, and went on to state later in the email string “Can you help me get the contact information for the leaders in the Somali community and the African American lady you mentioned earlier? I will be calling them about the COG issue.” Ms. Brandt-Schluter replied that she would provide her with the contacts.

12. In an email on July 7, 2009, Ms. Gregerson contact the SeaTac Chamber of Commerce to RSVP for a luncheon in which changing the form of government would be discussed. In the email, the Executive Assistant for the City of SeaTac stated “...do you wish for me to RSVP for you for the chamber lunch...” to which Gregerson responded “...I would like to speak to you about COG.”

13. In an email string on July 13 and July 14, 2009 between Mia Gregerson and Colleen Brandt-Schluter, both using their city email accounts, Ms. Brandt-Schluter provided Ms. Gregerson with two names of individuals and their contact information within the SeaTac immigrant community who could assist in fighting Proposition 1. The emails included a

brief statement concerning a Saturday meeting about COG that was mentioned by Ms. Gregerson, in which she stated that the *“Lutheran Resource Center is being used on July 21st at 7pm in case anyone who lives in SeaTac wants to show up.”*

14. In an email string on July 16, 2009 between Ms. Gregerson and Ms. Brandt-Schluter, both using their city email accounts, the two discussed reserving a room for a July 21, 2009 meeting about opposing Proposition 1. In the email exchange, Ms. Gregerson stated, *“this is the opposition group [against COG]. Oren is a very good friend of mine, he was one of the folks at that Saturday morning event I spoke about. ...Be careful about any city email that refers to the COG.”*
15. In an email string on July 29 through August 4, 2009 between Ms. Gregerson and Ms. Brandt-Schluter, both using their city email accounts, talking about the SeaTac “Night Out” event, the two discussed opposing Proposition 1 at the event. Ms. Gregerson stated, *“I have the flyers. I don’t have the addresses and so I don’t know who to ask to come because I don’t know how many teams to set up. It’s very frustrating because I can’t tag my name to any of this. Pat is out of town and he did not set up a meeting like he promised me.”* Ms. Brandt-Schluter stated *“...I think Barry [Ladenburg-candidate for City Council] is riding with Chief G [Gallup].”* Ms. Gregerson went on to state in the string *“I got the information printed up yesterday. Now we just need teams to hand the suckers out. Waiting on the list to see how to dole out the job for Tuesday night.”*
16. In an email string on August 6, 2009 between Ms. Gregerson and Ms. Brandt-Schluter, both using their city email accounts, concerning candidates Forschler and Standridge, Ms. Brandt-Schluter stated *“...you have to look at this website. If you think what you know of Rick now is weird, check out this site for his consulting company.... He’s built up a big long argument that companies should operate on the same principle as the United States Constitution. It makes no freaking sense whatsoever. The man is crazy.”* Ms. Gregerson responded by stating *“Could you imagine trying to work with him as a councilmember...scary. I forwarded the email link to Jonathon [Standridge-candidate for city council].”*

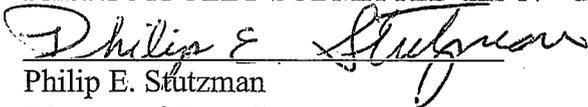
17. In an email on September 6, 2009, Ms. Gregerson speaks with the City of SeaTac Facilities Manager about opposing Proposition 1 from her city email account, and stated, “...Someone put up a prop one sign on the corner of 37th and 188th and then took Tony’s sign down. Thinking Earl was on the loose early Saturday. The prop one sign is yellow. Maybe we want to change ours to red or white?”
18. In an email on September 24, 2009, from her city email account, Ms. Gregerson speaks with John Gallup and Adam Renn about a candidate forum being sponsored by IAFF Local 2919. In the email Ms. Gregerson thanked Mr. Gallup and Mr. Renn for hosting the candidate forum, and went on to state: “...I hope that the union will be able to write up an overview for submittal to the Highline Times. Especially if the union is now endorsing any of the six candidates?”

IV. LAW

RCW 42.17.130 prohibited elected officials, their employees, and persons appointed to or employed by a public office or agency from using or authorizing the use of public facilities, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a candidate’s campaign or for the promotion of, or opposition to, any ballot proposition. This prohibition does not apply to activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency. Effective January 1, 2012, RCW 42.17.130 is now codified at RCW 42.17A.555.

WAC 390-05-273 states, in part: “Normal and regular conduct of a public office or agency, as that term is used in the proviso to RCW 42.17.130, means conduct which is (1) lawful, i.e., specifically authorized, either expressly or by necessary implication, in an appropriate enactment, and (2) usual, i.e., not effected or authorized in or by some extraordinary means or manner.”

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 17th day of June, 2013.


Philip E. Stutzman
Director of Compliance