

WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

COMPLAINT FORM [Please note that I have cut and pasted content from the on-line sample form below since I couldn't find a form to actually fill out on-line. I hope this is acceptable.]

(See instructions on the last page.)

Description of Complaint

1. RESPONDENT:

Identify who you are filing a complaint against and provide all contact information you have for them. Give names and titles, if any, for individuals, and the full name of any organization. Please note that the PDC does not enforce federal campaign finance laws or local ordinances.

Gary Cronce, Mayor of Shelton, Washington
525 W Cota St. Shelton, WA 98584
360.426.4491

Email City via form at:

[http://www.sheltonwa.gov/how do i/contact the city/index.php](http://www.sheltonwa.gov/how_do_i/contact_the_city/index.php)

2. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS:

Explain how and when you believe the people/entities you are filing a complaint against violated RCW 42.17/RCW 42.17A or Title 390 WAC. Be as detailed as possible about dates, times, places and acts. If you can, cite which specific laws or rules you believe were violated. Attach additional pages if needed. *(Note that the RCW 42.17 citation applies to conduct before 2012 and the RCW 42.17A citation applies to conduct on or after January 1, 2012.)*

During the City Commission meeting of Tuesday, October 16, 2017, immediately following the opening "weekly Commission reports" which included his enumeration of the meetings he would be attending during the upcoming week, (time stamp 3:33 on the audio/video at Masonwebtv.com), the mayor spoke to, and recommended a specific vote on, a measure on the ballot just distributed. Per conditions in which this might have been permissible discussed in RCW 42.17A.555, Proposition 1 was **not** included in the meeting notice or agenda; this was **not** an open press conference; and Mayor Cronce was **not** responding to a specific inquiry. Neither was there opportunity for other members of the commission to express an opposing view; in fact, after an almost-immediately called executive session, the Mayor re-convened the commission meeting and announced, "I have been advised by our legal staff that we should not talk about this proposition in this meeting." In addition (considering sub-part 4) the letter in question was not read as part of the weekly commission reports (even if that might have made reading it permissible) but specifically after the reports had concluded.

I was not myself present at the meeting; these are the comments I transcribed from the video recording of Mayor Cronce speaking: “That concludes our weekly Commission reports, but at this time I would like to enter a letter that I wrote into the record, so, whatever that means, I’ll read it. [Reading:] This is an open letter to the citizens of Shelton. Over the next few weeks you will be asked to vote on Proposition 1. This proposition would replace our existing three-person commission with a seven-person council. This is not a good idea, and I would highly recommend that you vote ‘no’ on Proposition 1. I am concerned that a seven-person will cost the city more money, be less effective, and undermine the success the city is currently experiencing. [details about the ‘success’ mentioned] ... If this seven-person council passes, my position as your elected mayor will be eliminated and I will be gone. Your right to choose a new mayor will be taken from you because this new seven-person council will pick one for you. I thank you very much. That’s my letter and I would like to give it to whoever wants it.”

3. EVIDENCE:

List the documents or other evidence you have that support your complaint, if any, and attach copies to this form. If you do not have copies, provide any information you have about where you believe the documents or evidence can be found and how to obtain it. Attach additional pages if needed.

All meetings of the City Commission are video recorded and available at Masonwebtv.com. They are a bit hard to find, but the link to “Past Shelton City Commission Meetings” is about a third of the way down on the left-hand sidebar. The comments begin, as noted above, at about time stamp 3.33.

The story was reported by iFiberone news radio:

www.ifiberonenewsradio.com/news/local_news/shelton-mayor-may-have-violated-public-disclosure-law-with-comments/article_073ac116-b430-11e7-bec9-1fe95ff26a7a.html#utm_campaign=blox&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social

4. WITNESSES:

List the names and contact information, if known, of any witnesses or other persons who have knowledge of facts that support your complaint. Attach additional pages if needed.

Given that this was reported on public a public news service and is also available in video recording I don’t know if you need other witnesses. The video recording at times moves to the audience, and if you need information about any of the people shown, I know many of them. As I mentioned above, I was not present at the meeting, but was alerted by a friend via email and subsequently watched, and transcribed from, the Masonwebtv.com video.

In signing this complaint:

- √ I have provided all information, documents and other evidence of which I am aware;
- √ If I become aware of additional information, documents or evidence related to my complaint, I will promptly provide it to the PDC; and,
- √ I am providing the PDC current information on how to contact me, and will promptly update that information if it changes.

√ Unless otherwise noted, I agree that PDC may use email instead of U.S. mail for all written correspondence about this complaint.

E-mail address: mjvogler@mtu.edu

Your name (print or type): Marilyn J Vogler

Street address: 420 E Poplar Street

City, state and zip code: Shelton, WA 98584

Telephone number (including area code): 360.463.9482

Oath

Required for all complaints filed with the Public Disclosure

Commission:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

Your signature



Date signed 18 Oct 2017

Place signed (city and county) Shelton,
City

Mason County
County

Attachments - none

Check here if you are attaching copies of documentary evidence or extra pages explaining your complaint.

**RCW 9A.72.040 says that "(1) A person is guilty of false swearing if he makes a false statement which he knows to be false, under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) False swearing is a misdemeanor."*

Sent via email to: pdcc@pdc.wa.gov