



**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: [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdca.wa.gov](http://www.pdca.wa.gov)

1-5-2018

Delivered electronically to “[pty@georgetown.edu](mailto:pty@georgetown.edu)”

Subject: PDC Case 27634

Dear Phillip Yin :

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Rebecca Larson concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted below to Rebecca Larson, the PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter.

If you have questions, you may contact Micaiah Ragins at 1-360-790-3025 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [micaiah.ragins@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:micaiah.ragins@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Micaiah Ragins  
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director

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1-5-2018

Delivered electronically to "rabeccalarson@outlook.com"

Subject: Complaint regarding Phillip Yin, PDC Case 27634

Dear Rabecca Larson:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on October 31, 2017. Your complaint alleged that Phillip Yin, a 2017 candidate for Bellevue City Council, posted images to his campaign Facebook account of City of Bellevue police officers and fire equipment that implied an endorsement of Mr. Yin's campaign by city agencies or individual officers.

Your allegation concerns the application of [RCW 42.17A.335\(1\)\(c\)](#) which states that it is a violation for a person to sponsor with actual malice a statement constituting libel or defamation per se, that is political advertising or an electioneering communication that makes either directly or indirectly, a false claim stating or implying the support or endorsement of any person or organization when in fact the candidate does not have such support or endorsement. In addition, any violation of this section must be proven by clear and convincing evidence.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations, and as a result of staff's initial review, we found the following:

- Phillip Yin included images of City of Bellevue police officers and firefighter equipment on his campaign Facebook page;
- Mr. Yin did not make a statement claiming that the agencies or individual officers endorsed his campaign;
- Mr. Yin stated that the pictures were taken with good intentions, and were shared to highlight his support for the city's staff and first responders. He said his campaign included numerous disclaimers on his social media pages, stating that "individuals or organizations may or may not endorse any political campaigns."
- Your complaint did not provide clear and convincing evidence that the images Mr. Yin posted on his campaign Facebook page constituted a false claim of endorsement prohibited by RCW 42.17A.335(1)(c).

Based on these initial findings, staff has determined that in this instance, there is no reason to believe Philip Yin has violated RCW 42.17A.335(1)(c), and no further action is required.

The PDC has closed the matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Micaiah Ragins at 1-360-586-4555 toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [micaiah.ragins@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:micaiah.ragins@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Micaiah Ragins  
Compliance Coordinator

Endorsed by,

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director

cc: Phillip Yin

Micaiah Titus Ragins  
Compliance Coordinator  
Public Disclosure Commission  
[fdc@fdc.wa.gov](mailto:fdc@fdc.wa.gov)  
1.360.753.1111

\*\*Please click **Reply** when responding to this email