

Response to 15 Dec. 2017 complaints by Michael Blocher against Zita for Port

To: Attorney General's office (AG)  
Cc to: Public Disclosure Commission (PDC)  
From: E.J. Zita  
Date: 8 Jan. 2018

Timeline of complaints, notices, and responses:

- 1 Nov. 2017 - complaint from Michael Blocher (via PDC)
- 10 Nov. 2017 - Zita's response
- 28 Nov. - 15 Dec. 2017 - overlapping complaints from Blocher and Glenn Morgan (via PDC and AG's office)
- 8 Jan. 2018 - Zita responses RE Morgan and Blocher sent to AG's office and PDC
- 13 Jan. 2018 - Zita response due

It appears that Mr. Blocher has added new complaints to his original 1 Nov. 2017 complaint #27061. The original complaints were addressed in Zita's 10 Nov. 2017 response.

In this response letter (Jan. 2018), we address the Blocher complaints of 28 Nov. forwarded on 15 Dec. 2017. Morgan complaints are addressed in a separate response letter.

- 1) Blocher's indirect 28 Nov. allegations about campaign related materials on Comm. Zita's Port-issued computer were directly addressed in Zita's 10 Nov. 2017 response. Please recall that the materials, allegedly used in Zita's 2017 campaign, were unique to 2015 circumstances. They referenced at least one official who left office in 2015, and friends who were alive in 2015 and unfortunately deceased in 2016-2017.

**Those 2015 materials could not have been generated on Zita's Port computer, which was not issued until 2016.**

Zita does not generate or use campaign-related material on Port computers. The 2015 documents cited by Blocher were from a backup disk with a name including "port." We have endeavoured to discover and remove any such files/folders which may have been inadvertently transferred to the Port computer during backup, since learning about them from the PDC complaint.

New backup processes should now ensure that no materials from other devices are inadvertently transferred to the Port laptop. Zita backs up several computers (including Port laptop, College laptop, and personal devices for home, family, and campaign) to external hard drives.

It is possible that Zita viewed a campaign event on a Port computer in order to meet scheduling requests from Port staff. We believe that is an allowed use.

- 2) Allegation that the "Zita for Port" FB page noticed a meeting occurring at the Port of Olympia offices on 30 May 2016. True - many public meetings are noticed at the "Zita for Port" site (posted with private devices).

Allegation that this is an "improper use of public property" is **False**. No public property was used in noticing the meeting on the "Zita for Port" site.

Blocher's complaint includes images of Port Commissioner Zita's "**Commissioner Chats**." These are public meetings, which are routinely noticed on the Port's webpage by Port staff. The Port Commission explicitly authorised this practice in 2016 - for all Commissioners.

Port Commissioner Chats are modelled on a longstanding practice at the Thurston County Commission, which notices County Commissioner Chats on the County's webpage. Other Olympia Port Commissioners have since adopted Comm. Zita's practice of holding open meetings

for public discussion. They have also held public Commissioner Chats on Port property, noticed by Port staff on the Port's website. Commissioner Chats can range from small gatherings at a pizza parlour, to large groups at Port offices, like a Town Hall.

Wherever they take place, **Commissioner Chats are publicly noticed, open to all**, and typically draw a diverse crowd, from campaign supporters and Port-watchers to union workers and Port staff. See the attached news article for an example (<http://janineslittlehollywood.blogspot.com/2017/11/olympia-port-budget-proposes-raising.html> ) which illustrates the importance of transparency in government.

3) Allegation that Zita held a meeting at Port offices on 21 July 2017 which was known only to "Commissioner Zita's campaign supporters."

**False.** Zita has no record of a Commissioner Chat or any other public or private meeting at the Port on Friday 21 July 2017. Zita met her campaign team at a private home on 21 July - not at Port offices. Perhaps Mr. Blocher is thinking of the Port Work session scheduled on Thursday 20 July; that was a public meeting, noticed by Port staff.

4) Allegation that Zita's Port issued computer contained information from The Evergreen State College. This was true, and it was a **de minimus use** of the Port computer. A few late night Port Commission meetings were directly followed by Zita's preparation for her job at Evergreen the next day. While this is an allowed use, Zita no longer practices it.

Thank you again for your time and trouble. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely - Dr. E.J. Zita

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