



## State of Washington

### PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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October 16, 2017

Sent Electronically to Laura Parsons at "llparsons@centurytel.net"

Subject: Complaints filed against Shirley Maike (PDC Case 22596); John Higgins (PDC Case 22597); John Paikuli (PDC Case 22598); and Doug Ross (PDC Case 22603)

Dear Ms. Parsons:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaints you filed on July 31, 2017. Your complaints alleged that officials from the City of Medical Lake violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using Medical Lake city facilities to assist a candidate seeking local office in the 2017 election cycle: Specifically, your complaints alleged the following:

1. Mayor Higgins violated RCW 42.17A.555 by meeting with you in his office at City Hall prior to a City Council meeting, and at that meeting you stated that he had an *"emotional oppositional display in regards to my Mayoral bid webpage statement was in violation because we were at the city hall during work hours."*
2. Shirley Maike, Medical Lake City Councilmember and a candidate for Mayor in 2017; John Higgins, Medical Lake Mayor; John Paikuli, Medical Lake City Councilmember; and Doug Ross, Medical Lake City Manager all violated RCW 42.17A.555 by coordinating *their efforts using public facilities, before and during the city council meeting held on July 18, 2017, to promote councilmember Maikes bid for Mayor. Sheriff's presence, Ms. Maikes entourage, policing of Medical lake, fire pit ordinance. In order to "show" that the city supports Shirley Maikes bid for Mayor."*

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

- You are an incumbent Medical Lake Council member, having served at least three terms of office dating back to 1997. You were also a candidate for Mayor of Medical Lake on the 2017 primary election ballot, running against Ms. Maike in a three-way contested primary election.
- The City of Medical Lake contracts with the Spokane County Sheriff's Department for police services, and has done so for years.

- Ms. Maike stated that Sheriff Knezovich, three-term incumbent Spokane County Sheriff, had been scheduled to appear and speak about the police services provided by his office at the June 20, 2017 City Council meeting. She stated that Sheriff Knezovich was unable to attend the June 20, 2017 Medical Lake City Council meeting, and he was rescheduled to address the Council at the July 2017 meeting.
- Ms. Maike stated that the June 20, 2017 Medical Lake Council meeting minutes indicated that Sheriff Knezovich would be present at the July 18, 2017 Medical Lake City Council meeting. The July 18, 2017, City of Medical Lake City Council meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting, and the agenda listed under the section Scheduled Items and Staff Report an "Update from Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich." The meeting minutes indicated that several citizens made comments during the meeting about the Spokane County Sheriff's policing in the City of Medical Lake.
- Ms. Maike stated there had been discussions online by some local 2017 candidates for public office about re-establishing the Medical Lake Police Department, which had been disbanded many years ago for a variety of reasons. She stated that at the meeting, several citizens spoke out at the meeting in support the policing efforts by the Spokane County Sheriff's Office, and went on to state that the citizens:

*"were speaking about the sheriff's department contract and not about mayoral candidates. At no time did they mention my name. In fact, one of the speakers also spoke about banning fireworks (which she does at every meeting following the 4th of July)." "There was no collusion with the Sheriff. He and I do not know each other and do not associate with each other."*

No evidence was found that the meeting and discussion that took place prior to the July 18, 2017, City Council meeting involving Mayor Higgins and yourself as an incumbent City Council member, opposed your candidacy for Mayor. In addition, the presentation from Sheriff Knezovich and the comments from members of the audience did not mention any candidates or support or oppose any candidates.

After a careful review of the alleged violations and relevant facts, we have concluded our review of your complaint. We found insufficient evidence to demonstrate that Shirley Maike, John Higgins, John Paikuli and Doug Ross used City of Medical Lake facilities to support or oppose any candidate. 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 Kurt Young at 360-664-8854, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Kurt Young  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,



Peter Lavalley  
Executive Director

cc: Shirley Maike; John Higgins; John Paikuli and Doug Ross