

[Votemayorkartak](#) (Fri, 7 Jul at 12:37 PM)

to : pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Sorry for the typos in my previous message. I was rushed to a meeting but wanted to address this issue as soon as possible -only learning of all this mere hours ago. Having now fixed two words or so (plus a name - crucial to my response), here is what I had intended to write:

Hello Ms. Ragins. Thank you for bringing it to my attention that there has been a complaint filed by a Mr. Braden Sigua, which alleges that on my yard signs, I have implied that I am an incumbent for the position of Strong Mayor and that I have transgressed Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 390-18-040.

WAC 390-18-040 specifically deals with the misuse of three words, "reelect", "retain", and "return" -that a non-incumbent candidate is forbidden from using such language in their advertising. Nowhere on my signs have I used such words. Nowhere have I implied that I am already Mayor.

My signs are not misleading at all, and they do not identify myself as an incumbent in any way, shape, or form. My signs simply ask for the electorate to choose on their ballots, ("YES") John Kartak, and below those words the position, "Mayor" is given. I'm sure it must be expected that this position is allowed to be on my signs, because otherwise, nobody could reasonably know what seat I am even running for. If the words were rearranged as "YES Mayor John Kartak", then the word Mayor could be mistaken as my current title, but instead, the word comes after the entire call to action, which again, is "YES John Kartak".

The very large word, "YES", is the most visible and recognizable part of my sign, and it is clearly intended as the call to action to elect ME ...for the position of Mayor. I simply cannot see how I have implied in any way that I am an incumbent by the language given on my sign.

Furthermore, the people of Snohomish are voting for the very first Elected Mayor our town has had in 45 years. That's right, we have not had an Elected Mayor for 45 years, and unless some voters have been living under a rock or are severely unaware of the talk-of-the-town for the last 12 months, everybody knows that there is no incumbent for this position. In other words, I have been speaking with thousands of citizens in our town of 9,600 people, and have not come across a single one who thinks there is an incumbent.

It might also be worth noting that **Mr. Sigua** has publicly identified himself as someone who is working with one of my opponents, Councilperson Karen Guzak, to help her get elected. I realize that for official purposes, this probably means nothing, but for the sake of any member of the public who happens to read this (and wishes to understand perhaps why the complaint has been filed), I want to put this information in this email so that they can decide for themselves.

If you or anyone else has any questions or concerns, please contact me. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

John T Kartak  
425-238-7879 cell/text  
Candidate for Snohomish Mayor  
Transparency, Representation, Small-Town Values