



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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August 1, 2017

Jessica McGuire  
[jessicamcguire27@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicamcguire27@yahoo.com)

Subject: Complaint regarding Steve Peterson, PDC Case 19258, and Dan Dunne, PDC Case 19259

Dear Ms. McGuire:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on June 2, 2017. Your complaint alleged that Mayor Steve Peterson and Councilmember Dan Dunne used Liberty Lake public facilities to support an August 1, 2017 ballot measure, in violation of RCW 42.17A.555, when Mayor Peterson solicited contributions for a newly formed political committee during the May 16, 2017 City Council meeting, and when Councilmember Dunne pledged \$200.00 to the committee during the City Council meeting.

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

- During the May 16, 2017 Liberty Lake City Council meeting, following an update from City Administrator Katy Allen on the proposed Community Center, Mayor Steve Peterson, briefly stated that a campaign committee was forming to support the August 1, 2017 ballot measure, and would be having a kick-off soon. He told Councilmembers, "We need to be all-in in support of the committee's efforts," and asked, "Is anyone willing to step-up?" Councilmember Dan Dunne responded that he would pledge \$200.00, and an unidentified person offered to "pitch-in." Mayor Peterson then said, "Money talks" and the comments ended.
- Mayor Peterson and Councilmember Dunne stated that the views they expressed at the May 16 City Council meeting were intended to be informative and part of their personal views. They said it was never their intent or desire to commit a violation.
- It appears that Mayor Peterson and Councilmember Dunne made spontaneous comments during the City Council meeting about their support of the August 1<sup>st</sup> ballot proposition, following an update about the City's Community Center project. The comments were brief and were limited to those in attendance at the meeting. No additional comments were made.

- Mayor Peterson has no prior warnings or violations. Councilmember Dunne was found in violation of RCW 42.17A.205 for filing his Candidate Registration late in 2015, but has committed no violations for using public facilities to support or oppose a candidate for ballot proposition.

Based on these initial findings, staff has determined that in this instance, the brief comments made by Mayor Peterson and Councilmember Dunne do not warrant further investigation or formal enforcement action. However, the comments should not have been made using public facilities, and pursuant to WAC 390-37-060(1)(b), Mayor Peterson and Councilmember Dunne will be sent a formal written warning. The Commission will consider the formal written warning in deciding on further Commission action if there are future violations of PDC laws or rules.

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 Phil Stutzman at 360-664-8853, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:phil.stutzman@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Philip E. Stutzman  
Sr. Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

  
Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director

cc: Mayor Steve Peterson; Councilmember Dan Dunne