



State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908

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Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdca.wa.gov

January 4, 2019

Delivered electronically to Ronald Krebs at “deputy.krebs@gmail.com”

Subject: Ronald Krebs Complaint Return Letter, PDC Case 42393

Mr. Krebs:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Marla Johns concerning a complaint she filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) against you as the incumbent San Juan County Sheriff. As noted below in the electronic letter to Ms. Johns, the PDC will not be conducting a formal investigation or pursuing enforcement action into the allegations listed in the complaint she filed.

Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1). If you have questions, please contact PDC staff member Kurt Young by e-mail at kurt.young@pdcc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s _____
Kurt Young, Compliance Officer

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl, Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley, Executive Director



Public Disclosure Commission
Shining Light on Washington Politics Since 1972



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January 4, 2019

Sent electronically to Marla Johns

Subject: Complaint filed against Ronald Krebs, San Juan County Sheriff; PDC Case 42393

Ms. Johns:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of four of the complaints you filed against Ronald Krebs, the incumbent San Juan County Sheriff and a candidate seeking re-election to that office in 2018. The complaint alleged that Sheriff Krebs, may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using the public facilities of San Juan County to assist his candidacy for re-election in 2018 by authorizing two San Juan County Deputies appear in uniform at a candidate forum in Eastsound in which he was appearing as a candidate, and to respond to law enforcement related questions from the audience.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations listed in the complaint you filed, the statutes, rules and PDC Interpretation #04-02 "Guidelines for Local Government Agencies in Election Campaigns", and the response from Mr. Krebs to the allegation listed in the complaint. As a result, we found the following:

- On April 17, 2018, Sheriff Krebs filed a Candidate Registration (C-1 report) declaring his candidacy for re-election to the office of San Juan County Sheriff, and initially selecting the Mini Reporting option. Mr. Krebs changed to the Full Reporting option in August of 2018. Sheriff Krebs was elected San Juan County Sheriff in 2014.
- Sheriff Krebs stated the event listed in the complaint was the League of Women's Voters 2018 Candidate forum on Orca Island, which is one of three candidate forums held due to the geography of the county, the other two are on San Juan and Lopez islands. He stated that during all three of the forums the San Juan County Sheriff's Office, which is the only law enforcement agency in San Juan County, there were Sheriff's officers in attendance. He stated that Sargent Crow and Deputy Sheriff Gross were the two officers present at the Orcas Island candidate forum.
- Sheriff Krebs stated that at no time during the candidate forum did he "advocate anyone speak to the Deputies as representatives of" his Campaign, but he did "advocate they speak to my deputies as representatives of themselves and how they feel about how things are going." He stated that neither Sargent Crow and Deputy Sheriff Gross "were there at my insistence nor did I arrive or leave with them. Their being in attendance was neither in violation or state law nor county police. None of them posed any questions nor did they answer any questions that I am aware of." He added that they both left prior to the end of the candidate forum.

- Sheriff Krebs stated that “if any of my deputies did answer questions, as they often do throughout an election season, they are answered with general answers about the office and how it is going. At the beginning of the election season the county puts out to all employees that it is a campaign violation to advocate for any particular candidate while on duty.”

For your information, there were six complaints filed against Sheriff Krebs that were resolved prior to your complaint being filed, which included alleged violations of RCW 42.17A.555 for using San Juan County facilities, including the Sheriff’s uniform and vehicle to support his candidacy. Sheriff Krebs completed a Statement of Understanding (SOU) and paid a \$150 civil penalty, in accordance with WAC 390-37-143, acknowledging violations of RCW 42.17A.555 for having his photograph taken in his official San Juan County Sheriff’s issued polo shirt, and including that photograph in political advertisements sponsored by his 2014 Campaign, and driving his assigned San Juan County Sheriff’s vehicle during his designated lunch time, to order Campaign signs from a local print shop that assisted his 2018 Campaign for re-election.

No evidence was found that Sheriff Krebs, Sargent Crow or Deputy Sheriff Gross used San Juan County facilities to support his candidacy for re-election by appearing at the candidate forum. The PDC will not be conducting a more formal investigation into the complaint or pursuing enforcement action in this case. Based on this information, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Young at (360) 664-8854 or by e-mail at kurt.young@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Endorsed by:

/s _____
Kurt Young
PDC Compliance Officer

/s _____
Barbara Sandahl, Deputy Director
For Peter Lavalley, Executive Director

cc: Ronald Krebs

