



STATE OF WASHINGTON

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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September 16, 2011

John Chambers
9020 184th Avenue NE
Granite Falls, WA 98252

RE: Complaint against Mike Hope – PDC Case No. 11-039

Dear Mr. Chambers:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its investigation of your complaint received on March 23, 2011, alleging that Mike Hope, candidate for Snohomish County Executive, used the public facilities of the City of Seattle to assist his campaign for Snohomish County Executive by wearing a Seattle Police Department uniform with patches and duty gear in several campaign photographs and a video featured on his campaign website. Your complaint refers to three specific photos and one video found on Mr. Hope's 2011 Snohomish County Executive campaign website, and two photos found on Mr. Hope's 2010 legislative campaign Facebook page.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations in light of the following statute:

RCW 42.17.130 which states: "No elective official nor any employee of his [or her] office nor any person appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition. Facilities of a public office or agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of employees of the office or agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the office or agency."

PDC staff reviewed your complaint and supporting documentation. Staff reviewed Mike Hope's response and documentation. Staff found the following:

Mr. Hope's website for his 2011 campaign for Snohomish County Executive includes several pictures, including three pictures showing him dressed in a law enforcement uniform. The site also includes videos, some of which include Mr. Hope dressed in a law enforcement uniform. The photos and video in which Mr. Hope appears in a law enforcement uniform are described as follows:

- Photo #1 shows Mr. Hope, in a law enforcement uniform and gear, holding his child. No patches, badges, or agency specific insignia are visible.
- Photo #2 shows Mr. Hope in a law enforcement uniform and gear. The words, "Remember Lakewood" appear in the left portion of the picture. An indistinct patch is seen in the chest area of his shirt. No other patches, badges, or agency specific insignia are visible.
- Photo #3 shows Mr. Hope in a law enforcement uniform and gear speaking with a man and woman in front of a brick house. No patches, badges, or agency specific insignia are visible.
- Video: A video posted on Mr. Hope's 2010 State Representative campaign website, features Mr. Hope discussing a 2010 statewide ballot measure. In the video, Mr. Hope is wearing a law enforcement uniform and gear. An indistinct patch is seen in the chest area of his shirt. During the video, a side-angle view of Mr. Hope in uniform shows a shoulder patch, however the crest and wording is not discernible. The Remember Lakewood image (police badge with black band) is shown during the video as well.

Uniform and gear: In 2010, during his re-election campaign for State Representative, Mr. Hope purchased the uniform shirt with shoulder patches, seen in his campaign photos, using campaign funds. He said he purchased the uniform to be used in campaign-related pictures and advertisements and he does not wear the campaign-purchased uniform while on duty. Mr. Hope stated that he purchased the generic patch seen on his chest with personal funds.

Mr. Hope stated that the gun, handcuffs, and radio are the same as those used in past campaign photos. Complaints alleging violations of RCW 42.17.130 for use of the same equipment in past political advertising were dismissed. In the previous complaints that were dismissed, it was established that Mr. Hope purchased the gun and handcuffs using personal funds in 1998. The gun is used as his off-duty personal weapon. As in years past, Mr. Hope borrowed the shoulder-radio from a friend who personally owns the radio.

Mr. Hope stated that he continues to receive an annual clothing allowance from the Seattle Police Department. He stated that during the last two years, he used the clothing allowance to purchase a duty jacket, a hat, one uniform, extra pants, and dry-cleaning services.

Remember Lakewood image (badge): The Remember Lakewood image (police badge with black band) is not the official badge of the Lakewood Police Department. The Remember Lakewood image is a commemorative badge which has been used by those involved with the Remember Lakewood effort. The Remember Lakewood image is publicly available on websites and Facebook. The use of that particular image is not a use of public facilities of the City of Lakewood/Lakewood Police Department.

Facebook pictures: Mike Hope's 2010 legislative campaign maintained a Facebook page during his 2010 re-election campaign ("Re-elect Mike Hope, 44th Legislative District-R"). Two

photos were posted on Mr. Hope's legislative campaign Facebook page showing him, in uniform, standing near a Seattle Police vehicle. Mr. Hope acknowledged that the uniform he was wearing was a uniform he purchased for duty purposes, using personal funds, during 2009 or 2010.

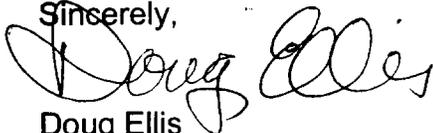
Mr. Hope stated that the photos were taken by a co-worker from the Seattle Police Department. He said that he posted the photos to his personal Facebook page and that the photos were never intended to be posted on his campaign Facebook page. He said that he did not post the photos to his campaign Facebook page, and was unable to determine who posted the photos to his campaign Facebook page. He said learned that these pictures were on his campaign Facebook page as a result of your complaint. Mr. Hope removed his entire campaign Facebook page in June, 2011 and the page no longer exists.

After a careful review of the alleged violations and relevant facts, we have concluded our investigation and, with the concurrence of the Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, I am dismissing your complaint against Mike Hope.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. The process relies on citizens monitoring campaign activity to promote full compliance with the law. Your actions will contribute to better awareness of the Public Disclosure Law and better public disclosure of important campaign information.

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.

Sincerely,



Doug Ellis
Interim Executive Director

c: Mike Hope