

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

In the Matter of Enforcement Action
Against:

Steven Drew

Respondents.

Case No. 13-014

STIPULATION AS TO FACTS AND
VIOLATION

The parties to this Stipulation, namely, the Public Disclosure Commission Staff, through its Executive Director, Andrea McNamara Doyle, and Respondent Steven Drew, appearing through his attorney, Roselyn Marcus, submit this Stipulation as to Facts and Violation in this matter. The parties agree that the Commission has the authority to accept, reject or modify the terms of this Stipulation. The parties further agree that in the event that the Commission suggests modification to any term of this agreement, each party reserves the right to reject that modification. In the event either party rejects a modification, this matter will proceed to hearing before the Commission.

JURISDICTION

The Public Disclosure Commission has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to RCW 42.17/42.17A, the Public Disclosure Act; RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedure Act; and WAC 390.

FACTS

1. Respondent Steven Drew is the elected Thurston County Assessor. He was elected to office in the November 2, 2010 General Election.
2. Following a February 9, 2012 management meeting held by Mr. Drew in the Thurston County Assessor's Office, a Thurston County Assessor employee became concerned about a statement made by Mr. Drew at the conclusion of the meeting. Approximately six months after the meeting, the employee expressed the concern to the Thurston County Human Resources Department.

3. Witness 1 recalled the statement made by Mr. Drew at the February 9, 2012 management meeting as something to the effect of:

“...at budget time, Ms. Romero might weigh in on our budget request if people from the office or the management team were to contribute to her campaign...”
4. The witness said Mr. Drew never specifically asked him to write a check to Ms. Romero, and said he did not contribute to her campaign. He stated he never felt pressure or coercion from Mr. Drew to contribute to Ms. Romero or any other candidate.
5. Witness 2 confirmed he was in attendance at the February 2012 management meeting when Mr. Drew made the alleged solicitation. The witness stated that very near the end of the meeting, Mr. Drew commented that he was on his way to a fundraiser. The witness thought Mr. Drew said the fundraiser was for Sandra Romero, and that he said something like, ***“It would be nice if you contributed to her campaign.”*** He stated he did not feel any pressure or coercion to contribute to her campaign.
6. Witness 3 was in attendance at the February 9, 2012 meeting when Mr. Drew stated something like ***“...there are elections going on....county officials are involved in those elections...those county officials make our budget.... if you could consider making a contribution it could help us out...”*** The witness stated she felt there was no pressure or coercion to contribute to a specific candidate, or to make a contribution to the Sandra Romero Campaign.
7. Witness 4 stated that at the end of the meeting at issue, Mr. Drew made a statement that he did not want anyone in attendance to feel any pressure, and went on to state something to the effect that ***“...Sandra Romero allowed Mr. Drew to hire employees during a hiring freeze, and it would be good for managers to contribute to her campaign.”***
8. Witness 4 stated she did not understand what Mr. Drew was talking about and told him she did not understand what he meant, and he commented something to the effect

“...that it would be nice to contribute to her campaign and that a small amount would be okay...maybe \$20 or more...but I want you to remember that she does keep score...I will not look to see how much you give...” She stated that Mr. Drew also said something directed at her like *“... you are exempt since you were in your position before I got here...but [another witness] and I chose to be career politicians so it is different for us...”*

9. Respondent Drew has stated that he takes seriously the obligation not to knowingly solicit, directly or indirectly, a contribution to a candidate for public office or to use public resources in any election campaign, and that he did not intentionally violate any such restrictions.
10. Respondent Drew has not previously been found to have violated any provision of RCW 42.17 or 42.17A.

STATUTORY AND RULE AUTHORITY

11. **RCW 42.17A.565** states: “(1) No state or local official or state or local official's agent may knowingly solicit, directly or indirectly, a contribution to a candidate for public office, political party, or political committee from an employee in the state or local official's agency.
(2) No state or local official or public employee may provide an advantage or disadvantage to an employee or applicant for employment in the classified civil service concerning the applicant's or employee's:
 - (a) Employment;
 - (b) Conditions of employment; or
 - (c) Application for employment,based on the employee's or applicant's contribution or promise to contribute or failure to make a contribution or contribute to a political party or political committee.”
12. **RCW 42.17A.555** prohibits elected officials, their employees, and persons appointed to or employed by a public office or agency from using or authorizing the use of public facilities, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a candidate's campaign or for the promotion of, or opposition to, any ballot proposition. This prohibition does not apply to activities that are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.

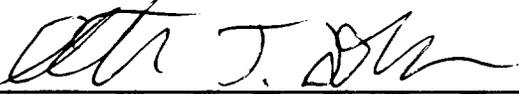
VIOLATION

Based on the Stipulation of Facts set forth above, Respondent Steven Drew stipulates that, on one occasion, he made a statement to four subordinate employees of the Thurston County Assessor's Office in violation of RCW 42.17A.565 and that he violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using facilities of the Thurston County Assessor's Office to make the statements.

Respondent Steven Drew re-affirms his intention to comply in good faith with the provisions of RCW 42.17A in the future.


Andrea McNamara Doyle, Executive Director
Public Disclosure Commission

7/31/2013
Date Signed


Steven Drew, Thurston County Assessor
Respondent

07/30/2013
Date Signed


Roselyn Marcus, Attorney for Respondent

07/30/2013
Date Signed