

In response to the PDC complaint filed against me. #39203 Rebecca Erickson

I began holding open office hours in city hall in June of 2010. For 8 years I have been giving up my Saturday mornings, so people can come talk to me. I am the Mayor of Poulsbo. This is the way I can connect with my constituency which is the city of Poulsbo, but also the "greater Poulsbo" which encompasses much of the 98370-zip code. Please see the attached photo in the garage of city hall that explains about my office hours. My city email also has a bottom line that invites people to come and talk with me, picture enclosed.

I have spoken to people from all over the world (amazingly) during my office hours. *I consider this time one of the most important things I do as a Mayor.*

I sit in one specific spot in city hall because I have defined escape routes in the building. In the last 8 years, I have been frightened by some of my encounters, and therefore, have a buzzer that connects to a security company and I sit in a place that has cameras.

I have run three campaigns for Mayor (I am in my third term as mayor of Poulsbo) and have never had anyone complain about my behavior as electioneering.

The subject of me using city hall for my office hours came up in a Facebook post on June 15th where I was questioned by a former reporter of the Kitsap Sun and a former editor of the North Kitsap Herald. They questioned this situation and I clearly explained to them that I will not hand out any campaign brochures or have signage. My conversation with people on Saturday mornings in city hall is about issues and the concerns of the citizens I represent. I am a Mayor, and people have a right to talk to me.

This subject has also been discussed with the League of Women Voters as they use Poulsbo City Hall for candidate debates. I have hosted these meetings for years. Election materials can be presented by candidates, but no petition signing is allowed. No one has ever questioned this practice. Now I must ask, is this legal? And if it not, should I cancel the forth coming debates? This is an honest and important question to the Commission. We have already held one debate this election cycle for county coroner. Should I cancel the rest of the scheduled events? Please let me know!

The night that Ms. Zimmer is referring to in her complaint I said "no electioneering" as I was leaving the meeting. People were asking where and when my office hours were held. I stated the places and times and after the Poulsbo city hall location was mentioned, I said "no electioneering". As a candidate I am also holding office hours in 3 other locations away from city hall. Maybe some of the witnesses Ms. Zimmer has listed will substantiate my statement. I didn't know any of the people in the room, so hopefully they heard me say my statement. I guess in future I should bring a tape recorder into unfriendly crowds.

In case they did not, I posted this on my Facebook page after the incident, just to be very clear that I will not talk elections during my office hours. The following picture was posted on August 4th. My Facebook page is listed as my campaign website and you are free to go look at the posting. My page is open to almost everyone (although I admit I have blocked a few people that were overly combative or vulgar). I now sit with a very ugly sign to show everyone that we can talk about anything they want except elections. Hopefully this will relieve Ms. Zimmers concerns..... Sincerely, Rebecca Erickson.

<https://www.facebook.com/becky.erickson.731>



Becky

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Becky Erickson

August 4 at 9:12 AM · 🌐 ▾

For 8 years on Saturday mornings I have been holding open office hours in city hall so anyone can come talk to me, no appointment required. Through the years I have learned so much from this tradition. But now, someone is complaining I can't do this because it violates campaign laws. So my new sign: no election talk when you come to visit. (Really ugly sign). So here I sit, 9:00 until noon, every Saturday. Come visit me. Poulsbo City Hall.

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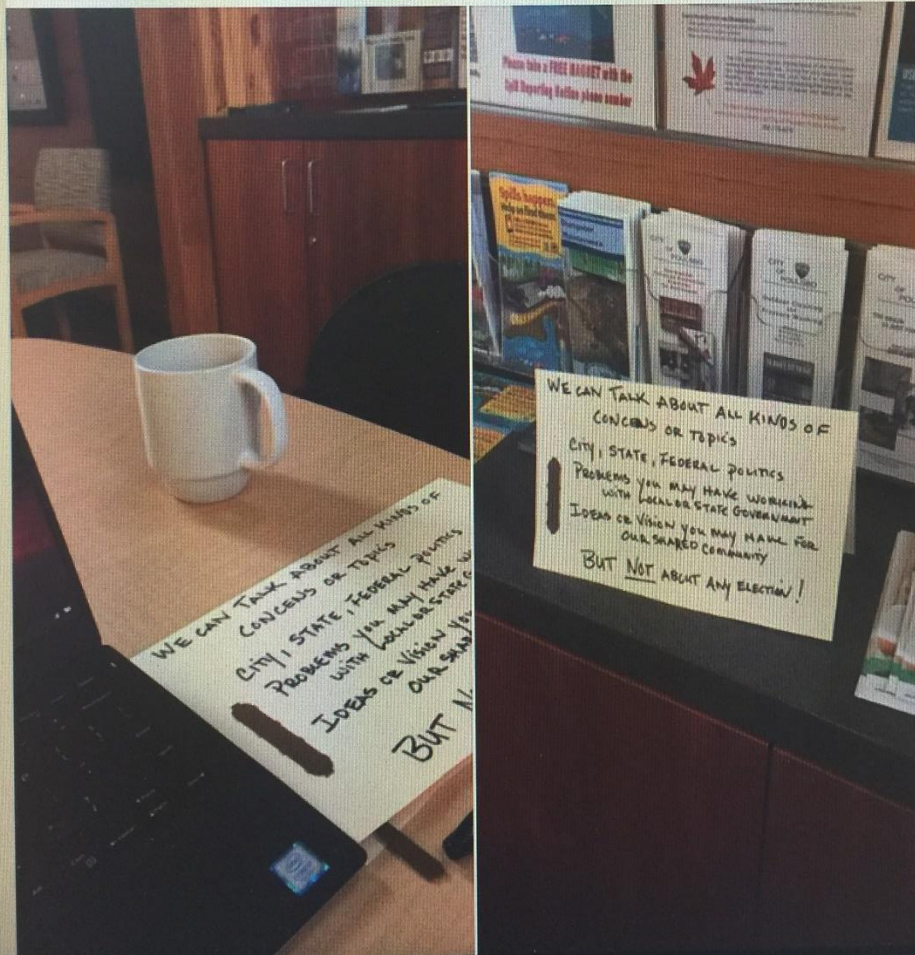
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NOTICE

1. PARKING RESTRICTIONS STRICTLY ENFORCED.
2. 3-HOUR LIMIT FOR PUBLIC PARKING.
3. NO OVERNIGHT PARKING.
4. NO SKATEBOARDING, ROLLERBLADING OR ANY OTHER RECREATION PERMITTED.
5. NO LOITERING.
6. NO SMOKING.



City Hall Hours

Monday thru Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

* Municipal Courts offices close for lunch
from 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

Mayor Erickson holds
Saturday Open Office Hours
every Saturday from
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM



POULSBO
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM

SECOND FLOOR

**Hours: Wednesday – Saturday
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Museum: 200 Main St. NE • 49601 P.O. Box 844 Poulsbo WA 98270 • Phone 360-445-7254
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