

November 3, 2017

Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way #206
P.O. Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in response to Ms. Jane M. Searing's complaint concerning my 2017 campaign for Mayor in the City of Issaquah, and I appreciate the opportunity to respond to Ms. Searing's unfounded claims against my campaign, point by point. They are as follows:

1) Concerning RCW 42.17A.555 - the use of 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 allegation is false. The event in question was sponsored and operated by the Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce and I was participating as a volunteer for the benefit of the Chamber. No monies raised, nor services rendered at the event were for the benefit of my campaign. Further, Mary Lou Pauly could have chosen to join the Chamber and participate in the event, and therefore my participation did not constitute an unfair advantage.

The Salmon Days Beer Garden and City of Issaquah property referenced in the complaint was authorized for public use by the City to the Chamber for the Chamber's own event and fundraising purposes. The Chamber recruited from its membership, of which I am one, to provide volunteer services. Please see the email below from Kathy McCorry, Executive Director of the Chamber. It includes a copy of the volunteer recruitment for the event to its membership which made no mention of my campaign. Here also is a snippet of the Chamber's advertising of the Beer Garden. There is no mention of my campaign in this ad.



Please see also in the email below information about another Chamber-sponsored event on public property (the City of Issaquah's Memorial Field) that candidates can share and display information about their campaigns. Of note, Mary Lou Pauly participated in the Down Home 4th of July event in 2017 on the city property.

2) Concerning RCW 42.17A.235 for failure to timely report contributions and expenditures both cash and in-kind.

This allegation is factually inaccurate. The band, the venue and operational expenses were commissioned for the Chamber's event and were solely for their benefit. The event was never advertised as being associated with, nor for the benefit of my campaign. Further, neither the Chamber nor the band took any position as to my campaign, and did not in any way advertise or endorse my candidacy. Therefore, the value of these expenditures should not be reported as a contribution.

3) Concerning RCW 42.17A.405 for exceeding the contribution limit.

The allegation that this was a contribution is inaccurate and as a result there is not a violation of the contribution limit.

4) Concerning my campaign having access to the event and other campaigns not being given equal access.

As you can see in the email from the Chamber, they offer a variety of benefits to members and non-members. As a member, I was allowed the opportunity to volunteer at their Salmon Days event and to wear buttons and present signage about my campaign at this public event. Mary Lou Pauly could have joined the Chamber and done the same.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to address these allegations. I have conducted my campaign business with complete transparency and integrity. I am happy to provide any additional information you may need and answer any further questions.


Sincerely,



Paul Winterstein

Message from Chamber regarding the event:

From: Kathy McCorry [<mailto:kmccorry@issaquahchamber.com>] 

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 6:41 PM 

To: Paul Winterstein <paul.winterstein@outlook.com> 

Subject: RE: PDC - Winterstein Paul: Alleged Violation of RCW 42.17A.555, .235, .405 for unauthorized use of facilities and failure to timely and properly disclose contributions and expenditures. (EY 17, OCT 17)

Hi Paul,

All of the information is correct. We had member and non-member opportunities. Everyone that inquires is given every opportunity to support Salmon Days, based on what is available, for that particular request. Member vs. non-member, for profit vs. non for profit, vendor vs. sponsor, etc. There are many factors that are taken into account for every inquiry.

In addition, the beer garden volunteer opportunity wasn't made available until the beginning of Sept. due to us creating this new program. The reason for the late change is that we had just learned volunteers could pour beer in our beer garden.

The Facebook post below went live September 4th. The request for volunteers was made public in this post and in our newsletter. It was something we only offered to members due to the serious nature of pouring alcohol. We needed people within our organization. i.e. our membership. I have placed a screen shot of the call for volunteers below. We believe posting the volunteer request in social media and in our newsletter provided our membership and the public at large to learn of this new opportunity and act on it if they were so inclined.

As far as the value goes, your volunteering at Salmon Days is immeasurable. And we thank you once again for giving your time to the Chamber. This opportunity was offered free to all members. we placed no value for the business, member, non-profit, etc. that offered of there time. No one could have purchased the opportunity. Again, the value was your donation of time to Salmon Days.

As far as city property. We had no idea there was an issue here. We allow candidates to walk in the 4th of July parade and have a booth in the Down Home 4th of July event. This year was no exception, as we had several candidates participate. This has been standard practice for years without incident. And the booths for Down Home 4th of July are in Memorial Field.

If there is anything else you need from the Chamber please let me know.

SALMON DAYS

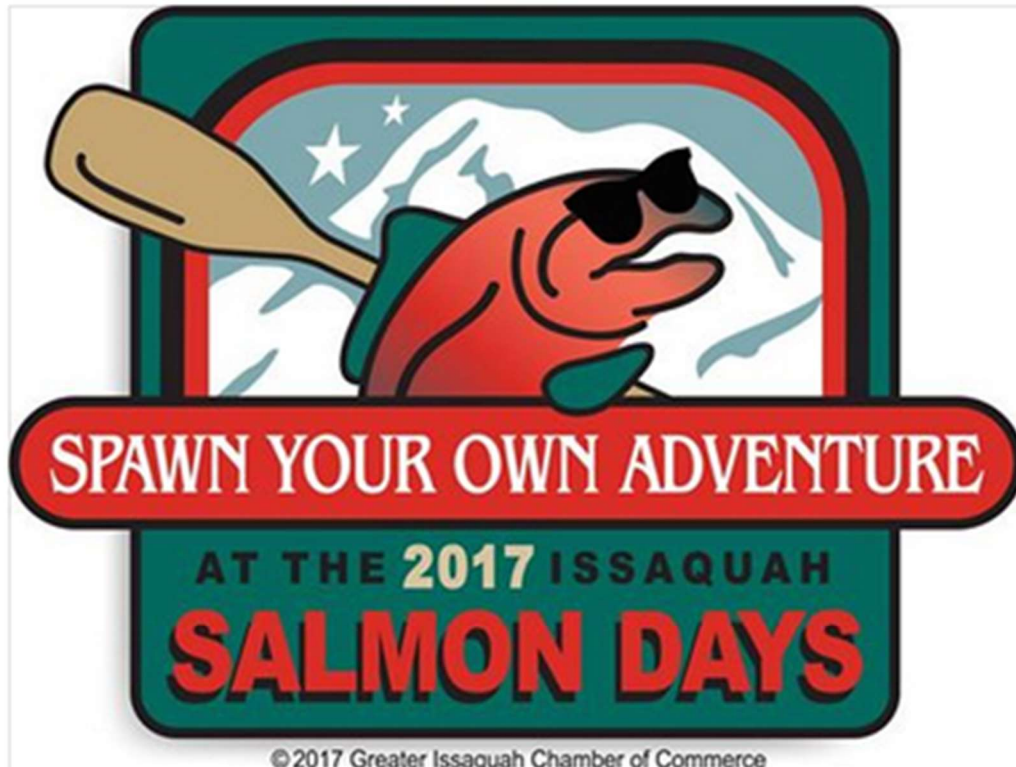
Chamber Members are now allowed to help us pour beer in the Salmon Days Beer Garden!

1 – 8 people can volunteer from a chamber partner.

Wear your logo-ed attire

Bring your business cards, Give away promotional items, put up signage, even hang a small banner

Reply in Messenger or contact: kmccorry@issaquahchamber.com



The Greater Issaquah Chamber of
Commerce and Visitor Information

Tourist Information Center

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Kathy McCorry
Executive Director

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