

Alleged complaint #1:

On May 8, 2017 candidate Backus in the accompaniment of city employee Dana Hinman during work day, drove a city owned vehicle to Bellevue, WA to meet with the "Master Builders" for the purpose of gaining a campaign endorsement and contribution. The meet was at 3:00 or 3:30 and was witnessed by Councilmember Susan Honda from the City of Federal Way.

On May 8th, Mayor Backus and Ms. Hinman attended an Economic Development Conference in Redmond (as part of our official duties) from 9AM-2PM.

For the meeting at the Master Builders interview, Ms. Hinman drove Mayor Backus in her personal car from the event in Redmond to the interview in Bellevue. Ms. Hinman and Ms. Backus recall visiting with Ms. Honda inside the office. It is doubtful that Ms. Honda has any knowledge of what type of vehicle was driven to the interview. If Ms. Honda witnessed the car driven, she would have seen us in a 2013 Gray Nissan Juke that belongs to Ms. Hinman. Mayor Backus' official vehicle is a Chevrolet Tahoe with exempt plates.

Official City of Auburn timecards indicate 3 hours of management leave on May 8 and therefore not on City time. Official timecards do not indicate the exact time of the leave, just how many hours were spent, however the official calendar for Ms. Hinman shows the time blocked as out of office (attached).

After the meeting, Ms. Hinman drove Mayor Backus back to her car and both returned to Auburn for the 5:30PM meeting.

Alleged complaint #2:

Candidate Backus' campaign chairperson is a city employee that is using city equipment to respond to campaign FaceBook messages as recently as the week of 8/28/17. See attached file under car tab fees.

The complainant indicates there is something from the Backus campaign that was posted to social media on this website. There are no messages official or unofficial on the page referenced and this website is in not affiliated with the Backus campaign although the website owner has contacted the campaign for information that has been provided.

<https://auburnmayoralrace.wordpress.com/research/car-tab-fees/>

Any work on campaign social media is done on personal equipment on non-City time. Additionally, the campaign utilizes social media management software and posts can be automated and scheduled to go out at any desired time.

Alleged complaint #3:

Candidate Backus uses city staff and equipment to film private debate 6/21/17 at a membership only event without prior permission from the organization and or candidates and then publicly disseminated edited film.

It has been standard practice for the City to film similar events for educational purposes and permission was given by the organization to film and disseminate the event as evidenced by the message exchange below with the President of the Rotary Club, permission given. We are not aware if Mr. Cowman notified the participants or not. There was no editing of the video except to add titles. Initial email invitation to the forum from the club president is also attached to indicate that the organization was communicating with all three candidates regarding the event.

The screenshot shows a text message conversation. At the top, the contact is identified as "Brett Cowman" with a profile picture of a globe and the status "Unassigned". To the right of the name are icons for a warning sign, an envelope, a clock, and a green checkmark with the word "Done".

The message history includes:

- A blue bubble from the contact: "It's on my calendar! Will it be all 3 candidates? Will the questions be given in advance? Just wondering about the format. Thanks!"
- A grey bubble from the contact: "Great! Yes all three have been invited. I will have the format to you no later than Monday 6/19 (flying to Atlanta right now...)"
- A blue bubble from the contact: "Safe travels!"
- A date separator: "JUN 16TH, 11:55AM"
- A blue bubble from the contact: "In the past we have filmed the debates and made them available to citizens. Wanted to let you know that the film crew will be there on Wednesday."
- A grey bubble from the contact: "Cool."
- A date separator: "JUN 19TH, 11:45AM"
- A blue bubble from the contact: "Hi, Brett! Hoping you had a good trip. Just following up to see what the format is going to be. I like to prep a bit if possible. 😊"

Past practice will show that the City of Auburn filmed and disseminated previous candidate forums, voter guides and debates:

- October 13, 2009 – Lions Club Candidate Forum
- October 15, 2009 – Candidate Forum hosted by the Auburn Reporter and Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce
- 2011 election season – Auburn video voters guide
- October 9, 2013 - Candidate Forum hosted by the Auburn Reporter and Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce
- October 16, 2013 – Rotary Club Candidate Forum

Alleged complaint #4:

Purposefully confusing voters with mixed terminology regarding endorsements. ie supporters vs endorsement as it related to the Muckleshoot Tribe.

The Backus campaign is not messaging any support or endorsement from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe in any materials, electronic media, print advertisement, website or other communication. However, in the 2013 campaign, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe did support Nancy Backus and it was at their request that the campaign use “supported by” and not “endorsed by” (2013 email attached). To date, no official communication has been had with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe to support the campaign.

From: Nancy Backus nancy.kbackus@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Auburn Rotary Candidate Forum
Date: June 19, 2017 at 6:37 PM
To: Dana Hinman hinmandana@gmail.com, Jason Bennett jason@argostrategies.com



FYI

Nancy Backus
nancy.k.backus@gmail.com
206-459-9680

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brett Cowman <brett@systemthree.com>
Date: June 19, 2017 at 6:20:27 PM PDT
To: Bryan Rivera <bryanrivera@srnd.org>, "Nancy Backus (Nancy.k.backus@gmail.com)" <Nancy.k.backus@gmail.com>, "Largo Wales (lawales@comcast.net)" <lawales@comcast.net>
Subject: Auburn Rotary Candidate Forum

Candidates:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our forum this Wednesday. I anticipate the time moving as follows:

11:45-12:15: Rotarians are showing up, milling around and socializing
12:15: Meeting is called to order, lunch will be served during the meeting (Rotary will cover the cost of your lunch.)
12:16-12:35: Rotary business, student of the month, announcements, etc.
12:35-12:40: Introduce candidates and lay out ground rules
12:40-1:20: Forum
1:20: Close meeting

Forum Details:

We will have a blind draw of names to determine the starting order and will then rotate the order throughout the forum.
Each candidate will have a two-minute opening statement. The forum moderator will then ask questions. Each candidate will have 90-seconds to answer. We will have a time keeper to keep us all on schedule.
I expect we'll have time to get through 6 or 7 questions.
We will close with each candidate having a two-minute closing statement.

Dress code: Come as you see fit. Rotarians will be dressed in everything from jeans/tee-shirts to suits. I will be in jeans or khakis and a golf shirt.

Looking forward to a very informative day on Wednesday,

Sincerely,
Brett Cowman
President, Rotary Club of Auburn, WA

From: Nancy Backus nancy.kbackus@gmail.com

Subject: Re: W9

Date: July 23, 2013 at 3:21 PM

To: Madrienne Salgado Madrienne.Salgado@muckleshoot.nsn.us

Cc: Nancy Backus nancy.kbackus@gmail.com, Claudia Kauffman CKauffman@muckleshoot.nsn.us, Dana Hinman hinmandana@me.com

NB

Madrienne,

I apologize for my misunderstanding and also for not getting to chat with you yesterday. I am cc'ing Dana Hinman, as well, since she does all of the great work for our website and ads.

Claudia,

I would welcome any ideas you might have! I am so proud & excited by Muckleshoot's support! There is an ad running this week that we aren't able to revise at this point that includes the Muckleshoot logo. We will not use it in any other ads, but sure hope there is some way we can be able to share the message of support. Perhaps "supported by Muckleshoot Tribe"?

I look forward to any suggestions, and again, my apologies!

Nancy Backus

nancy.k.backus@gmail.com

206-459-9680

On Jul 23, 2013, at 2:46 PM, Madrienne Salgado <Madrienne.Salgado@muckleshoot.nsn.us> wrote:

Hi Nancy,

I hope all is well. I'm sorry we didn't get a chance to say hello yesterday at the M Street Grand Opening.

So something was just brought to my attention and I wanted to talk to you about it. It's your "endorsement" listing on your webpage. Although Muckleshoot did support your campaign with a monetary donation; the Tribe doesn't endorse candidates. It's just not something they have done in the past. Many requests do come in, however no endorsements have ever been made to my knowledge. I'm not sure if you can reword the support Muckleshoot has given your campaign on your website?

Claudia maybe you have something to add? Or different options to voice?

Nancy, Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks for your understanding in this matter,

Madrienne Salgado

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Public Affairs Support Specialist

(253) 876-3190 Direct Line (253) 486-9019 Cell

(253) 931-8570 Fax

madrienne.salgado@muckleshoot.nsn.us

From: Nancy Backus [<mailto:nancy.kbackus@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2013 12:50 PM

To: Madrienne Salgado

Subject: Re: W9

I just faxed the form to you, Madrienne. Thank you!

Nancy Backus

nancy.k.backus@gmail.com

206-459-9680