



**State of Washington
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

March 5, 2019

Delivered electronically to nancy.k.backus@gmail.com and hinmandana@gmail.com

Subject: Complaint filed by Kathy Lamar, PDC Case 24684

Dear Nancy Backus:

Enclosed is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Kathy Lamar concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Kathy Lamar, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into these allegations or taking further enforcement action in this matter.

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail alice.fiman@pdc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s _____

Alice Fiman
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,

/s _____

Barbara Sandahl
Deputy Director
For Peter Lavallee
Executive Director



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March 5, 2019

Delivered electronically to “knblamar@aol.com”

Subject: Complaint regarding Nancy Backus, PDC Case 24684

Dear Kathy Lamar:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on August 31, 2017. Your complaint alleged that Nancy Backus may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using a city-owned vehicle, computer equipment and videotaping equipment to assist her campaign for Mayor of Auburn.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations; the applicable statutes, rules and reporting requirements, and the response provided by Nancy Backus.

Based on staff’s review, we found the following:

- Nancy Backus was first elected to the Auburn City Council in 2004, then elected Mayor of Auburn in 2014.
- Backus stated, “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.” Backus continued, stating, “Dana Hinman, Campaign Manager, Committee to Re-elect Nancy Backus, took three hours of leave that day and drives a Nissan, while Mayor Backus’ official vehicle is a Chevrolet Tahoe with exempt plates.”
- Backus stated that “the website referenced in the complaint is not affiliated with the Backus campaign and any campaign social media work is done on personal equipment and 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.”
- Backus stated it is standard practice for city staff to videotape events similar to the June 21, 2017 debate for educational purposes and noted “permission was given by the organization to film and disseminate the event” and provided a message exchange for the President of the Rotary Club.
- In her response, Backus provided an example of five similar events from 2009 to 2013 that were videotaped by city staff.

Based on these findings, staff has determined that, in this instance, the alleged use of a city-owned vehicle, computer equipment and videotaping equipment to assist the campaign of Nancy Backus for Mayor of Auburn does not appear to be an actual violation warranting further investigation.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail alice.fiman@pdc.wa.gov.

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/s _____
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