



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
808 W. SPOKANE FALLS BLVD.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201-3342
509.625.6350

August 4, 2015

Mr. Troy Bruner
City of Spokane Ethics Commission
c/o Rebecca Riedinger, Staff Liaison to the Ethics Commission
City Attorney's Office
5th Floor – City Hall
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Mr. Bruner:

RE: ETHICS COMPLAINT FROM CINDY ZAPOTOCKY AGAINST CITY CLERK
TERRI PFISTER

This is to provide a written response to Ms. Cindy Zapotocky's complaint against me, as submitted during the July 13, 2015, Spokane City Council meeting, and her subsequent email transmission of the complaint as sent to Rebecca Riedinger on July 17, 2015. In addition, I have reviewed Ms. Zapotocky's August 4, 2015, letter to the City of Spokane Ethics Commission regarding her complaint.

I find no evidence of Ethics Code violations by me presented in any of Ms. Zapotocky's letters of complaint. I would respectfully request the Ethics Commission to dismiss the complaint based on the grounds that it has no jurisdiction in the matter [reference SMC 01.04A.110.D(1)(a)].

Although I feel the Ethics Commission has no jurisdiction in the matter, in case it may be of assistance during the Commission's deliberations on this matter, I am attaching an email exchange for your review dated December 1, 2014, between City Attorney Nancy Isserlis and Ms. Zapotocky. I believe this email backs up the response I provided to Ms. Zapotocky on November 19, 2014, in reply to her November 17, 2014, request for a translation of Spanish testimony provided by David Brookbank.

Thank you in advance for your review and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Terri L. Pfister, MMC
Spokane City Clerk

Attachment

Pfister, Terri

From: Isserlis, Nancy
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 12:08 PM
To: zapox6@afo.net
Cc: Pfister, Terri; Dalton, Pat
Subject: Re: Testimony Translation

Ms. Pfister is correct.

Nancy Isserlis
City Attorney
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201
509.625.6225
Sent from my iPad
Confidential Attorney Client Communication

> On Dec 1, 2014, at 10:13 AM, "zapox6@afo.net" <zapox6@afo.net> wrote:

>

> To: Nancy Isserlis, City Attorney

>

> I would like to inquire of you if Ms. Pfister's assumption below is
> correct...that there is no legal requirement of the City of Spokane to
> provide translations of non-English testimonies at public hearings to
> our city's citizens?

>

> Cindy Zapotocky
> 509-534-5707

>

> ----- Forwarded Message ----- From:zapox6@afo.net

> To:"Pfister, Terri" <TPfister@spokanecity.org>

> Cc:awaldref@spokanecity.org, bstuckart@spokanecity.org,

> cmumm@spokanecity.org, jsnyder@spokanecity.org,

> kstratton@spokanecity.org, mallen@spokanecity.org,

> mayer@spokanecity.org, mfagen@spokanecity.org Sent:Mon, 1 Dec 2014

> 09:48:39 -0800 Subject:Testimony Translation

>

> Dear Ms. Pfister: It was a shock to receive your communication below.

> You are telling me that the 50 or so of us English-speaking American
> citizens attending the City Council Meeting on 10-27-14 DO NOT have a
> right to understand what was being said in the room? Your presumption
> in my view is unlawful and unfair.

>

> Keeping in mind that the vast majority of Americans speak their native
> tongue, which is English, I hereby VIGOROUSLY PROTEST your refusal to
> provide a translation of this testimony to me, a citizen of the United
> States of America. I have reluctantly done as you directed to see just what Mr.
> Brookbank said in his testimony, which is attached. I believe you will
> agree that his testimony was something I needed to hear and understand.

>

> I hereby respectfully ask that our Spokane City Council and our Mayor

> formulate and pass an ordinance requiring that all public testimonies
> provided at City Council meetings in non-English be translated into
> English by your office so that the vast majority of our nation's and
> this city's citizens can understand what is being said.

>

> Your's truly, Cindy Zapotocky

> 1728 E. Rockwood Blvd

> Spokane, WA 99203

> Phone: 509-534-5707

>

> ----- Original Message ----- From:"Pfister, Terri"

> <TPfister@spokanecity.org> To:"zapox6@afo.net" <zapox6@afo.net>

> Sent:Wed, 19 Nov 2014 16:35:51 +0000

> Subject:RE: RE Translation

>

>> Ms. Zapotocky:

>>

>> In response to your email inquiry below, the City Clerk's Office does
>> not provide transcription services to the public for comments made
>> during public meetings, nor am I aware of any requirement that would
>> require the City to hire a translator or interpreter to
>> translate/interpret testimony provided at a City Council meeting. We
>> are required to keep a record of meetings, which we have done. You
>> are most welcome to obtain a copy of the audio recording and/or the
>> video recording of the meeting and consult with a translator or an
>> interpreter of your own choosing to translate/interpret the comments
>> for you.

>>

>> Best regards,

>>

>> Terri L. Pfister, MMC | City of Spokane | City Clerk

>> 808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201-3342

>> 509.625.6354 | fax 509.625.6217 | tpfister@spokanecity.org

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: zapox6@afo.net [<mailto:zapox6@afo.net>]

>> Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 11:54 AM

>> To: Clerks - City of Spokane

>> Subject: RE Translation

>>

>> ----- Forwarded Message ----- From:zapox6@afo.net

> To:TPfister@spokanecity.org Sent:Tue, 28 Oct 2014 19:42:54 -0700

> Subject:RE Translation

>>

>> Dear Terry: I attended last night's City Council meeting and heard a
>> testimony by David Brookbank, mostly in Spanish. Could I please have
>> a translation of this sent to me?

>>

>> Thank you, Cindy Zapotocky

>> 509-534-5707

>> ----- End of Forwarded Message -----

>

- > -----
- > Help protect your family and your marriage!
- > Take a look at PROTECTED internet service from American Family Online
- > - <http://www.afo.net> <CITY COUNCIL Brookbank testimony.docx>