

## **CITY OF SPOKANE ETHICS COMMISSION**

### **Ethics Commission's Findings, Conclusions and Decision Regarding Complaint Against Terri Pfister**

#### **FINDINGS**

The Ethics Commission makes the following findings:

1. On July 13, 2015, Cindy Zapotocky submitted to the City Council an ethics complaint regarding City Clerk Terri Pfister, which was subsequently forwarded to the Ethics Commission. On July 17, 2015, Ms. Zapotocky filed a subsequent complaint of the same nature as the July 13, 2015 complaint directly with the Ethics Commission. On August 4, 2015, upon the request of the Ethics Commission, Ms. Zapotocky submitted a letter clarifying her complaint.
2. The complaint alleges that Ms. Pfister failed to provide a written English transcript of a citizen's oral testimony presented to the City Council during the October 27, 2014 City Council meeting in which the citizen spoke in Spanish. Ms. Zapotocky alleges that Ms. Pfister's response that the City Clerk's Office does not provide transcription services to the public for comments made during public meetings was a dereliction of her obligation under the laws of the state to serve the citizens of Spokane.
3. On August 4, 2015, Ms. Pfister filed a written response to the complaint in which she states that no evidence has been submitted that demonstrates that she has violated the Ethics Code. Ms. Pfister further requests that the Ethics Commission dismiss the complaint based on the grounds that it has no jurisdiction pursuant to SMC 1.04A.110 D (1)(a).
4. On August 12, 2015, the Ethics Commission conducted an initial hearing to review Ms. Zapotocky's complaint to determine whether, pursuant to SMC 1.04A.110 D (1)(a), the Commission had jurisdiction to conduct further proceedings.
5. The Commission considered the July 13, 2015 and the July 17, 2015 complaints filed by Ms. Zapotocky, the August 4, 2015 letters submitted by Ms. Zapotocky and Ms. Pfister and the oral presentation presented by Ms. Zapotocky at the August 12, 2015 meeting.

## CONCLUSION

The Ethics Commission makes the following conclusions:

The July 13, 2015 and July 17, 2015 complaints, as well as the August 4, 2015 letter from Cindy Zapotocky, fail to assert any facts or cite to any provision of the City's Ethics Code, which would demonstrate that the response by Terri Pfister was a violation of the Ethics Code. The facts and assertions submitted by Ms. Zapotocky fail to establish jurisdiction pursuant to SMC 1.04A.110 D (1)(a).

## DECISION

Based upon the Findings and Conclusions set forth above, and the deliberation of the Ethics Commission during the August 12, 2015 meeting, the Ethics Commission unanimously voted to dismiss the complaint on the basis that complaint failed to set forth facts or alleged conduct that would establish jurisdiction for the Ethics Commission. The complaint is, therefore, dismissed pursuant to SMC 1.04A.110 D (1)(a).

 8-1-15

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Troy Bruner - Chairperson      Date