

CITY OF SPOKANE ETHICS COMMISSION

Ethics Commission Chairperson's Decision Dismissing Complaint by Norbert Leute

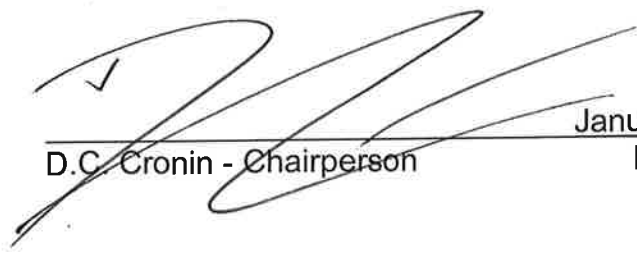
On January 2, 2020, the Ethics Commission received a complaint filed by Norbert Leute, which named Heather Trautman and Dan Polson as respondents. Ms. Trautman is a former City employee and does not work for the City. There are no allegations nor evidence that Ms. Trautman is participating in any matter involving the City in which she, as a former employee, personally or substantially participated in while with the City. Mr. Polson is a member of Local 270, a labor union that maintains a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the City. The CBA between Local 270 and the City does not provide for the application of the Ethics Code to the members or employment positions represented by Local 270.

SMC 1.04A.110 D. 3. provides:

The Commission Chairperson may summarily dismiss a complaint if the respondent is not subject to the Code of Ethics. The Chairperson shall issue a written decision setting forth the legal and/or factual basis for the dismissal, which shall be provided to the complainant and the Commission. The complainant may appeal the Chairperson's decision to the Commission within ten days of the date of the Chairperson's decision. In the event of an appeal, the Chairperson shall not participate in the Commission's deliberation or decision. The appeal will be determined by the remaining members of the Commission.

The Ethics Code generally sets forth prescribed and prohibited conduct applicable to current City officers and employees including, but not limited to prohibitions on 1) apparent or actual conflicts of interest or impropriety in the discharge of the officer or employee's official duties, 2) personal interest in contracts and contract selection, 3) personal or financial interest in legislation or contracts, 4) disclosure of confidential information, and 5) acceptance of gifts or personal benefit, gain or profit. The Ethics Code also prohibits specific conduct for employee's who have left City employment including the prohibition on participating in matters involving the City in which the former employee personally or substantially participated in while employed with the City.

Based upon the facts set forth above, both Ms. Trautman and Mr. Polson are individuals who are not subject to the Ethics Code. Therefore, pursuant to the authority granted to me as the Ethics Commission Chairperson in SMC 1.04A.110 D. 3. and the facts set forth above, the complaint filed by Norbert Leute is hereby dismissed. Mr. Norbert may appeal this decision to the full Ethics Commission within ten days of the date of this decision.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to D.C. Cronin. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

D.C. Cronin - Chairperson

January 22, 2020

Date