

## Stragier, Doris

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**From:** Piccolo, Mike  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 4:39 PM  
**To:** Stragier, Doris  
**Subject:** FW: Ethics Complaint Response

Here is Mark's response.

Michael J. Piccolo  
Assistant City Attorney

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**From:** Carlos, Mark <mcarlos@spokanecity.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 4:26 PM  
**To:** Piccolo, Mike <mpiccolo@spokanecity.org>  
**Cc:** Wilkerson, Betsy <bwilkerson@spokanecity.org>; Gunn, Jeff <jgunn@spokanecity.org>; Zappone, Zack <zzappone@spokanecity.org>  
**Subject:** Ethics Complaint Response

Commissioners,

I request the dismissal of Ethics Complaint No. 23-03 be dismissed on the grounds that the conduct alleged does not meet the basic elements of each of the provisions in the Ethics Code.

Specifically,:

[Section 01.04A.030](#) Prohibited Conduct Part G. Personal Interest in Legislation Prohibited. This is not supported by any evidence. I took the extra step to testify on my own time on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 as seen in the absence request. Despite Mr Muller saying I was mixing public/private roles, I was officially there on my own time, on my day off, speaking as a former Neighborhood Council Chair of the Emerson-Garfield Neighborhood **which is not** in my boss' municipal district. (see email dated October 6, 2022). In all respect I complied with the City's policy on election practices for city employees.

[Section 01.04A.030](#) Prohibited Conduct Part A. General First, the conduct alleged involved my personal cell phone. Moreover, when Mr Muller says I had political bias texting a council member and a fellow staffer, I ask why Mr Muller's political biases are not taken into consideration since [he is on the legislative committee of BOMA Spokane](#), a right leaning organization that has endorsed my boss' political opponent in the November election. He also said I work as "the aide to Council Member and current candidate for Council President," which is true, it is misleading in that while I work for a council member engaged in a political campaign, but I do not work for the "Betsy Wilkerson for Council President" campaign. Mr. Muller also finds objectionable my use of the word "hellbent." As a

Millennial, “hellbent” is in my vernacular and does not imply any malice. In fact, I have a friendly and professional relationship with the constituent he speaks of.

YOUR DAY, YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE  
**CAST YOUR BALLOT BY NOV. 7**

MAYOR  
**NADINE WOODWARD**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
**KIM PLESE**

DISTRICT 1  
**MICHAEL CATHCART**

DISTRICT 2  
**KATEY TRELOAR**

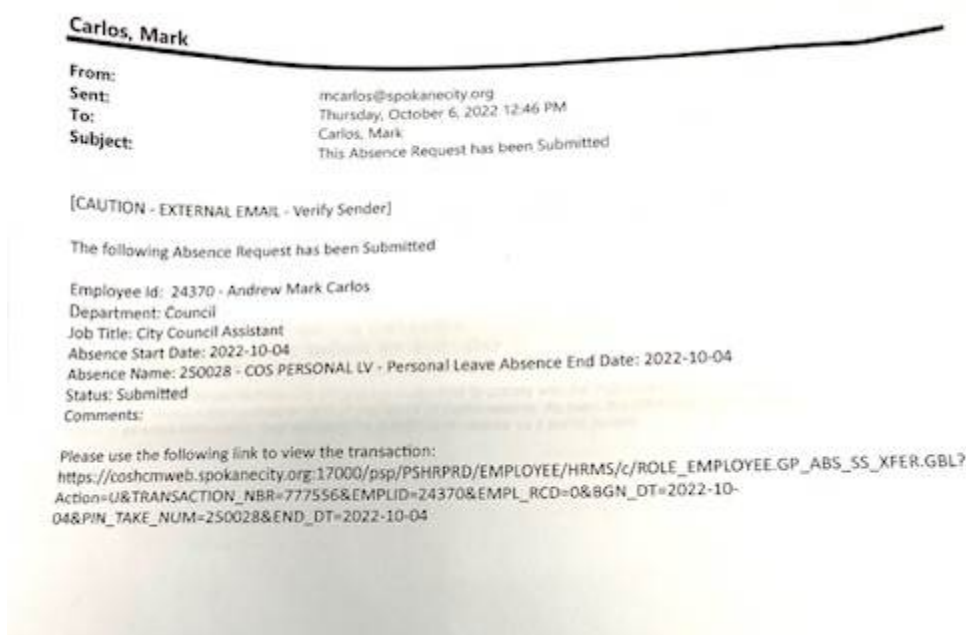
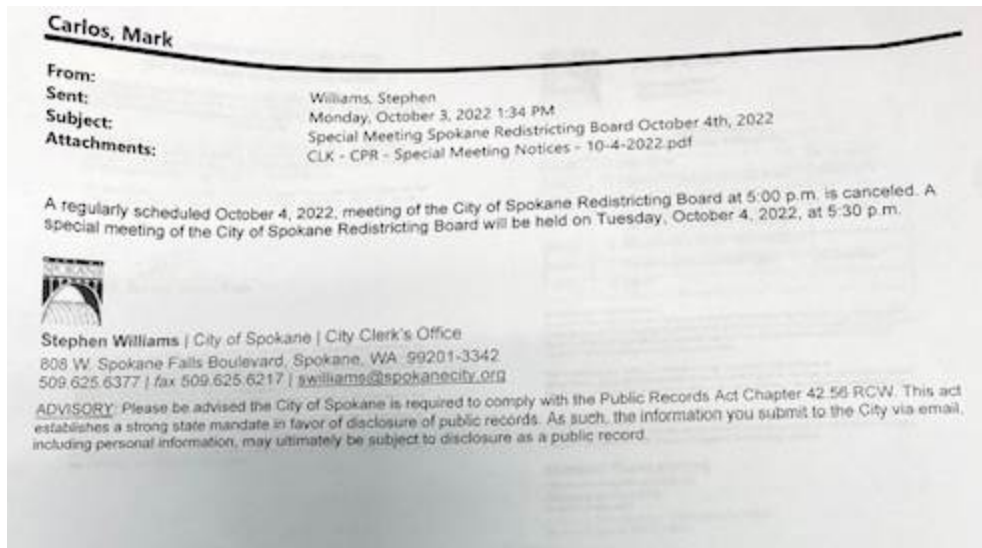
DISTRICT 3  
**EARL MOORE**

SCAN QR CODE TO  
SEE FULL LIST OF  
ENDORSEMENTS

PAID FOR BY BOMAWA PAC  
AND NOT AUTHORIZED BY  
CANDIDATE OR COMMITTEES  
PO BOX 592 SPOKANE, WA 99210

[Section 01.04A.030](#) Prohibited Conduct Part M. Mr. Muller finds something wrongful in the fact that I “assisted” someone. Am I being accused of “assisting” a Council Member? That is literally my job. I am a Council Legislative Assistant. Also, I neither own property, nor am I running for election or nor do I now, or then, have any other monetary benefit when it comes to redistricting. I live in the Chief Garry Park Neighborhood, and neither my neighborhood nor my home value was not affected by redistricting.

[Section 01.04A.030](#) Prohibited Conduct Part N. The accusations of “Moral turpitude,” “Dishonesty,” and sharing of “Confidential Information” are not outlined in any way that can’t take into account Mr Muller’s worldview. I did not share any information with anyone outside of the Council Office. I have demonstrated my personal moral code by taking the extra step of asking for the day off to testify for three minutes. The email excerpts below show that I requested the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 2022 off.



The accusations that I violated the Spokane Municipal Ethics Code are all opinions of Mr Muller, a member of a legislative committee that is working against my boss

Sincerely,



**Mark Carlos**  
Assistant to Council President Betsy Wilkerson  
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808 W Spokane Falls Blvd Spokane WA 99201

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