

**CITY OF SPOKANE - ETHICS COMMISSION  
MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2016  
MINUTES**

THIS MEETING WAS AUDIO RECORDED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE  
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

Present:

Troy Bruner, Chair  
Levi Liljenquist, Vice Chair  
Tyler Wasson, Member  
Dennis Cronin, Member  
Alice Buckles, Member  
Brian Steverson, Member  
Mike Piccolo, Counsel to Commission  
Becky Riedinger, Staff Liaison

Meeting is convened and Troy welcomes everyone present. Troy moves to approve the agenda for the meeting. Brian seconds that motion. All approve: Agenda is approved.

Levi moves to approve the minutes from the 1/13 meeting and Tyler seconds that motion. All approve - Minutes from 1/13 are approved.

Regarding the first matter, Murray v. Fagan, Ms. Murray is present. Troy informs her that this hearing today is only for the purposes of determining jurisdiction over the complaint and they are not there to make findings today. The members review the complaint and the Motion for Dismissal that was filed. Dennis inquires as to the procedure in determining jurisdiction. (The four corners of the complaint) Troy states that the formatting of the complaint looks okay as does all the criteria required by the form. Brian notes he cannot find a reference to the section of the code that was violated and it appears to be lacking/missing. He does not see how they would be able to determine jurisdiction if there is no cite to the code claimed to have been violated. He moves to dismiss this complaint, with a second by Troy. All in favor. Ms. Murray's complaint is dismissed

At this time Dennis Cronin recuses himself and leaves the room prior to the review of Theresa Simon's complaint. Troy states that the complaint is vague and, even if well-intentioned, is incoherent and it is difficult to determine any basis for her complaint. Tyler states that, in reference to Section N- he notes Ms. Simon is referring to a code and, as such, he would have a hard time dismissing her complaint for lack of basis because it is subject to the code.

Brian inquires if they could have Ms. Simon answer some questions to clarify the issues. Theresa Simon states that she is referring to an ethics code violation by the Mayor against

Catherine Gallagher. Ms. Simon states that she was informed by Catherine Gallagher that she had been told to book flights to an Obama event. Catherine was asked to book a 4,000 a night hotel. She was asked to book it in advance. Catherine told her she felt uncomfortable and started sending emails stating she was uncomfortable. Mayor Condon asked her with only minutes to spare to cancel, when she had been told she could not cancel by the hotel. Ms. Simon states Catherine told her she feared she would get fired if she could not get the reservation cancelled, but that Catherine had actually been able to cancel in the end. Ms. Simon stated, however, that Catherine was afraid she would lose her job, and she did eventually, despite being Employee of the Month. Ms. Simon stated the Mayor's office targeted Catherine and it was an abuse of power. Ms. Simon stated the Mayor put Catherine in harm's way and that she lost a lot in retirement funds when she was terminated. She states the commission needs to look into it.

Troy states there is a motion to dismiss they need to address as well. Levi states they need to look at, if the facts, as alleged, would actually constitute a violation of the EC. He adds that he has an issue of taking a hearsay complaint by another person rather than Ms. Gallagher herself. Troy states he agrees and that if Catherine had filed the complaint herself it would be a different situation. Levi responds, "absolutely". Brian adds that, as it is, it is difficult to locate the facts- there is an absence of facts in this claim. Levi agrees and moves to dismiss. Brian seconds, all approve - except for Tyler who abstains. Motion to dismiss passes. The complaint is dismissed.



City of Spokane Ethics Commission