

JUL 14 2016

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF ETHICS
FOR THE CITY OF TACOMA**

In the Matter of the Complaint Against
Mayor Marilyn Strickland

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND
ORDER OF DISMISSAL OF BOARD
OF ETHICS**

Board of Ethics Complaint No. 2016-002

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

- 1.1. On March 22, 2016 City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli received an e-mail communication from Claudia Riedener, titled "official complaint of undue influence" in which Ms. Riedener stated that she would like to file an official complaint against Mayor Marilyn Strickland. The above described communication is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 1.2. Exhibit A alleges the City of Tacoma was acting as SEPA lead agency for a methanol facility proposed by NWIW; that Mayor Strickland was actively promoting the project in a video; that Mayor Strickland was giving unfair preferential treatment to NWIW; that the promotional video created undue influence; and that the video was in direct contradiction to Mayor Strickland's public statements that she (and the Council) cannot take a stance on the methanol project due to the City being the lead agency. Exhibit A included a link to the video.
- 1.3. The matter was processed as a complaint under the Code of Ethics; referred to the Board of Ethics as is required by the City's Code of Ethics (Tacoma Municipal Code 1.46.040 B) and was assigned Board of Ethics Complaint No. 2016-002.
- 1.4. The Board of Ethics considered Complaint No. 2016-002 in an adjudicative session of a regular meeting on Monday May 2, 2016.
- 1.5. During the course of the May 2, 2016 adjudicative session the Board reviewed the complaint, inclusive of the video.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 2.1. For purposes this Order, the Board accepts the allegations of fact contained in Ethics Complaint No. 2016-002 as true; specifically:
 - 2.1.1. The City of Tacoma served as lead SEPA agency for a methanol facility proposed by NWIW.
 - 2.1.2. That Mayor Strickland actively promoted the project in a video.
 - 2.1.3. That Mayor Strickland stated publically that she or the Council could not take a stance on the project as the City is the lead agency.
- 2.2. The remaining allegations in Complaint No. 2016-002 are conclusions drawn by the complainant.
- 2.3. Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board makes the following:

III. CONCLUSION OF LAW

- 3.1 Complaint No. 2016-002 does not present any facts, or conclusions, which, even if true, constitute a violation by Mayor Strickland of any provision of the City of Tacoma Code of Ethics, therefore Complaint No. 2016-002 is dismissed pursuant to 1.46.045 F (2)(a)(i).

IV. ORDER

Based on the foregoing, Complaint No. 2016-002 is hereby DISMISSED.

Dated this 10th day of July, 2016.

City of Tacoma Board of Ethics

By: 
Joseph Atkinson, Chair

cc: City Attorney
Mayor Marilyn Strickland
Claudia Riedener