

BEFORE THE BOARD OF ETHICS  
FOR THE CITY OF TACOMA

In re: the Matter of the Complaints Against  
Tacoma Mayor and City Council

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND  
ORDER OF DISMISSAL OF  
BOARD OF ETHICS

Board of Ethics Complaint No. 2019-003

**I. JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

- 1.1. Per Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 1.46.025.E, this Board of Ethics (Board) has jurisdiction over this matter for purposes of making findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommending disposition as the subjects of the Complaint are current or former "Covered Officials."
- 1.2. On November 27, 2019, the City Clerk's Office received what is being processed as Complaint No. 2019-003 from an anonymous complainant thru the U.S. Mail (see Exhibit A).
- 1.3. The complaint utilized the "City of Tacoma Conduct Complaint Form" and listed "City Council – Mayor" as the subject(s) of the complaint.
- 1.4. The Board considered Complaint 2019-003 from December 2, 2019 to December 8, 2019 after Exhibit A was forwarded by Deputy City Attorney Charles Lee to each individual board member on December 2, 2019 as required by TMC 1.46.040.B.

## **II. FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 2.1. For the purposes of this adjudication only, the Board accepts the facts presented in Complaint No. 2019-003, specifically that:
  - 2.1.1. Complaint No. 2019-003 did not list any specific dates that the alleged misconduct occurred but appears to be concerning City of Tacoma Council meetings during 2019.
  - 2.1.2. Complaint No. 2019-003 referenced the words "Ethics" and "Misconduct."
  - 2.1.3. Complaint No. 2019-003 did not specifically identify anyone by name but instead referenced the "City Council" or "Mayor."
  - 2.1.4. The Tacoma Mayor during the time in question is Victoria Woodards.
  - 2.1.5. The Tacoma City Council during the time in question was comprised of Anders Ibsen, Robert Thoms, Keith Blocker, Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale, Lillian Hunter, Conor McCarthy, and Ryan Mello.
  - 2.1.6. The Tacoma Mayor and City Council are each considered a "Covered Official" under TMC 1.46.020.F.
  - 2.1.7. Complaint No. 2019-003 was submitted "anonymously" and there was no contact information provided.
- 2.2. Based on the foregoing Finding of Fact, the Board makes the following:

## **III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 3.1 While Complaint No. 2019-003 listed multiple grievances using the words "ethics" and "misconduct" it did not identify any specific section of TMC 1.46 that the City of Tacoma Mayor or City Council violated nor did it articulate any facts if proven true that the Board could interpret as alleged violations of TMC 1.46.
- 3.2 Complaint No. 2019-003 does not contain sufficient facts, which, if proven true, would constitute "prohibited conduct" under TMC 1.46.030 and therefore a violation of TMC 1.46.
- 3.3 Therefore, Complaint No. 2019-003 is dismissed pursuant to TMC 1.46.045.F.2.a.i.

#### IV. ORDER

Based on the foregoing, Complaint No. 2019-003 is hereby DISMISSED.

DATED this 8th day of December, 2019

City of Tacoma Board of Ethics

By: Katie Baird  
Katie Baird, Chair

cc: Tacoma Mayor and City Council