

BEFORE THE BOARD OF ETHICS  
FOR THE CITY OF TACOMA

In re: the Matter of the Complaint Against  
Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND  
ORDER OF DISMISSAL OF  
BOARD OF ETHICS COMPLAINT  
NO. 2020-001

Board of Ethics Complaint No. 2020-001

**I. JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

- 1.1. On February 19, 2020, the City Clerk's Office received a complaint submitted by Caleb Wilson thru the Tacoma First 311 Conduct Complaint system (W153669-021220), made on February 12, 2020 (attached hereto as Exhibit A).
- 1.2. The matter was processed as a complaint under the Code of Ethics, referred to the Board of Ethics ("Board") as is required by the City's Code of Ethics (Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC") 1.46.040.B), and was assigned as Board of Ethics Complaint No. 2020-001.
- 1.3. Exhibit A was then provided to Deputy City Attorney Charles Lee and the Board on February 20, 2020.



- 1.4. Per Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 1.46.025, 1.46.040, and 1.46.045, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter to make findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on the disposition as well as the authority to dismiss as the subject of the Complaint (Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards) is a current "Covered Official" and "City Officer."
- 1.5. The Board considered Complaint 2020-001 by reviewing and discussing Exhibit A in an adjudicative session of special meeting on Monday, March 2, 2020.

## II. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 2.1. The Board makes the following findings of facts:
  - 2.1.1. Complaint No. 2020-001 was submitted as a violation of Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC") 1.46 ("City of Tacoma Code of Ethics") but did not reference a specific type of prohibited conduct under TMC 1.46.030.
  - 2.1.2. In Complaint No. 2020-001, Caleb Wilson alleges on an incident date of February 11, 2020, that: "I reached out to Mayor Woodards in regards to her endorsement of Mike Bloomberg for president. She and I had a cordial and friendly conversation about Mr. Bloomberg's recently leaked, racist remarks. Mayor Woodards said she had not heard the audio yet, but gave me her email to stay in touch. However, instead of responding to my inquiry, an official from the Mike Bloomberg campaign reached out to me, would not answer my questions, and now my phone calls are being ignored. It is unfathomable that an unelected, private party would be responding to me on behalf of an elected official. Mayor Woodard's relationship to the Bloomberg campaign is inappropriate, as were her actions in not only evading me, but allowing a private, unaffiliated, unelected official discuss city business with me."
  - 2.1.3. Complaint No. 2020-001 provided no corroborating evidence or information other than the contact information for the complainant.



### III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 3.1 Complaint No. 2020-001 does not contain any allegations or sufficient facts, which, if proven true, would constitute "prohibited conduct" as listed under TMC 1.46.030 and therefore establish a violation of TMC 1.46.
- 3.2 Therefore, Complaint No. 2020-001 should be dismissed pursuant to TMC 1.46.045.F.2.a.i.

### IV. ORDER

Based on the foregoing, Complaint No. 2020-001 is hereby DISMISSED.

DATED this 2nd day of March, 2020

City of Tacoma Board of Ethics

By: Katie Baird 3/31/20  
Katie Baird, Chair