

# STATE OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN RE COMPLIANCE WITH RCW 42.17A.555	) PDC CASE NO: 2337 ) (formerly Case No. 15-052)
Tom Mielke	)
	) REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
Respondent.	)

# I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The November 4, 2014 general election ballot in Clark County included Proposition 1, a Home Rule Charter ballot measure that if approved would replace the existing system of three County Commissioners. In addition, Craig Pridemore and Jeanne Stewart were on the general election ballot running for the position of County Commissioner in District 3.
- 1.2 Voters approved the Home Rule Charter by a 53.35% to 46.65% margin, with 63,731 Yes votes and 55,727 No votes.
- 1.3 Jeanne Stewart defeated Craig Pridemore in the race for County Commissioner, District 3, by 0.21%, receiving 60,131 votes to Mr. Pridemore's 59,226 votes.
- 1.4 On February 17, 2015, the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) received a complaint from Jacqueline Lane alleging that Clark County Commissioner Tom Mielke may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using his Clark County email address to oppose the 2014 Clark County Home Rule Charter ballot proposition, and to assist a 2014 Clark County Commissioner candidate by

Tom Mielke Report of Investigation PDC Case No. 2337 (formerly Case No. 15-052) Page 2 of 6

supporting her campaign and opposing her opponent's campaign. The allegations were reviewed by PDC staff and a formal investigation was conducted.

# II. ALLEGATIONS IN COMPLAINT

- 2.1 Jacqueline Lane alleged that Clark County Commissioner Tom Mielke may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 (Use of public office or agency facilities in campaigns) on several occasions during 2014 by using his Clark County email address to campaign against Proposition 1 and to support Jeanne Stewart for Clark County Commissioner. The Complaint was received February 17, 2015, and included three exhibits in support of the alleged violations. (Exhibit 1)
- 2.2 The first exhibit to the complaint was an email dated July 29, 2014, titled: "Resolution to Defeat the Charter.docx" which the complainant alleged Commissioner Mielke forwarded to the 18th Legislative District Republicans.
- 2.3 The second exhibit to the complaint was an email dated October 23, 2014, in which Commissioner Mielke urged a Woodland Chamber of Commerce member to not let the Woodland Chamber of Commerce take a position on the Home Rule Charter ballot proposition.
- 2.4 The third exhibit to the complaint was an email dated October 23, 2014, in which Commissioner Mielke expressed his opposition to County Commissioner Candidate Craig Pridemore and his support for candidate Jeanne Stewart, to a group called "Local Mailing List."

# III. FINDINGS

Alleged use of county email to oppose Proposition 1, the Clark County Home Rule Charter ballot measure, by forwarding a document titled "Resolution to Defeat the Charter.docx." to the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Republicans

3.1 On July 29, 2014, Commissioner Mielke received an email at his Clark County email address from John Anderson with a subject line "A Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter." Mr. Anderson sent the email to the Clark County Republicans, and copied Commissioner Mielke at his Clark County email address. Also on July 29, 2014, Commissioner Mielke forwarded the email to his personal email address which is <a href="mailto:district18rep@msn.com">district18rep@msn.com</a>. (Exhibit 2)

Tom Mielke Report of Investigation PDC Case No. 2337 (formerly Case No. 15-052) Page 3 of 6

- 3.2 On March 15, 2015, Commissioner Mielke responded to the complaint by stating that he has used the email address <a href="mailto:district18rep@msn.com">district18rep@msn.com</a> as his personal email address since he was a State Legislator representing the 18th Legislative District. Commissioner Mielke stated "The first item of complaint was that I forwarded political papers to the Republican Party. As a personal rule, anything that comes to my County office that appears to be personal, I forward it onto my home computer which the PDC may verify my using it over several campaigns in the past. That email address is:

  <a href="mailto:district18rep@msn.com">district18rep@msn.com</a>. Used and kept from my days as a State Legislator representing the District18." (Exhibit 3)
- 3.3 Although it appears the complainant believed the email address district18rep@msn.com is the address for the 18th Legislative District Republicans, it is Commissioner Mielke's personal email address. A review of Commissioner Mielke's last three Candidate registrations (PDC form C-1) for 2008, 2012, and 2015 confirms that his personal email address is district18rep@msn.com. (Exhibit 4)
- 3.4 No evidence was provided or found that Commissioner Mielke used his Clark County email address to forward material opposing the Home Rule Charter ballot measure to the 18th Legislative District Republicans.

Alleged use of county email to campaign against Proposition 1, the Clark County Home Rule Charter ballot measure, by telling Darlene Johnson to not let the Woodland Chamber of Commerce take a position on the ballot measure

- 3.5 The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce officially supported the Home Rule Charter ballot proposition. Commissioner Mielke opposed Proposition 1.
- 3.6 On October 23, 2014, Commissioner Mielke used his Clark County email address to respond to Darlene Johnson of the Woodland Chamber of Commerce, and tell her, "... Please don't let the chamber take a position on this, it will put them in a bad light." (Exhibit 5)
- 3.7 Commissioner Mielke was responding to an email he received from Ms. Johnson at his Clark County email address that she had received from John "JJ" Burk, Executive Director of the Woodland Chamber of Commerce. The email chain included an email from Kelly Love, CEO/President of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, explaining why the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce officially supported Proposition 1. Ms. Johnson forwarded the email chain to Commissioner Mielke at his Clark County email address and

Tom Mielke Report of Investigation PDC Case No. 2337 (formerly Case No. 15-052) Page 4 of 6

- at his personal email address with the comment, "Thought you might be interested in what is being emailed to Chamber on the Charter issue. Dar"
- 3.8 Commissioner Mielke responded using his Clark County email address by saying, "Wow! Hi Dar, I can't believe how hard they are working to do private presentations and so on. I'm not sure who the 60% might be, but the Charter is a disaster. Please don't let the chamber take a position on this, it will put them in a bad light. Tom"
- 3.9 Commissioner Mielke also defended emails received from personal friends at his county email address by stating, "...looking at the dates and times of the email exchange between John JJ Burke on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:07pm. Then Darlene Johnson, a personal friend sent to me, Tom Mielke on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:21pm what appears to be from John JJ Burke. My recommendation back to my friend was to remain neutral. Not for nor against. Also note that the Woodland Chamber is in Cowlitz County and it appears the message being passed around was from Kelly Love of the Vancouver Chamber in Clark County. If it makes a difference, Cowlitz County didn't have a vote in the Charter."

Alleged use of county email to campaign for Jeanne Stewart, a candidate for Clark County Commissioner, and to oppose her opponent, Craig Pridemore, by subscribing to and accepting an email that supported Ms. Stewart, received from a group called "Local Mailing List"

- 3.10 On October 23, 2014, Commissioner Mielke used his Clark County email address to respond to an email from Larry Patella's "Local Mailing List" with a subject of "What Others Are Saying" by stating, "Wow! Just wow! Hard to believe all this went right down party lines ... Enough about working well with others. Tom" (Exhibit 6)
- 3.11 The email started out by stating, "Good Morning, Please read and then vote for Jeanne Stewart. Below is information provided by reliable sources and the Fish Wrapper spotlighting the highlights of Pridemore's political career. As you can see, Pridemore repeatedly ignored the voice of the people and has voted for, or spoke in favor of: multiple taxes & hikes ... bridge tolls... elimination of the 2/3 majority in Olympia..., etc."
- 3.12 The email concluded by stating that the facts were obtained by scanning the archives of The Columbian newspaper from 1996 to the Summer of 2014 concerning Craig Pridemore's political history which resulted in two files attached to the emails titled "Pridemore Report."
- 3.13 As noted earlier, Commissioner Mielke stated when he receives emails at his Clark County email address that appear to be personal, he forwards them to his home email address. However, Commissioner Mielke

Tom Mielke Report of Investigation PDC Case No. 2337 (formerly Case No. 15-052) Page 5 of 6

subscribed to and accepted the "Local Mailing List" email at his Clark County email address.

- 3.14 The email included instructions for unsubscribing to the Republican Party emails created Mr. Larry Patella, by including the following closing statement at the bottom of the October 23, 2014 email: "The following information is a reminder of your current mailing list subscription: You are subscribed to the following list: Local Mailing List, using the following email: <a href="mailto:tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov">tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov</a>. If you would like to unsubscribe, please contact the list owner at: <a href="mailto:lmpatella@comcast.net">lmpatella@comcast.net</a>.
- 3.15 On March 15, 2015, Commissioner Mielke responded to this allegation by stating: "...part of the complaint dealt with an email from Larry Patella (Local Mailing List) on Oct.23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:01 am on a number of issues. Me, Tom Mielke's response was the fact the voting on the issues I saw were down party lines. ? Obviously, I responded and never sent him any political papers." (Exhibit 3)

# IV. SCOPE

- 4.1 Staff reviewed the following documents:
  - A complaint against Tom Mielke, Clark County Commissioner/Counselor received on February 15, 2015 from Jacqueline Lane with exhibits.
  - · March 13, 2015 email from Tom Mielke.
  - · March 15, 2015 emailed response to complaint from Tom Mielke.

# V. LAW

RCW 42.17A.555 states, in part, "No elective official nor any employee of his or her office nor any person appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition. Facilities of a public office or agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of employees of the office or agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the office or agency."

WAC 390-05-273 defines the "normal and regular conduct" of a public office or agency as "conduct which is (1) lawful, i.e., specifically authorized, either expressly or by necessary implication, in an appropriate enactment, and (2) usual, i.e., not effected or authorized in or by some extraordinary means or manner."

Tom Mielke Report of Investigation PDC Case No. 2337 (formerly Case No. 15-052) Page 6 of 6

Respectfully submitted this 11th day of April 2016.

William A. Lemp III

Lead Political Finance Investigator

# **EXHIBIT LIST**

- Exhibit 1 Complaint from Ms. Jacqueline Lane
- Exhibit 2 Email dated July 29, 2014 from Tom Mielke's Clark County email address to <a href="mailto:district18rep@msn.com">district18rep@msn.com</a> to forward a document he received at his County email address titled "Resolution to Defeat the Charter.docx."
- Exhibit 3 Tom Mielke Response to complaint via email dated March 15, 2015
- Exhibit 4 Tom Mielke's C-1 Candidate Registration Forms for 2008, 2012, and 2015 showing his personal email address as district18rep@msn.com.
- Exhibit 5 Email dated October 23, 2014 sent from Tom Mielke's Clark
  County email address to Darlene Johnson asking her to not let the
  Woodland Chamber of Commerce take a position on Proposition 1,
  the Clark County Home Rule Charter ballot measure
- Exhibit 6 Email dated October 23, 2014 sent from Tom Mielke's Clark
  County email address to a group (servlist) called "Local Mailing
  List" to support Jeanne Stewart for Clark County Commissioner,
  and to oppose her opponent, Craig Pridemore

#### Jon Ammons

From: Sent: Jackie LANE <jmlane@msn.com> Monday, February 16, 2015 10:17 AM

To:

PDC

Subject: Attachments: PDC Complaint J Lane 02 16 15

Mielke complaint.zip

Attached is a zip file containing:

## Complaint:

· Mielke\_Complaint.form3.doc - Word Document

Scanned pages with signature (Sig page is SCAN0103.jpg)

#### Attachments:

- · Word document Mielke Complaint Exhibits 1-3.doc
- Copies of the outlook messages 3 \*.msg files

The word docs will be easier to read, the others provided to ensure sufficient documentation and the required signature.

My email provider does not allow me to have more than 5 attachments, so I zipped these. If that is an issue let me know and I will break it up and resend, or I can fax if that is preferred. I can be reached a <a href="mailto:imlane@msn.com">imlane@msn.com</a> or 360 687-0609.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Lane

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Form revised 08/2014



# WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION COMPLAINT FORM

(See instructions on the last page.)

# Description of Complaint

### 1. RESPONDENT:

Identify who you are filing a complaint against and provide all contact information you have for them. Give names and titles, if any, for individuals, and the full name of any organization. Please note that the PDC does not enforce federal campaign finance laws or local ordinances.

Example #1: Joe Public, Mayor of My Town,

123 Main Street, Your Town, State, Phone: 555-123-4567, Email: unknown

Example #2: The Political Action Group (instead of P.A.G.), 123 Main Street, Your Town, State,

Phone: 555-123-4567, Email: pag@pag.org, Website: www.PAGwashington.org

## Tom Mielke

Clark County Commissioner/Councilor

PO Box 5000

Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

Email: tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov

Phone: 360-397-2232

#### 2. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS:

Explain how and when you believe the people/entities you are filing a complaint against violated RCW 42.17/RCW 42.17A or Title 390 WAC. Be as detailed as possible about dates, times, places and acts. If you can, cite which specific laws or rules you believe were violated. Attach additional pages if needed. (Note that the RCW 42.17 citation applies to conduct before 2012 and the RCW 42.17A citation applies to conduct on or after January 1, 2012.)

On behalf of a number of Clark County citizens, I am filing a complaint that Commissioner Tom Mielke repeatedly violated RCW 42.17A.555: "Use of public office or agency facilities in campaigns."

On several occasions in 2014, Commissioner Mielke used his public, county commissioner email to campaign against the Clark County Home Rule Charter ballot measure, as well as to campaign for a county commissioner candidate while also campaigning against her opponent.

# **Evidence and Witnesses**

#### 3. EVIDENCE:

List the documents or other evidence you have that support your complaint, if any, and attach copies to this form. If you do not have copies, provide any information you have about where you believe the documents or evidence can be found and how to obtain it. Attach additional pages if needed.

Example: Emails between Joe public and Candidate X, attached OR

Joe Public has emails from Candidate X which describe an illegal campaign donation,
and Joe Public's phone number is 555-123-4567.

Attached are Exhibits 1, 2 and 3.

Exhibit 1 is an email dated July 29, 2014 in which Commissioner Mielke used his county public email to forward to the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Republicans a document titled "Resolution to Defeat the Charter.docx". The forwarded document is also part of Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 2 is an email dated October 23, 2014 in which Commissioner Mielke used his county public email to campaign Darlene Johnson to tell the Woodland Chamber of Commerce to not take a position on the Clark County Charter.

Exhibit 3 is an email dated October 23, 2014 in which Commissioner Mielke used his county public email to campaign to a group called "Local Mailing List" his opposition to County Commissioner Candidate Craig Pridemore and support of candidate Jeanne Stewart.

Also attached to this email are the native Outlook .msg files of the referenced emails.

These emails were received in a December 2014 public records request from the Clark County Commissioners' office.

#### 4. WITNESSES:

List the names and contact information, if known, of any witnesses or other persons who have knowledge of facts that support your complaint. Attach additional pages if needed. Example: Jane Public was present when Candidate X spoke to me about the illegal contribution. Jane Public's address is 123 Main Street, Your Town, USA 12345, and her phone number is 555-123-4567.

Chuck Green 360-449-2132 sjclgreen@yahoo.com

Terry Conner 360-608-4513 terryconner@fisherslandinghypnotherapy.com

<u>Deborah Nelson</u> 360-699-5441 just-solutions@comcast.net

# Certification \*\*\*

#### In signing this complaint:

- I have provided all information, documents and other evidence of which I am aware;
- If I become aware of additional information, documents or evidence related to my complaint, I will promptly provide it to the PDC; and,
- I am providing the PDC current information on how to contact me, and will promptly
  update that information if it changes.
- Unless otherwise noted, I agree that PDC may use email instead of U.S. mail for all
  written correspondence about this complaint.

E-mail address: jmlane@msn.com

Your name (print or type): Jacqueline Lane

Street address: 24203 NE 59th ave

City, state and zip code: Battle Ground, WA 98604

Telephone number (including area code): 360 687-0609

# Oath

Required for complaints against elected officials or candidates for elective office:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that this complaint is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.\*

Your signature		
Date signed		
Place signed (city and county)		
City	County	

### Attachments

Check here if you are attaching copies of documentary evidence or extra pages explaining your complaint.

\*RCW 9A.72.040 says that "(1) A person is guilty of false swearing if he makes a false statement which he knows to be false, under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) False swearing is a misdemeanor."

# Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

# Instructions for Filing a Formal Complaint

# When to use the formal complaint form:

While this form is not required, its use is recommended when you want to file formal allegations of a violation of the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) statutes or rules. You can find the PDC statutes and rules on the PDC website at <a href="www.pdc.wa.gov">www.pdc.wa.gov</a>. If you have information or concerns about a possible violation but do not wish to file a complaint, please contact the PDC office directly.

## > How to submit your complaint form to the PDC:

- Complete all sections. If you do not have some information, please write "unknown" instead of leaving a blank space.
- · Attach copies of any evidence you have we'll contact you if we need originals.
- Sign the oath if your complaint is against an elected official or a candidate for elective office.
- Mail, fax, or email your complaint and all attachments to the PDC.

## If you have more questions:

If you have more questions about filing a complaint, see the "Frequently Asked Questions about Filing a Complaint" guide available on the PDC's website at <a href="www.pdc.wa.gov">www.pdc.wa.gov</a> under "Enforcement and Compliance." You may also contact the PDC directly.

# PDC Contact Information

MAILING ADDRESS: Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

711 Capitol Way, Room 206

PO Box 40908

Olympia, WA 98504-0908

EMAIL ADDRESS: pdc@pdc.wa.gov

1-877-601-2828 (toll free)

FAX:

PHONE:

(360) 753-1112

HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., closed on state holidays.

Office Use Only: No.\_\_\_\_\_

Form revised 08/2014



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Tom Mielke
Clark County Commissioner/Councilor
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Vancouver, WA 98666-5000
Email: tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov

Phone: 360-397-2232

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Also attached to this email are the native Outlook .msg files of the referenced emails.

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Chuck Green 360-449-2132 siclgreen@yahoo.com

Terry Conner 360-608-4513 terryconner@fisherslandinghypnotherapy.com

Deborah Nelson 360-699-5441 just-solutions@comcast.net

# Certification

# In signing this complaint:

- I have provided all information, documents and other evidence of which I am aware;
- If I become aware of additional information, documents or evidence related to my complaint, I will promptly provide it to the PDC; and,

I am providing the PDC current information on how to contact me, and will promptly
update that information if it changes.

 Unless otherwise noted, I agree that PDC may use email instead of U.S. mail for all written correspondence about this complaint.

E-mail address: jmlane@msn.com

Your name (print or type): Jacqueline Lane

Street address: 24203 NE 59th ave

City, state and zip code: Battle Ground, WA 98604

Telephone number (including area code): 360 687-0609

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Place signed (city and county)

Baffs Grouns

City

County

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⊠Check here if you are attaching copies of documentary evidence or extra pages explaining your complaint.

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Exhibit 1: July 29, 2014 Email Referencing Resolution Opposing Charter Ballot Measure

To: 'district18rep@msn.com'[district18rep@msn.com]

From:

Mielke, Tom

Sent:

Tue 7/29/2014 11:39:30 PM

Importance: Sensitivity:

Normal

None

Subject: Categories: FW: A Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter

Important

Resolution to Defeat the Charter, docx

From: John Anderson [mailto:jandersonfarm@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:27 PM To: kennysmith@clarkrepublicans.com

Subject: A Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter

My Fellow PCO's,

You will be asked to approve a Resolution to defeat the Freeholders' Charter at the August 21st Central Committee meeting.

Read the Freeholders' Charter:

http://www.clark.wa.gov/freeholders/documents/BOF\_Final.pdf

Watch the STOP THE CHARTER TRAIN video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyXHQDdv5RA

The Charter replaces our 3 Commissioners with 5 toothless "Councilors" who are specifically prohibited from interfering with County management decisions. (Sec. 2.6) The power would be vested in an at-large Council Chair and an appointed County Executive. The Initiative/Referendum offered by the Charter is a sham. It specifically prohibits any petitions that deal with taxes, policy, projects, or even the Charter itself. (Sec. 7.2)

Attached is the Resolution to defeat the Charter.

Thank you,

John Anderson PCO 618

### Exhibit 1 (Continued): Resolution Referenced in July 29 Mielke Email

#### Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter

The Republican Party believes that transparency is essential to good governance.

Whereas, this Freeholders' Charter limits the quantity and quality of information that is easily and directly obtained by the people and their elected representatives. Three full-time Commissioners are replaced by five "Councilors" who only meet twice a month. These Councilors will be totally dependent on staff for critical information and department oversight. Only the at-large Council Chair is allowed to speak publicly on County business. (See Section 2.2); and,

The Republican Party is deeply committed to the principle that government must be accountable and responsive to the citizens it serves.

Whereas, the Freeholders' Charter removes power from the voter and their Commissioners, and transfers the power to an unelected Manager, staff and the at-large Council Chair. The Charter diminishes representative democracy in Clark County and once lost cannot be reclaimed. (See Section 2:6); and,

The Republican Party believes in the importance of checks and balances on power.

Whereas, the Initiative/Referendum offered in the Charter as a check on power is a toothless tiger which offers no real check on power. The Freeholders' Charter specifies that due to Constitutional limits, Charter prohibitions and court decisions, the initiative/referendum offered in the Charter does not allow citizens to use a petition to address taxes, budgets, fees, projects, policy issues or even the Charter itself. (See Section 7.2A1-6); and,

The Republican Party is an advocate for limited and cost-effective government.

Whereas, confusion is expensive. No information is available on what the new Manager will be paid. There is no reasonable estimate on the cost of the transition were the Charter to pass. Due to the greatly increased authority and responsibility of the unelected County Manager, and because this Manager will determine starting salaries for management employees as well as negotiate union contracts, logic dictates that there will be increased costs to the taxpayer. There will be long term costs associated with reducing the authority and ability of the Commissioners to manage and keep bureaucratic growth in check. The Freeholders' Charter will grow government. (See Section 3B1-9); and,

The power now rests with the people and their elected representatives, the Commissioners. They are readily accessible and accountable to the voters, a truly representative democracy.

Whereas, the Freeholders' Charter unnecessarily changes this long established form of County government.

Now therefore, be it resolved, we the Clark County Republican Party urge the defeat of the Freeholders' Charter when it appears on the November 2014 ballot.

# Exhibit 2: October 23, 2014 Email to Darlene Johnson Regarding Charter Ballot Measure

From:

Mielke, Tom

Sent:

Thursday, October 23, 2014 1:25 PM 'darlene@gowoot.net'

To:

Subject:

RE: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

Wow! Hi Dar,

I can't believe how hard they are working to do private presentations and so on. I'm not sure who the 60% might be, but the Charter is a disaster. Please don't let the chamber take a position on this, it will put them in a bad light.

#### Tom

From: Darlene Johnson [mailto:darlene@gowoot.net]

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 2:21 PM
To: Madore, David; TOM MIELKE (district18rep@cs.com); Mielke, Tom

Subject: FW: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

Thought you might be interested in what is being email to Chamber on the Charter issue.

Dar

From: Darlene Johnson [mailto:darlene@gowoot.net]

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 2:16 PM To: 'John JJ Burke'; 'Joy Snead'

Subject: RE: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

I and everyone I know (in Clark County) are opposed to the charter. I have a hard time believing their position. (However the did support the bridge and opposed a third bridge)

I do not think the Woodland Chamber has the time to study this issue to take a position on it.

From: John JJ Burke [mailto:jj@wcodlandwachamber.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 2:07 PM

To: Joy Snead; Darlene Johnson

Subject: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

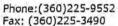
FYI

John "JJ" Burke **Executive Director** 

Woodland Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 1012

Woodland, WA 98674



Email: ji@woodlandwachamber.com Web: www.woodlandwachamber.com



----- Original Message -----

Subject: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members] From: <info@woodlandwachamber.com> Date: Wed, October 22, 2014 9:10 am

To: "John Burke" <jj@woodlandwachamber.com>

----- Original Message ------Subject: Dear Chamber Members

From: "Kelly Parker" < kparker@vancouverusa.com > Date: Fri, October 17, 2014 3:05 pm

To: "Woodland Chamber of Commerce" < info@woodlandwachamber.com>

I am sending this to you before we release the information to the public.

I appreciate all who responded to our survey several weeks ago regarding the proposed county charter.

60% of our members who responded said they support the charter.

The GVCC Public Affairs Committee took that information and then met with representatives from both sides of the issue developing a pro/con list. I include that list for your review.

After discussion, the GVCC Board of Directors voted to support Proposition #1, the proposed county charter.

The Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce has joined in the announcement which is included below.

You may ask when does your chamber take positions? The chamber does not endorse candidates or partisan issues.

The chamber routinely takes positions on school levies and local issues because they impact our businesses and our community. The chamber looks for a return on investment. Will this provide long term benefits for our businesses and our community? In this case, the answer is a resounding yes. There are several business issues before

the county (wineries, growth management, infrastructure) that impact our businesses. Additional distrtict wide representation and clear division of responsibilities will provide predictability, transparency and equity for all residents.

Above all, the chamber wants to provide you information to help you make your best determination and to vote. When we don't vote, we lose our voice, Your voice matters.

I am happy to take any comments/questions you may have. You can reach me at <u>klove@vancouverusa.com</u> or directly at 360.567-1050. I thank you for being a member of the chamber.

Kelly Love CEO/President Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce

(VANCOUVER, Wash.) - The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the Carnas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce officially support Proposition #1, the proposed Home Rule Charter.

The charter provides a strong return on investment, providing two additional elected positions to better represent the growing community while not increasing costs to the taxpayers. The Charter also clarifies the roles of the elected officials and the county Manager providing businesses greater consistency and predictability in doing business in the county. Most local governments already use this model in which the elected officials set policy and the county manager implements the policy. The elected officials have authority to hire/fire the county manager.

"By increasing the number of elected officials from 3 to 5, we will have stronger representation listening to concerns of local families and businesses," said GVCC Public Affairs Chairman Eric Olmsted. "The charter provides greater stability and transparency creating a positive environment for businesses and the community to grow."

The Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce says the measure is a non- partisan issue strongly supported by Republicans and Democrats in the community. "It's a simple, moderate and cost effective update to our governing rules; the first update since 1889. It makes sense." Says Brent Erickson, Executive Director of the Camas Washougal Chamber. "By expanding the council to five, it also encourages more people to become involved in our county government."

The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce polled its members in mid-September. Approximately 200 of the 1,100 members responded. 60 percent said they planned to vote yes. "Consistently we heard from our businesses that they want more information on the issue and that the majority considered it a very important issue to the growth of Clark County," said Eric Sawyer, Chair of the GVCC Board. "We think it's vitally important that we provide our businesses with the best information we've developed and encourage all businesses to take a few minutes and consider the pro's and con's before voting. Most importantly we encourage them to vote."

The GVCC's Youtube Channel features four informational videos on the proposed Clark County Charter. The GVCC created these videos in partnership with community volunteers and Star Rise Entertainment. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, peers and family to vote.

VIDEO #1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRr3ibpqqHI

VIDEO #2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQ8az0TID-M

VIDEO #3 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JyTdL 67cs

VIDEO #4 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cj3G9hApVCM



Additional Information links on Proposition #1 the proposed Home Rule Charter:

Final Home Rule Charter Document (PDF):

http://clark.wa.gov/freeholders/documents/BOFCharter 052714.p

Board of Freeholder Information (Clark County Website): http://clark.wa.gov/freeholders/index.html

www.charteryes.com

#### www.votenocharter.com

Additional background compiled by GVCC Public Affairs Committee: Points made by opponents of the charter:

The charter creates a wall of separation from the Commissioners to

the people.

It creates obstacles for the commissioners who will have less authority and power to step in and help people directly by directing county staff what to do. Currently Commissioners can override county staff decisions and instruct county staff what to do. It creates obstacles for the commissioners who will have less authority and power to step in and help people directly by directing county staff what to do. Currently Commissioners can override county staff decisions and instruct county staff what to do.

The charter allows the county manager to hire, fire and discipline employees. It gives the county manager (hired by the Commission)

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The Commissioners job should be full time and the wage should not be cut from \$102K to \$52K.

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There's no need for this kind of reform the current system works well. The Commissioners are doing a good job. There's no need for this kind of reform the current system works well. The Commissioners are doing a good job.

Points made by supporters of the charter Elected Councilors set policy and the county manager implements it. County manager hires/fires employees. Councilors have authority to hire/fire the county manager (similar to most local government)

It expands the number of councilors from 3 to 5 providing better representation to reflect a larger, growing county. 4 of the 5 will be elected from their own

district representing the unique perspectives of the district. One will be elected county wide and will serve as chair to ensure a county wide perspective.

- county wide and will serve as chair to ensure a county wide perspective. It allows for citizens to review county charter t at 5 and 10 year intervals, any change must be approved by voters. It also provides citizens the right to bring initiatives to the ballot box.

  By reducing the work load it allows more people who already have jobs the opportunity to serve as Councilor (like city councils).

  This is the product of a citizen led non-partisan process that studied best practices to improve access and representation.
- to improve access and representation.

# Exhibit 3: October 23, 2014 Email to "Local Mailing List" Regarding Commissioner Race

Mielke, Tom Thursday, October 23, 2014 12:55 PM Sent: 'Local Mailing List' To: RE: What others are saying Subject: Important Categories: WOW! JUST WOW! HARD TO BELIEVE ALL THIS WENT RIGHT DOWN PARTY ENOUGH ABOUT WORKING WELL WITH OTHERS TOM ----Original Message-----From: Local Mailing List [mailto:lmpatella@comcast.net] Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 8:01 AM To: Mielke, Tom Subject: What others are saying (Mailing list information, including unsubscription instructions, is located at the end of this message.) \_ Good Morning, Please read and then vote for Jeanne Stewart BELOW is Information provided by reliable sources and the fish Wrapper spotlighting the highlights of Pridemore's Political career. As you can see, Pridemore repeatedly Ignored the voice of the people and HAS VOTED FOR, or SPOKE IN FAVOR OF multiple taxes & hikes, lodging tax, building fee hikes; 44% increase in builder's fees; extend real estate tax; cell phone 911 fee; building permit fee; increased property tax; gas tax increase; ground water fee; voted to continue 11.7% surcharge on most development fees; raised fees for reviewing subdivisions, zone-change and other permit requests by 44 percent; bridge tolls (sponsored the bill that allows tolls) elimination of the 2/3 majority in Olympia elimination of the 60% for levies 0 0 increased density while knowing it will increase traffic congestion 0 forcing cities to accept more apartments 0 Wanted C-Tran to merge with Trimet 0 County joined suit against Initiative 722 0 supports "smart growth" 0 Supported millions in state dollars to Vancouver's downtown conference center. Stem tide of Portlanders by increasing housing prices 0 Wants State law change to allow immovable growth boundary 0 Resigned Clark County Commission midterm 0 Voted to raise taxes, after claiming he was against Pridemore knowingly increased housing costs by increasing land value 0 0 Wants to eliminate Electoral College by backdoor Will lead climate effort (which will raise energy costs) 0 0 supports 15 cent gas tax increase

Co-sponsored legislation to charge \$9-\$12 fee on TV & computers

Supports large sales tax increase (1 penny/dollar) reimposing an inheritance tax was a "great idea." 0 0 Give school lueies a second try in May Pridemore said he supports the current CRC plan. 0 Pridemore supported referring a temporary sales tax to voters 0 it's time to consider "a wealth-based, income-based" tax 0 Voted to charge for access to state parks and lands 0 0 Proposed real estate excise tax 0 Vote against restoring 1% property tax limit. Supports tax abatements for developers (which takes money from basic services) 0 Opposed Oversight of CRC n Sponsored bill to allow tolling on CRC MISC a said I don't believe there is any such thing as good sprawl. 0 Eventually, either sprawl must be allowed or slower traffic must be accepted, Pridemore said. Slower traffic is better. "I think a major part of the solution is a recognition that density breeds congestion," Pridemore said. "So a realistic set of expectations is important." Clark County might come to Vancouver's rescue with as much as \$500,000 a year for the city's long-discussed convention center. ... "I think that's a good project that would generate substantial economic activity," county Commissioner Craig Pridemore said. Craig Pridemore, a county commissioner, indicated that Washington transportation policymakers have an obligation to keep the HOV lane in operation County budget director: Growth doesn't make financial difference These are from scanning Columbian archives from 1996 to Summer 2014 surrounding Pridemore's political history. The result is the two attached files titled "Pridemore Report". They are intended to be leads to the full articles which can be supplied on request - or can be found in the Columbian BEFORE YOU PRINT, here are the number of pages required: Pridemore Report-2003 to 2014.....15 pages Pridemore\_Report-1999-2002(b2).....57 pages The following information is a reminder of your current mailing list subscription: You are subscribed to the following list: Local Mailing List

using the following email:

tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov

<mailto: Impatella@comcast.net>

If you'd like to unsubscribe, please contact the list owner at:

#### Jon Ammons

From:

Mielke, Tom

Sent:

Tuesday, July 29, 2014 4:39 PM

To:

'district18rep@msn.com'

Subject:

FW: A Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter

Attachments:

Resolution to Defeat the Charter.docx

Categories:

PDR - tracking

From: John Anderson [mailto:jandersonfarm@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:27 PM To: kennysmith@clarkrepublicans.com

Subject: A Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter

My Fellow PCO's,

You will be asked to approve a Resolution to defeat the Freeholders' Charter at the August 21st Central Committee meeting.

Read the Freeholders' Charter: http://www.clark.wa.gov/freeholders/documents/BOF\_Final.pdf

Watch the STOP THE CHARTER TRAIN video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyXHQDdv5RA

The Charter replaces our 3 Commissioners with 5 toothless "Councilors" who are specifically prohibited from interfering with County management decisions. (Sec. 2.6) The power would be vested in an at-large Council Chair and an appointed County Executive. The Initiative/Referendum offered by the Charter is a sham. It specifically prohibits any petitions that deal with taxes, policy, projects, or even the Charter itself. (Sec. 7.2)

Attached is the Resolution to defeat the Charter.

Thank you,

John Anderson PCO 618

#### Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter

WHEREAS, transparency is essential to good governance and the principle of accountability holds that government officials are responsible to the citizenry for their decisions and actions; and if citizens are to govern their own affairs, they must be informed about how best to determine their affairs and execute them, and

WHEREAS, this Charter limits the quantity and quality of information that is easily and directly obtained by the people and their elected representatives, and

WHEREAS, the Freeholders' Charter removes power from the voter and the Commissioners, and tips the scale in favor of more power to an unelected manager, staff and the at-large Council Chair, the Charter diminishes representative democracy in Clark County and once lost cannot be reclaimed; and

WHEREAS, the Charter specifies that due to Constitutional limits, Charter prohibitions and court decisions, the initiative/referendum offered in the Charter does not allow citizens to use a petition to address taxes, budget, fees, projects, policy issues or the Charter, which renders it very limited in its use as a check and balance on power, and,

WHEREAS, due to the greatly increased authority and responsibility of the unelected County Manager who will demand an appropriate salary and staff, it follows that there will be increased costs to our taxpayers. In addition, the charter calls for the appointment of a deputy manager under section 3.2 which will have a new position with an appropriate salary as well, and

WHEREAS, there will also be the potential for higher salary costs as the Manager will determine starting salaries for all management employees under their administration as well as negotiating union contracts and,

WHEREAS, Council members will only have the approval authority for the "overall" compensation policies there are long term costs to reducing the authority and ability of the Commissioners to manage and keep bureaucratic growth in check and,

WHEREAS, the Republican Party believes in limited Government and this Charter will grow Government, give authority over to unelected staff and remove important checks and balances important to the electorate, and

Whereas, the power now rests with the people through their elected representatives who are readily accessible and accountable to the voters and,

WHEREAS, to unnecessarily change a long established form of government which is working effectively and efficiently and which will change the balance of power away from the people and their elected representatives,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we the Clark County Republican Party urge the defeat of the Charter when it appears on the November 2014 ballot.

## Jon Ammons

From:

Mielke, Tom

Sent:

Thursday, October 23, 2014 1:25 PM

o: 'darlene@gowoot.net'

Subject:

RE: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

Wow! Hi Dar,

I can't believe how hard they are working to do private presentations and so on. I'm not sure who the 60% might be, but the Charter is a disaster. Please don't let the chamber take a position on this, it will put them in a bad light.

#### Tom

From: Darlene Johnson [mailto:darlene@gowoot.net]

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 2:21 PM

To: Madore, David; TOM MIELKE (district18rep@cs.com); Mielke, Tom

Subject: FW: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

Thought you might be interested in what is being email to Chamber on the Charter issue.

Dar

From: Darlene Johnson [mailto:darlene@gowoot.net]

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 2:16 PM

To: 'John JJ Burke'; 'Joy Snead'

Subject: RE: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

I and everyone I know (in Clark County) are opposed to the charter. I have a hard time believing their position. (However the did support the bridge and opposed a third bridge)

I do not think the Woodland Chamber has the time to study this issue to take a position on it.

Dar

From: John JJ Burke [mailto:jj@woodlandwachamber.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 2:07 PM

To: Joy Snead; Darlene Johnson

Subject: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

FYI

John "JJ" Burke Executive Director Woodland Chamber of Commerce PO Box 1012 Woodland, WA 98674 Phone: (360)225-9552 Fax: (360)225-3490

Email: ji@woodlandwachamber.com Web: www.woodlandwachamber.com



----- Original Message -----

Subject: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members] From: <info@woodlandwachamber.com> Date: Wed, October 22, 2014 9:10 am

To: "John Burke" < jj@woodlandwachamber.com>

----- Original Message -----Subject: Dear Chamber Members

From: "Kelly Parker" < <a href="mailto:kparker@vancouverusa.com">kparker@vancouverusa.com</a>>
Date: Fri, October 17, 2014 3:05 pm

To: "Woodland Chamber of Commerce" < info@woodlandwachamber.com>

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Kelly Love CEO/President Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce

**(VANCOUVER, Wash.)** – The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce officially support Proposition #1, the proposed Home Rule Charter.

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(PDF): <a href="http://clark.wa.gov/freeholders/documents/BOFCharter-0">http://clark.wa.gov/freeholders/documents/BOFCharter-0</a>
52714.pdf

Board of Freeholder Information (Clark County

Website): http://clark.wa.gov/freeholders/index.html

www.charteryes.com

## www.votenocharter.com

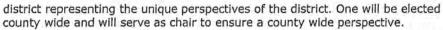
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- The charter creates a wall of separation from the Commissioners to the people.
- It creates obstacles for the commissioners who will have less authority and power to step in and help people directly by directing county staff what to do. Currently Commissioners can override county staff decisions and instruct county staff what to do.
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- The Commissioners job should be full time and the wage should not be cut from \$102K to \$52K.
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Points made by supporters of the charter

- Elected Councilors set policy and the county manager implements it. County manager hires/fires employees. Councilors have authority to hire/fire the county manager (similar to most local government)
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4



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- By reducing the work load it allows more people who already have jobs the
  opportunity to serve as Councilor (like city councils).
- This is the product of a citizen led non-partisan process that studied best practices to improve access and representation.

#### Jon Ammons

From:

Mielke, Tom

Sent:

Thursday, October 23, 2014 12:55 PM

To:

'Local Mailing List'

Subject:

RE: What others are saying

Categories:

Important

WOWI JUST WOWI HARD TO BELIEVE ALL THIS WENT RIGHT DOWN PARTY LINES......
ENOUGH ABOUT WORKING WELL WITH OTHERS

TOM

----Original Message----

From: Local Mailing List [mailto:Impatella@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 8:01 AM

To: Mielke, Tom

Subject: What others are saying

(Mailing list information, including unsubscription instructions, is located at the end of this message.)

Good Morning,

Please read and then vote for Jeanne Stewart

BELOW is Information provided by reliable sources and the fish Wrapper spotlighting the highlights of Pridemore's Political career. As you can see, Pridemore repeatedly Ignored the voice of the people and HAS VOTED FOR, or SPOKE IN FAVOR OF

- o multiple taxes & hikes, lodging tax, building fee hikes; 44% increase in builder's fees; extend real estate tax; cell phone 911 fee; building permit fee; increased property tax; gas tax increase; ground water fee; voted to continue 11.7% surcharge on most development fees; raised fees for reviewing subdivisions, zone-change and other permit requests by 44 percent;
- o bridge tolls (sponsored the bill that allows tolls)
- o elimination of the 2/3 majority in Olympia
- elimination of the 60% for levies
- light rail
- o increased density while knowing it will increase traffic congestion
- o forcing cities to accept more apartments
- o Wanted C-Tran to merge with Trimet
- County joined suit against Initiative 722
- o supports "smart growth"
- o Supported millions in state dollars to Vancouver's downtown conference center.
- o Stem tide of Portlanders by increasing housing prices
- Wants State law change to allow immovable growth boundary
- Resigned Clark County Commission midterm
- o Voted to raise taxes, after claiming he was against
- Pridemore knowingly increased housing costs by increasing land value
- o Wants to eliminate Electoral College by backdoor
- Will lead climate effort (which will raise energy costs)
- o supports 15 cent gas tax increase

1

- o Co-sponsored legislation to charge \$9-\$12 fee on TV & computers
- o Supports large sales tax increase (1 penny/dollar)
- o reimposing an inheritance tax was a "great idea."
- o Give school lyeies a second try in May
- Pridemore said he supports the current CRC plan.
- o Pridemore supported referring a temporary sales tax to voters
- o it's time to consider "a wealth-based, income-based" tax
- Voted to charge for access to state parks and lands
- Proposed real estate excise tax
- Vote against restoring 1% property tax limit.
- Supports tax abatements for developers (which takes money from basic services)
- o Opposed Oversight of CRC
- Sponsored bill to allow tolling on CRC MISC
- o said I dont believe there is any such thing as good sprawl.
- Eventually, either sprawl must be allowed or slower traffic must be accepted, Pridemore said. Slower traffic is better.
- o "I think a major part of the solution is a recognition that density breeds congestion," Pridemore said. "So a realistic set of expectations is important."
- Clark County might come to Vancouver's rescue with as much as \$500,000 a year for the city's longdiscussed convention center. ..."I think that's a good project that would generate substantial economic activity," county Commissioner Craig Pridemore said.
- o Craig Pridemore, a county commissioner, indicated that Washington transportation policymakers have an obligation to keep the HOV lane in operation
- County budget director: Growth doesn't make financial difference

These are from scanning Columbian archives from 1996 to Summer 2014 surrounding Pridemore's political history.

The result is the two attached files titled "Pridemore Report". They are intended to be leads to the full articles which can be supplied on request - or can be found in the Columbian archives.

BEFORE YOU PRINT, here are the number of pages required:

Pridemore Report-2003 to 2014......15 pages Pridemore Report-1999-2002(b2).....57 pages

The following information is a reminder of your current mailing list subscription:

You are subscribed to the following list: Local Mailing List

using the following email:

tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov

If you'd like to unsubscribe, please contact the list owner at:

<mailto:Impatella@comcast.net>

# Exhibit 1: July 29, 2014 Email Referencing Resolution Opposing Charter Ballot Measure

To: 'district18rep@msn.com'[district18rep@msn.com]

From:

Mielke, Tom

Sent:

Tue 7/29/2014 11:39:30 PM

Importance:

Normal None

Sensitivity:

Subject:

FW: A Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter

Categories:

Important

#### Resolution to Defeat the Charter, docx

From: John Anderson [mailto:jandersonfarm@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:27 PM To: kennysmith@clarkrepublicans.com

Subject: A Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter

My Fellow PCO's,

You will be asked to approve a Resolution to defeat the Freeholders' Charter at the August 21st Central Committee meeting.

Read the Freeholders' Charter:

http://www.clark.wa.gov/freeholders/documents/BOF\_Final.pdf

Watch the STOP THE CHARTER TRAIN video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyXHQDdv5RA

The Charter replaces our 3 Commissioners with 5 toothless "Councilors" who are specifically prohibited from interfering with County management decisions. (Sec. 2.6) The power would be vested in an at-large Council Chair and an appointed County Executive. The Initiative/Referendum offered by the Charter is a sham. It specifically prohibits any petitions that deal with taxes, policy, projects, or even the Charter itself. (Sec. 7.2)

Attached is the Resolution to defeat the Charter.

Thank you,

John Anderson PCO 618

#### Exhibit 1 (Continued): Resolution Referenced in July 29 Mielke Email

7

#### Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter

The Republican Party believes that transparency is essential to good governance.

Whereas, this Freeholders' Charter limits the quantity and quality of information that is easily and directly obtained by the people and their elected representatives. Three full-time Commissioners are replaced by five "Councilors" who only meet twice a month. These Councilors will be totally dependent on staff for critical information and department oversight. Only the at-large Council Chair is allowed to speak publicly on County business. (See Section 2.2); and,

The Republican Party is deeply committed to the principle that government must be accountable and responsive to the citizens it serves.

Whereas, the Freeholders' Charter removes power from the voter and their Commissioners, and transfers the power to an unelected Manager, staff and the at-large Council Chair. The Charter diminishes representative democracy in Clark County and once lost cannot be reclaimed. (See Section 2:6); and,

The Republican Party believes in the importance of checks and balances on power.

Whereas, the Initiative/Referendum offered in the Charter as a check on power is a toothless tiger which offers no real check on power. The Freeholders' Charter specifies that due to Constitutional limits, Charter prohibitions and court decisions, the initiative/referendum offered in the Charter does not allow citizens to use a petition to address taxes, budgets, fees, projects, policy issues or even the Charter itself. (See Section 7.2A1-6); and,

The Republican Party is an advocate for limited and cost-effective government.

Whereas, confusion is expensive. No information is available on what the new Manager will be paid. There is no reasonable estimate on the cost of the transition were the Charter to pass. Due to the greatly increased authority and responsibility of the unelected County Manager, and because this Manager will determine starting salaries for management employees as well as negotiate union contracts, logic dictates that there will be increased costs to the taxpayer. There will be long term costs associated with reducing the authority and ability of the Commissioners to manage and keep bureaucratic growth in check. The Freeholders' Charter will grow government. (See Section 3B1-9); and

The power now rests with the people and their elected representatives, the Commissioners. They are readily accessible and accountable to the voters, a truly representative democracy.

Whereas, the Freeholders' Charter unnecessarily changes this long established form of County government.

Now therefore, be it resolved, we the Clark County Republican Party urge the defeat of the Freeholders' Charter when it appears on the November 2014 ballot.

#### William Lemp

From:

TOM MIELKE <district18rep@msn.com>

Sent:

Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:41 PM

To:

William Lemp

Subject:

Investigation #15-052

March 15, 2015

Tom Mielke, Councilor Clark County Wk: 360-397-2232

Wik amails tam mially

Wk email: tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov

PDC Complaint T15-105 Jacqueline Lane

Investigation #15-052

To Whom it May Concern,

The first item of complaint was that I forwarded political papers to the Republican Party. As a personal rule, anything that comes to my County office that appears to be personal, I forward it onto my home computer which the PDC may verify my using it over several campaigns in the past. That email address is: district18rep@msn.com. Used and kept from my days as a State Legislator representing the District18.

In review of the evidence provided, I was looking at the dates and times of the email exchange between John JJ Burke on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:07pm. Then Darlene Johnson, a personal friend sent to me, Tom Mielke on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:21pm what appears to be from John JJ Burke. My recommendation back to my friend was to remain neutral. Not for nor against. Also note that the Woodland Chamber is in Cowlitz County and it appears the message being passed around was from Kelly Love of the Vancouver Chamber in Clark County. If it makes a difference, Cowlitz County didn't have a vote in the Charter.

Another part of the complaint dealt with an email from Larry Patella (Local Mailing List) on Oct.23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:01 am on a number of issues. Me, Tom Mielke's response was the fact the voting on the issues I saw were down party lines. ? Obviously, I responded and never sent him any political papers.

I have remained vigilant not to violate ethic or PDC rules for nearly 20 years and have a clean record. I am concerned about the vicious accusations and the embellishment of evidence that shows an intent to cause inconvenience to the Public Disclosure Commission, Clark County and myself. The obvious evidence that the Plaintiff used as a reason to complain, in fact shows the opposite. The Board of County Councilors have been providing almost weekly public disclosure documents for over 2 years to this group. When citizen abuse the law as you are aware of, creates a major cost to the taxpayers when they are unfounded. The evidence I speak of would be the continued request to and from our Legislators to provide some sort of relief in the law of record providing. This is truly another case of abuse.

Thank Your for Your Consideration,

Tom Mielke Cell: 360-608-6201

Hme email: district18rep@msn.com

711 CAPITOL PO BOX ADDO OLYMPIA WA (360) 783-111 Toll Free 1-57	WAY RM 206 Cand	didate stration	C1	DATE FILED PDG FEB 0 2 2008	
Candidate's Name (Give candidate's full	name.)			Telephone Number	
Tom Mielke				(360) 608-6201	
Candidate's Committee Name (Do not ab	breviate.)			Fax Number	
Committee to Elect Tom Mielke 200	8			( )	
Mailing Address				Candidate's E-Mail Address	
P.O. Box 2503			les d	District18Rep@msn.com	
Battle Ground	County Clark	Zip + 98	4 3604	Campaign E-Mail Address Same	
What office are you running for?  County Commissioner	Legis	ative District, County or City	Position No.	Do you now hold this office?  Yes No X	
Political party (if partisan office)		3. Date	of general or specia	al election	
Republican		ign, including the primary and general	0/4/08		
Option I MINI REPORTING: local voters pamphlets. I will no	In addition to my filing fee of \$_ t accept more than \$500 in the aggre	e Option II, Full Reporting. See Instruction  I will raise and spend no more than gate from any contributor except myself.  I will file the frequent, detailed campaign re	\$5,000, including a	ny charges for inclusion in state and	
. Treasurer's Name and Address. Doc	es treasurer perform only ministerial fo	unctions? Yes No See WAC 390	0-05-243 and next	Daytime Telephone Number	
page for details. List deputy treasure			d on attached sheet.		
Tom Mielke, P.O. Box 2	2503, Battle Ground, W	A. 98604		(360) 608-6201	
Committee Officers and other person:	s who authorize expenditures or make	e decisions on your behalf. List name, title	and address. See n	Continued on attached sheet.	
SAME					
Campaign Bank or Depository		Branch		City	
Riverview		Battle Ground		Battle Ground	
Related or Affiliated Political Committee	es. List name, address and relations	nip.		Continued on attached sheet.	
Campaign books must be open to the In the space below, provide contact infi box or an out-of-area address.	public by appointment between 8 a.m ormation for scheduling an appointme	and 8 p.m. during the eight days before the int and the address where the inspection w	ne election, except S rill take place. It is no	aturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. of acceptable to provide a poet office	
Street Address, Room Number, City 7401 NE 284 <sup>th</sup> St., Battle C	Ground, WA. 98604				
In order to make an appointment, conta  CERTIFICATION:	ct the campaign at (telephone, fax, e-	mail): (X)			

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION  711 CAPITOL WAY RM 20 PO BOX 19998 O1 WPIPA WA 98504-0909 (360) 753-1111 Toll Free 1-877-601-2828	Registration	C1 (1/2008)	100454340 03-06-2012
Candidate's Name (Give candidate's full name.)			Telephone Number
TOM M MIELKE			360-687-1106
Candidate's Committee Name (Do not abbreviate,	)		Fax Number
COMMITTEE TO ELECT TOM MIEI	KE		1.5.0000
Mailing Address	44.00		Candidate's E-Mail Address
7401 NE 284TH ST			DISTRICT18REP@MSN.COM
City	County	Zip + 4	Campaign E-Mail Address
BATTLE GROUND	CLARK 9	8604	DISTRICT18REP@MSN.COM
What office are you running for?	Legislative District, County or City	Position No.	Do you now hold this office?
COUNTY COMMISSIONER	CLARK CO	NA	Yes X No _
Political party (if partisan office)		3. Date of general or spec	cial election
REPUBLICAN		11/06/2012	
and local voters pamphlets. I will not acc	on to my filing fee of \$ I will raise and spend cept more than \$500 in the aggregate from any contributo e the Full Reporting system. I will file the frequent, detaile	r except myself.	***************************************
5. Treasurer's Name and Address. Does treasurers of next page for details. List deputy treasurers of SHARON K LIEN 5914 NE 384TH ST., LA CENTR		See WAC 390-05-243 and Continued on attached sheet	Daytime Telephone Number
JUSTIN D. SMITH, CAMPAIGN N	uthorize expenditures or make decisions on your behalf. L MANAGER, 1341 E. 14TH CIR, LA 5914 NE 384TH ST., LA CENTER I	CENTER WA 98629	See next page for definition of "officer."  Continued on attached sheet.
. Campaign Bank or Depository	Branch C. S.		City
IVERVIEW COMMUNITY BANK	P.O. BOX 3038		BATTLE GROUND, WA
holidays. In the space below, provide contact a post office box or an out-of-area address. Street Address, Room Number, City where	y appointment between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. during the eight information for scheduling an appointment and the addres campaign books will be available for inspection		
7401 NE 284TH ST., BATTL	E GROUND campaign at (telephone, fax, e-mail):360-687-110	6 DISTRICT18RE	PAMSN COM
I. CERTIFICATION: I certify that this report is true, complete and co	orrect to the best of my knowledge.	Date 03-06-2012	- CARLA LOOP

PUBLIC DISCLOSE	URE COMMISSION	426 42162 5		The same is a second
<b>occ</b>	711 CAPITOL WAY RM 206 PO BOX 40908 OLYMPIA WA 98504-0908 (360) 753-1111	Candidate Registration	C1	100628775
	Toll Free 1-877-501-2828		1,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	03-02-2015
Candidate's Name (Give o	andidate's full name.)			Telephone Number
TOM MIELKE				360-608-6201
Candidate's Committee Na	me (Do not abbreviate.)			Fax Number
COMMITTEE TO E	LECT TOM MIELKE			
Mailing Address				Candidate's E-Mail Address
7401 NE 284TH :	ST			DISTRICT18REP@MSN.CO
City	No.	County	Zip + 4	Campaign E-Mail Address
ATTLE GROUND  1. What office are your	Unning for?	Legislative District, County or City	98604 Position No.	DISTRICT18REP@MSN.CO Do you now hold this office?
COUNTY COUNCIL				Yes No X
2. Political party (if parti		CLARK CO	AL 3. Date of general or spec	tial election
REPUBLICAN			11/03/2015	
	an to spend during your entir	re election campaign, including the primary		sed on that estimate, choose one of
and local voters p	REPORTING: I will use the Fu	re than \$500 in the aggregate from any contribut Il Reporting system. I will file the frequent, detail		by law.  Daytime Telephone Number
next page for details. FOM MIELKE	List deputy treasurers on attact	hed sheet.	Continued on attached sheet	
		expenditures or make decisions on your behalf.		See next page for definition of "officer."  Continued on attached sheet.
Campaign Bank or De	posilory	Branch		City
.S. BANK		DOWNTOWN		VANCOUVER
. Related or Alfiliated Po	olitical Committees. List name,	address and relationship.		Continued on attached sheet
holidays. In the space a post office box or an Street Address, Room	below, provide contact informa out-of-area address.	ntment between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. during the eightion for scheduling an appointment and the addressing the scheduling and appointment and the addressing the scheduling and books will be available for inspection UND		
In order to make an ap	pointment, contact the campaig	n at (telephone, fax. e-mail):360-608-620	1 DISTRICT18REE	P@MSN.COM
Candidate's Signatur	is true, complete and correct to e	the best of my knowledge.	Date	
TOM MIELKE	5		03-02-2015	

### Exhibit 3: October 23, 2014 Email to "Local Mailing List" Regarding Commissioner Race

From: Mielke, Tom Thursday, October 23, 2014 12:55 PM Sent: 'Local Mailing List' Subject: RE: What others are saying Categories: Important WOWI JUST WOW! HARD TO BELIEVE ALL THIS WENT RIGHT DOWN PARTY LINES..... ENOUGH ABOUT WORKING WELL WITH OTHERS TOM ----Original Message-----From: Local Mailing List [mailto:lmpatella@comcast.net] Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 8:01 AM To: Mielke, Tom Subject: What others are saying (Mailing list information, including unsubscription instructions, is located at the end of this message.) \_\_ Good Morning. Please read and then vote for Jeanne Stewart BELOW is Information provided by reliable sources and the fish Wrapper spotlighting the highlights of Pridemore's Political career. As you can see, Pridemore repeatedly Ignored the voice of the people and HAS VOTED FOR, or SPOKE IN FAVOR OF multiple taxes & hikes, lodging tax, building fee hikes; 44% increase in builder's fees; extend real estate tax; cell phone 911 fee; building permit fee; increased property tax; gas tax increase; ground water fee; voted to continue 11.7% surcharge on most development fees; raised fees for reviewing subdivisions, zone-change and other permit requests by 44 percent; bridge tolls (sponsored the bill that allows tolls) elimination of the 2/3 majority in Olympia 0 elimination of the 60% for levies 0 0 light rail increased density while knowing it will increase traffic congestion 0 forcing cities to accept more apartments 0 0 Wanted C-Tran to merge with Trimet 0 County joined suit against Initiative 722 supports "smart growth" 0 Supported millions in state dollars to Vancouver's downtown conference center. Stem tide of Portlanders by increasing housing prices Wants State law change to allow immovable growth boundary 0 Resigned Clark County Commission midterm Voted to raise taxes, after claiming he was against Pridemore knowingly increased housing costs by increasing land value Wants to eliminate Electoral College by backdoor Will lead climate effort (which will raise energy costs) supports 15 cent gas tax increase Co-sponsored legislation to charge \$9-\$12 fee on TV & computers

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Supports large sales tax increase (1 penny/dollar) reimposing an inheritance tax was a "great idea." Give school lveies a second try in May 0 Pridemore said he supports the current CRC plan. 0 Pridemore supported referring a temporary sales tax to voters 0 it's time to consider "a wealth-based, income-based" tax Voted to charge for access to state parks and lands 0 0 Proposed real estate excise tax Vote against restoring 1% property tax limit. 0 Supports tax abatements for developers (which takes money from basic services) Opposed Oversight of CRC 0 Sponsored bill to allow tolling on CRC MISC 0 said I dont believe there is any such thing as good sprawl. Eventually, either sprawl must be allowed or slower traffic must be accepted, Pridemore said. Slower traffic is better. "I think a major part of the solution is a recognition that density breeds congestion," Pridemore said. "So a realistic set of expectations is important." Clark County might come to Vancouver's rescue with as much as \$500,000 a year for the city's long-discussed convention center. ... "I think that's a good project that would generate substantial economic activity," county Commissioner Craig Pridemore said. Craig Pridemore, a county commissioner, indicated that Washington transportation policymakers have an obligation to keep the HOV lane in operation County budget director: Growth doesn't make financial difference These are from scanning Columbian archives from 1996 to Summer 2014 surrounding Pridemore's political history. The result is the two attached files titled "Pridemore Report". They are intended to be leads to the full articles which can be supplied on request - or can be found in the Columbian BEFORE YOU PRINT, here are the number of pages required: Pridemore Report-2003 to 2014.....15 pages Pridemore\_Report-1999-2002(b2).....57 pages The following information is a reminder of your current mailing list subscription: You are subscribed to the following list: Local Mailing List using the following email: tom.mielke@clark.wa.gov If you'd like to unsubscribe, please contact the list owner at:

<mailto:lmpatella@comcast.net>

# Exhibit 2: October 23, 2014 Email to Darlene Johnson Regarding Charter Ballot Measure

From:

Mielke, Tom

Sent: To: Thursday, October 23, 2014 1:25 PM

'darlene@gowoot.net'

Subject:

RE: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

Wow! Hi Dar,

I can't believe how hard they are working to do private presentations and so on. I'm not sure who the 60% might be, but the Charter is a disaster. Please don't let the chamber take a position on this, it will put them in a bad light.

Tom

From: Darlene Johnson [mailto:darlene@gowoot.net]

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 2:21 PM

To: Madore, David; TOM MIELKE (district18rep@cs.com); Mielke, Tom

Subject: FW: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

Thought you might be interested in what is being email to Chamber on the Charter issue.

Dar

From: Darlene Johnson [mailto:darlene@gowoot.net]

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 2:16 PM

To: 'John JJ Burke'; 'Joy Snead'

Subject: RE: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

I and everyone I know (in Clark County) are opposed to the charter. I have a hard time believing their position. (However the did support the bridge and opposed a third bridge)

I do not think the Woodland Chamber has the time to study this issue to take a position on it.

Dar

From: John JJ Burke [mailto:fj@woodlandwachamber.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 2:07 PM

To: Joy Snead; Darlene Johnson

Subject: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members]

FYI

John "JJ" Burke 🗔 Executive Director

**Woodland Chamber of Commerce** 

PO Box 1012

Woodland, WA 98674

Phone: (360)225-9552 Fax: (360)225-3490

Email: jj@woodlandwachamber.com Web: www.woodlandwachamber.com



----- Original Message -----

Subject: [FWD: Dear Chamber Members] From: <info@woodlandwachamber.com> Date: Wed, October 22, 2014 9:10 am

To: "John Burke" <ji@woodlandwachamber.com>

----- Original Message ------Subject: Dear Chamber Members

From: "Kelly Parker" < kparker@vancouverusa.com>

Date: Fri, October 17, 2014 3:05 pm

To: "Woodland Chamber of Commerce" <info@woodlandwachamber.com>

I am sending this to you before we release the Information to the public.

I appreciate all who responded to our survey several weeks ago regarding the proposed county charter.

60% of our members who responded said they support the charter.

The GVCC Public Affairs Committee took that information and then met with representatives from both sides of the issue developing a pro/con list. I include that list for your review.

After discussion, the GVCC Board of Directors voted to support Proposition #1, the proposed county charter.

The Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce has joined in the announcement which is included below.

You may ask when does your chamber take positions? The chamber does not endorse candidates or partisan issues.

The chamber routinely takes positions on school levies and local issues because they impact our businesses and our community. The chamber looks for a return on investment. Will this provide long term benefits for our businesses and our community? In this case, the answer is a resounding yes. There are several business issues before

the county (wineries, growth management, infrastructure) that impact our businesses. Additional distrtict wide representation and clear division of responsibilities will provide predictability, transparency and equity for all residents.

Above all, the chamber wants to provide you information to help you make your best determination and to vote. When we don't vote, we lose our voice. Your voice matters.

I am happy to take any comments/questions you may have. You can reach me at <u>klove@vancouverusa.com</u> or directly at 360,567-1050. I thank you for being a member of the chamber.

Kelly Love CEO/President Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce

(VANCOUVER, Wash.) - The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce officially support Proposition #1, the proposed Home Rule Charter.

The charter provides a strong return on investment, providing two additional elected positions to better represent the growing community while not increasing costs to the taxpayers. The Charter also clarifies the roles of the elected officials and the county Manager providing businesses greater consistency and predictability in doing business in the county. Most local governments already use this model in which the elected officials set policy and the county manager implements the policy. The elected officials have authority to hire/fire the county manager.

"By increasing the number of elected officials from 3 to 5, we will have stronger representation listening to concerns of local families and businesses," said GVCC Public Affairs Chairman Eric Olmsted. "The charter provides greater stability and transparency creating a positive environment for businesses and the community to grow."

The Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce says the measure is a non- partisan issue strongly supported by Republicans and Democrats in the community. "It's a simple, moderate and cost effective update to our governing rules; the first update since 1889. It makes sense." Says Brent Erickson, Executive Director of the Camas Washougal Chamber. "By expanding the council to five, it also encourages more people to become involved in our county government."

The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce polled its members in mid-September. Approximately 200 of the 1,100 members responded. 60 percent said they planned to vote yes. "Consistently we heard from our businesses that they want more information on the issue and that the majority considered it a very important issue to the growth of Clark County," said Eric Sawyer, Chair of the GVCC Board. "We think it's vitally important that we provide our businesses with the best information we've developed and encourage all businesses to take a few minutes and consider the pro's and con's before voting. Most importantly we encourage them to vote."

The GVCC's Youtube Channel features four informational videos on the proposed Clark County Charter. The GVCC created these videos in partnership with community volunteers and Star Rise Entertainment. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, peers and family to vote.

VIDEO #1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRr3ibpqqHI

VIDEO #2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQ8az0TID-M

VIDEO #3 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JyTdL 67cs

VIDEO #4 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ci3G9hApVCM

5 | Page

Additional Information links on Proposition #1 the proposed Home Rule Charter:

Final Home Rule Charter Document (PDF):

http://clark.wa.gov/freeholders/documents/BOFCharter 052714.pdf

Board of Freeholder Information (Clark County Website): http://clark.wa.gov/freeholders/index.html

www.charteryes.com

### www.votenocharter.com

Additional background compiled by GVCC Public Affairs Committee: Points made by opponents of the charter:

 The charter creates a wall of separation from the Commissioners to the people.

- It creates obstacles for the commissioners who will have less authority and power to step in and help people directly by directing county staff what to do. Currently Commissioners can override county staff decisions and instruct county staff what to do.
   It creates obstacles for the commissioners who will have less authority and power to step in and help people directly by directing county staff what to do. Currently Commissioners can override county staff decisions and instruct county staff what to do.
- The charter allows the county manager to hire, fire and discipline employees. It gives the county manager (hired by the Commission) too much power.

The charter allows the county manager to hire, fire and discipline employees. It gives the county manager (hired by the Commission) too much power.

 The Commissioners job should be full time and the wage should not be cut from \$102K to \$52K.

The Commissioners job should be full time and the wage should not be cut from \$102K to \$52K.

 There's no need for this kind of reform the current system works well. The Commissioners are doing a good job.
 There's no need for this kind of reform the current system works

well. The Commissioners are doing a good job.

Points made by supporters of the charter

- Elected Councilors set policy and the county manager implements it. County manager hires/fires employees. Councilors have authority to hire/fire the county manager (similar to most local government)
- It expands the number of councilors from 3 to 5 providing better representation to reflect a larger, growing county. 4 of the 5 will be elected from their own

4

district representing the unique perspectives of the district. One will be elected county wide and will serve as chair to ensure a county wide perspective.

- It allows for citizens to review county charter t at 5 and 10 year intervals, any change must be approved by voters. It also provides citizens the right to bring initiatives to the ballot box.
- By reducing the work load it allows more people who already have jobs the opportunity to serve as Councilor (like city councils).

  This is the product of a citizen led non-partisan process that studied best practices
- to improve access and representation.