



Friday, April 16, 2010

Ms. Marguerite Richard

Ms. Richard:

I'm writing in response to your public comments made at the April 4th Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission meeting.

You brought to the Commission's attention several allegations which you would like the Commission to investigate. None of the allegations raise an issue under the City of Seattle Ethics Code and are not within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Therefore, we decline to initiate an investigation.

You alleged that you contacted the City to determine why you were ruled ineligible to participate in a utility payment assistance program, and when employees who handle the program were not responsive, you called the Citizen Service Bureau (CSB), a department specifically set up to help citizens access City information and services.

You had several conversations with CSB employees none of which were the assistance you requested. Not only this, but you allege that you were treated rudely and summarily dismissed by CSB staff. You then state that you realized that the CSB and utility program employees had mischaracterized your situation, and allege that they may have committed criminal acts by placing fraudulent material in CSB files. You also allege that City employees violated your First Amendment right to free speech and are guilty of racially motivated discrimination.

These allegations, though serious, do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission as none of these issues are addressed by the City of Seattle Ethics Code. Given this, the Commission and the Commission staff have no authority to investigate your concerns.

Though the Commission and the staff cannot address your concerns, perhaps the following three organizations could be a resource for you or if not, they may be able to refer you to an agency or service that can talk to you about the allegations.

- City of Seattle Office of Civil Rights: 206-684-8400; Investigating and enforcing city, state and federal anti-discrimination laws including the ADA



- Crisis Clinic's Community Resources, 206.461.3222; Provides immediate and confidential assistance, including information and linkage to community resources.
- American Civil Liberties Union, 206.624.2180; The ACLU deals with unfair practices in the area of civil rights such as racial justice and freedom of expression.

Thank you for taking the time to appear before the Commission and to voice your concerns.

Sincerely,



Kate Flack, Advisor/Investigator