



February 24, 2020

**BY E-MAIL ONLY**

Ari Hoffman

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

I have reviewed your new complaint against Seattle City Councilmember Lisa Herbold. The basis for your complaint is that she used her position for other than a City purpose. Specifically, your allegation is that she relied on both her staff and the City Council's public information officer to draft a statement when a recreational vehicle (RV) was towed to the front of her house. (I will not go into detail about that event here, since it was the subject of a settlement approved by the Commission earlier this month.)

The suspicion that the vehicle was towed there because of the Councilmember's official actions was not unreasonable, given that it followed so closely on the heels of your e-mail to elected officials, and media coverage of your vow to deliver an RV to a Councilmember's residence if the City did not act on your complaints regarding RVs parked alongside a North Seattle cemetery. As such, the Councilmember's reliance on staff to draft a statement was not a misuse of City resources in violation of the Ethics Code, and therefore I am dismissing your complaint. Councilmembers regularly rely on staff to draft statements, and nothing about the Councilmember's reliance in this case violated the Ethics Code. This is my conclusion, assuming all of your allegations to be true.

I understand that you wish to appeal this dismissal to the full Ethics and Elections Commission. If so, please get us a written appeal within 21 days. If you can get us your appeal by this Friday, February 28, I hope that the Commission will be able to hear your appeal at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday March 4, 2020 at 4:00 pm in SMT 4080.

If you have any other questions or concerns regarding this matter, feel free to contact me or Marc Mayo.

Very truly yours,

Wayne Barnett  
Executive Director