

August 20, 2009

The Editor
The News Tribune
PO Box 11000
Tacoma, WA 98411

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to address the conclusions of the investigation conducted as a result of charges filed against Mr. Dale Washam, our Assessor-Treasurer, claiming he had discriminated against an employee of his office in violation of the Equal Employment Opportunities Act.

I feel it is necessary however, as a public servant, to begin this letter by asking the taxpayers of this county for their forgiveness. A cursory review of the report clearly reveals there was no basis for any of these charges from early on. In fact, it was necessary for the investigator to extend the process for several months after the date of the alleged misdeed, in order to find or fabricate incidences that could be used as an excuse for charges of retaliation, and thus attempt to justify the costs of said report. Yet another example of the imprudent investment of the taxpayers' resources.

As a young man, it was necessary for me to leave my homeland, my family and my friends because of a broken political system, whereby those with the most guns would routinely usurp the reins of power and dictate their own terms to everyone else. I was filled with pride when I was sworn in as a U.S. citizen some years later, and will always remember the day I was able to cast my first vote in an election. America was founded on the principle of a government of the people, for the people, and I was all too happy to be able to participate in such a glorious experiment.

Today sadly I see this abusive process being enacted all over again. This time some of those in power manipulate the system itself in order to promote their ability to extend the length of their terms and live off the people, or to promote agendas which do not necessarily serve the best interests of those they claim to serve. Rather than relying on the brute force of guns, they have amassed a toxic arsenal of seemingly innocuous tools in order to further their ends. In so doing, the system has been transformed from one of the people, for the people, into one of self preservation and engorgement, for the benefit of the public servants themselves.

Mr. Washam upset the apple cart when he was elected into office. As an outsider who has dedicated his life to the cause of truth and justice for the taxpayers of this county, he represents a threat for those in power, because he has gained access into the very bowels of these abuses. This report and the allegations contained therein are nothing more than a feeble and transparent attempt to discredit an honorable man at any cost, in order to undermine the sting of his discoveries.

Public service is and ought to always remain a principled profession. One for which I may add, we are handsomely remunerated. As a public servant, I am proud to serve under the leadership of Dale Washam, and I am humbled everyday by his upright and unfailing adherence to the principles of truth, fairness and decency he exemplifies. We are fortunate to have a man with integrity at the reins of his office, and I trust the people of Pierce County will be able to see this report for what it is; a grotesque abuse of process and power.

Sincerely Yours,



Alberto Ugas
Deputy Assessor-Treasurer
Sumner, Washington

cc: Dave Wickert