

From: Cheryl Felak <CHERYLFELAK@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 1:20 PM
To: Ramona Hattendorf <RHattendorf@arcofkingcounty.org>
Subject: I'm sorry and explanation

Hello Ramona,

I feel the need to write to you to explain my actions and my position regarding issues with Shaun Bickley. All the issues involve lack of accountability and transparency and open government with regards to the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities. Unfortunately, public comment "presented" in June to the Commission was only information solicited by Mr. Bickley - there was no call for comments from stakeholders. The Office of Labor Standards and the policy department requested a stakeholder inquiry but the Commission did not want to do that - they wanted to move quickly. At the June meeting which the Commission states they had a unanimous vote was a "meeting" without a quorum (all this is verifiable through public records) so essentially, there was no meeting and no vote.

The press release sent out by the Commission on June 22, 2017 says "for information contact Shaun Bickley (primary contact - at ShaunLBickley@gmail.com) I did not reply to Mr. Bickley to his email but did make a comment with concerns on the Commission's Facebook page which led to some very inflammatory and abusive comments to me from Mr. Bickley. He (falsely) claimed that I said he did not have a disability and so he wrote in his declaration that "I had to block her" and I was denied access to the city/public Facebook page for many months while the Commission went through their internal problems dealing with various personalities and their own accusations against each other of abuse. I was not involved in any of that but my name was tossed around - basically as an ableist with no reason to be involved in the issue. Mr. Bickley accused me of being a "self-serving guardian" and that guardians have no say in what people with disabilities need or want. At any rate, blocking, censoring and deleting from the public Facebook page was a violation of the First Amendment and against the City of Seattle's policy. Hopefully, this issue is now corrected.

What I did say was that there was not a representative of the population for those with IDD on the Commission. Mr. Bickley refuted this saying that he has autism - I never said he didn't. I did try to clear up that yes, autism is a developmental disability but by definition is not necessarily an intellectual disability.

Again, through public records I was able to read all the public comments that were sent in to OLS with regards to the rule making process in August and September 2017. This is where I got all the emails

for those who submitted comments. You sent yours in from your personal email and so that is what I used in the blind cc of all recipients. I went back and forth of including Mr. Bickley in the recipient list since I knew he did not want contact from me (I had NEVER emailed him previously) but since he did send a public comment in and his name was discussed in the letter, I chose to include him in the blind cc'd recipients. I wanted to be transparent and he had every right now know what I wrote - there are no secrets there.

From the very beginning when the issue of the Commission being public with their actions, I was immediately tagged as an aggressive and abusive opponent from Friends of Fircrest. I am not with Friends of Fircrest (I had been in the past but am no longer involved with that group) and my son does not live at Fircrest. My son is in supported living and has integrated employment with supported employment. In fact, I even testified and sent letter to state legislators last year in favor of Employment First. I am not against paying people with disabilities minimum wage - my concerns are regarding "all the other stuff" that needs to be considered and the research that emphasises a well-thought out and funded transition plan - non of which was addressed in the Commission discussions or public comments. This critical (in my opinion) information was totally lost and it seemed the only focus was on the wage and not everything else that helps people with disabilities have a meaningful life with rich opportunities.

None of the issues I have raised have been anything personal about Mr. Bickley. He is a public servant with a job to do and that means interacting with the constituents. The Commission is not his private club but part of city government. Yes, these issues have been raised and they will continue to be addressed since I am aware of some others who are planning on taking legal action against the city to specifically deal with the abuse and bullying of this one commissioner in particular.

My concern has been adhering to open government - not personal attacks on a person. After reading through hundreds of documents that I have through public records I can see how Mr. Bickley thinks I may be harassing him because he is being asked to produce documents that should have been made public previously - such as meeting minutes and research.

As far as my recording the conversation that I had with him. It has been reviewed by a lawyer and it is not a "private" conversation. Mr. Bickley was told it was recorded and he did not object to that. In fact, Matt Kanter, another Commissioner (one of many who was at the meeting and milling about at the time of the conversation) wrote a declaration under penalty of perjury his perception of what transpired. Given that Mr. Kanter's declaration describes something very different than what actually occurred, I am glad that I had my recorder going (I had recorded other parts of the public meeting too due to a hearing disability I have). Also, the City Liaison from the Office of Civil Rights was standing right next to me and involved in the conversation too - in fact, you can hear her talk to Shaun on the recording.

As you most likely know, there was a hearing this past week in King County District Court for a petition that Shaun Bickley filed against me for harassment. It was denied and we were referred to King County Dispute Resolution Center. I am going to follow up on that, I do not know what Mr. Bickley plans. One of his requests in the petition was that I not be allowed to attend Commission meetings. My son and I attended the June Commission meeting and I was able to give a public comment. I know our presence irritated Mr. Bickley and he was watching the seconds tick by and very curtly said "your two minutes are up" to which I said thank you and sat down. Shortly after that, my son and I left due to the extreme disruptions my son causes.

Mr Bickley also stated several times that I wrote to his boss "many times" telling her to fire him. This is totally false and my intention in writing to you was actually to prevent something like that from happening. When I discovered at the May 2018 Commission meeting that Mr. Bickley worked at the Arc of King County as a "communication specialist" I became concerned about my ability to work with people at The Arc. I really did not want a similar scenario to play out in another arena of advocacy for those with disabilities. I am sure that we may cross paths in the future in different areas of advocacy. There were many other assumptions and perceptions expressed by Mr. Bickley that are totally unfounded. I'm very sorry that he feels so persecuted and attacked. That has never been my intent - I have only tried to clarify issues and express concerns for processes that I believe are critical to the success of supported employment.

It's no secret that I support campus-based communities as a choice for people with disabilities. This difference of opinion has caused several issues between me and the Arc agency. I believe we all need choice and that the research regarding both cost and setting especially for those with profound and complex IDD and people with dual diagnosis is not reflective of the reality of the situation.

I'm sorry to go on and on about this. It has been a great concern of mine that so much is misrepresented. My hope is to be able to work together amicably even if we don't agree on everything.

Thank you, I appreciate you taking the time to read through this long email.

Cheryl

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From: Cheryl Felak <CHERYLFELAK@msn.com>
Date: 6/26/18 11:58 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: Ramona Hattendorf <RHattendorf@arcofkingcounty.org>
Cc: Cathy Murahashi <CMurahashi@arcofkingcounty.org>
Subject: Re: I'm sorry and explanation

Thank you, Ramona.

Again, the only reason I contacted you was due to the physical and verbal attacks I received from Mr. Bickley at the May commission meeting where he also spoke about his position at The Arc. This was troubling to me for many reasons. I do not have any personal issue against him - he is a tenacious activist who works hard. I do have issues when he personally attacks people who do not agree with his opinion. Since I do not agree with every Arc policy and if Mr. Bickley is the "communication specialist" (whatever that is) I do not want to be attacked by him as an Arc employee too. He believes I am stalking him and if my name comes up with anything having to do with The Arc, he may very well concoct more false allegations against me. I am trying to avoid future problems but at the same time I do not want to stop advocating for what I believe in.

Attached is one example of the lack of accountability and transparency that I have been critical of with the work of the Commission. This email is sent to at least two employees of the Arc of King County. I was asked if I testified at the hearing and I would have if I had known about it.

I am not totally against the legislation, I am against the lack of thoughtful planning for funding, training, job coach recruitment, job skill building and job development that were not even addressed. People have lost hours due to this law. The people who were working in integrated employment had their hours cut which means less time in the community. This law had nothing to do with sheltered workshops - there are none in Seattle and they are being phased out anyhow. This law actually hurt people who could be working in supported employment and will no longer have that choice.

At any rate, I did contact the King County Dispute Resolution Center as suggested by the judge at the recent hearing. I sent a copy of that inquiry to both the City Liaison for the Commission and Shaun's lawyer.

Thank you - if I do experience any harassment from Shaun as an Arc employee, I will notify you and Cathy.

Cheryl

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From: Ramona Hattendorf <RHattendorf@arcofkingcounty.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 9:30 AM
To: Cheryl Felak
Subject: RE: I'm sorry and explanation

Hi Cheryl,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your thoughts. I also hope that we will be able to work together amicably.

I must ask you, however, to refrain from connecting your dispute and relationship with Shaun and the Seattle Commission for People with DisAbilities from the work of The Arc.

If you need to contact The Arc about a systems or policy question or civic engagement event, both Cathy Murahashi and myself are available.

Sincerely,

Ramona Hattendorf | Director of Advocacy

Office: 206.829.7048 | **Mobile:** 206.778.8623

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