



WHATCOM COUNTY

WASHINGTON

Planning & Development Services

5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226
PDS@co.whatcom.wa.us
360-778-5900

October 23, 2024

Mr. [REDACTED]

I was recently provided an email that you appear to have sent to [REDACTED] [ors@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com) on October 2, 2024, reading:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Oct 2, 2024 at 1:33 PM -0700
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: County corruption

Please read this and give me a call back.

This goes much deeper than this letter indicates....lets get together for a beer or coffee one of these days.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

Attached to this email was a non-meritorious complaint that another person had previously tendered to the County. That complaint was investigated by a 3rd party attorney, who deemed it a meritless complaint. If you are not the sender of this email, please advise me of my mistake.

However, at this time I assume that you sent this to [REDACTED] [ctors@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com) in an effort to impact the reputation of Mr. Mahaffie, and County. While I do not speak for Mr. Mahaffie in his personal or business capacity, I do speak for Whatcom County Planning and Development Services (PDS) and would like to set the record straight for you.

To begin, Mr. Mahaffie does not work on behalf of the County in regard to the permit applications related to [REDACTED] (REM). Mr. Mahaffie previously disclosed a personal business relationship with REM, and he has been wholly isolated by the County in regard to REM applications and permit review. This is both appropriate, and lawful.

In closing, the County takes issue with the defamatory title of your email "County corruption." Nothing in the content of your email, or in the facts available to those that have investigated the complaint, support a finding of corruption. Your reckless use of term will be taken for a mistake of fact at this time. However, if you continue to assert baseless allegations that damage the reputation of the County, or its employees, we may have no other recourse than to take legal action against you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M Personius", written over a white background.

Mark Personius
PDS Director

cc: [REDACTED]
George Roche, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Kellen Kooistra, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Matt Mahaffie, PDS