

**PIERCE COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION**

MINUTES of the February 8, 2023, Meeting

Online open public meeting at Wheelock Branch – Tacoma Public Library & via Zoom

Call to Order: 4:33 PM

**Quorum Call**

**Commission Members Present:**

X  Rob Batey       X  Blake Patton       X  Lisa Petorak       X  Mike Stewart

If not present, minutes shall note any unexcused absence.

**Hearing Officer Present:**

X  Judge Ron Culpepper

X  Judge Judy Jasprica

**Commission Legal Advisor present:**

X  Sarah Eaquinto

**Approval of Agenda:** The Commission approved the agenda as presented.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Commission approved the minutes of the January 11, 2023, meeting.

**Old Business:**

~ Update RE: Complaint 2202-08. Hearing Officer Culpepper concluded his investigation and found no probable cause.

~Appeal of Complaints 2022-05 and 2022-09. I informed the commission that I had drafted an initial response that was being reviewed by legal. Once I receive the final review, the letter will be mailed to the complainant.

**New Business:**

~ The Commission still has a vacant position to fill. The Commission was encouraged to spread the word and encourage individuals that meet the requirements to apply.

~ Hearing Officer Culpepper voiced concern related to how much information he could share with the Commission once he has concluded his report. He felt the hearing officer may be able to share more. Secondly, he voiced concern regarding the issue of confidentiality for individuals participating in an investigation but feared retribution from the County as an employer.

~ **Mail Received** - No mail was received.

~ **Informal Inquiries** - None requested.

~ **Advisory Opinions** - None requested.

**Public Input:** Janice Forbes-Allison was present. She expressed her comfort with the process as conducted by Hearing Officer Culpepper related to complaint 2022-08.

**Executive Session:** None

Adjournment: 4:55 PM

**Next Meeting:** March 8, 2023 @ 4:30PM @ **Wheelock** Branch/Tacoma Library + Online Zoom Conference Call.

The public is welcome to engage the Commission for all prescribed activities via the channels described on the web page.