



April 21, 2020

Dear Mr. Barnett,

Thank you for your response to our initial complaint about the misuse of City resources by Councilmember Sawant. We request that the full Commission consider your conclusion that the Councilmember is not in violation of the ethics code and that they do this before the rally she is leading on May 1<sup>st</sup> in violation of the Governor's stay at home order.

We request review based on Seattle Municipal Code 4.16.070 b.2 which reads in part,

**"A covered individual may not engage in any of the following acts: Use or attempt to use, or permit the use of any City funds, property, or personnel, for a purpose which is, or to a reasonable person would appear to be, for other than a City purpose."**

Councilmember Sawant is free to express her opinions but there is no City purpose in urging people not to pay rent and to violate a government order. This is not an exercise of free speech or of a City purpose but a violation of the law. The Governor's order of March 23 is clear and states,

"I hereby order that all people in Washington State are immediately prohibited from leaving their home or place of residence except to conduct or participate in (1) essential activities, and/or (2) employment in providing essential business services"

Organizing people to rally to not pay rent does not fit any definition of essential in the Governor's order.

Further, Councilmember Sawant has violated her oath of office, which states, in part

"That I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington, and all local ordinances."

This violates Seattle Municipal Code 4.16.020 b, which reads.

**“City officers and employees will demonstrate the values of integrity in the performance of the City's business, accountability to the law and to the people we serve, stewardship of the City's resources, and independence in the performance of our jobs. City employees should recognize that public service is a sacred trust, and should strive to live up to the highest ethical standards.”**

We would request the Councilmember Sawant be instructed not to use City resources for the purpose of organizing people to not pay rent on May 1<sup>st</sup> or to organize a violation of the Governor's order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Waddy" or "Waddy" in a cursive style.

Roger Valdez

Attachments: Original complaint and Governor Inslee's March 23<sup>rd</sup> order