

October 18, 2019

HEIDI WILLS CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIOLATIONS

Complaint to the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

CHARGE 1: HEIDI WILLS VIOLATED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Pursuant to SMC 2.04.370:

No person shall contribute more than \$500 to any candidate for Mayor, member of the City Council, or City Attorney of the city, in any election cycle.

Heidi Wills received more than \$5,000 through an in-kind contribution but declared its value as just \$1,000.

James Riggle and the Hotel Ballard, owned by James Riggle, hosted a Heidi Wills fundraiser for on October 8, 2019¹ in the hotel's luxury rooftop pavilion space. On 10/8/19, the day of the fundraiser, Wills reported collecting more than \$11,000 from more than 50 contributors.² One attendee reported 70 people at the fundraiser.³

According to Hotel Ballard's website:⁴

The Olympic Rooftop Pavilion provides 1,370 square feet of event space featuring views of old downtown Ballard, beautiful mountains, and waterways. The rooftop pavilion features state of the art audio visual equipment, vaulted ceilings with a skylight, and west facing NanaWalls. Outside of the pavilion, the patio space features a large fire place, chairs, and a standing bar making the Olympic Rooftop Pavilion and patio area an idea space for any event.

Features:

- Exclusive catering through Stoneburner
- Two antique chandeliers
- Outdoor fireplace and chairs
- Sweeping views of old downtown Ballard, waterways, and mountains
- Occupancy: up to 100 guests for dinner

Heidi Wills falsely declared the event space's true market value, in clear violation of Seattle's law prohibiting city council candidates from accepting contributions greater than \$500. Hotel

¹ See event invitation in the Appendix.

² For 10/8/19, Wills reported 52 contributors including Amazon CEO Jeff Wilke and Amazon lobbyist Ryan Bayne

³ <https://twitter.com/peterschrappen1/status/1181799592808996865>

⁴ <https://www.hotelballardseattle.com/en-us/events-groups/events-at-hotel-ballard>

Ballard’s restaurant, Stoneburner, normally charges a \$1,000 event set up fee plus \$100 for linens, not including food, drink and alcohol.⁵

Heidi Wills also falsely declared the true market value of catering for 70 at just \$500. Hotel Ballard’s restaurant normally charges a \$4,000 minimum for catering. According to an email from the Stoneburner Director of Sales and Catering:

Room rental includes set-up, teardown, staff, **standard linens (\$100 fee)**, tables and chairs for 100 guests and votive candles. The **food & beverage minimum for the Pavilion is \$4,000** and a rental fee of \$1,000. Tax and service charge are additional.⁶

CHARGE 2: HEIDI WILLS VIOLATED LAWS PROHIBITING CONCEALMENT OF SOURCES Pursuant to SMC 2.04.290:

No contribution shall be made and no expenditure shall be incurred, directly or indirectly, in a fictitious name, anonymously, or by one person through an agent, relative, or other person in such a manner as to conceal the identity of the source of the contribution or in any other manner so as to effect concealment.

To further conceal the true monetary value of the fundraiser and get around contribution limits, Heidi Wills appears to have falsely reported the in-kind contribution as split between two entities.

In-Kind Contributions				
Receipt Date	Name & Address	Employer & Occupation	Amount	Aggregate
10/8/19	Hotel Ballard Seattle, WA		\$500.00	\$500.00
	Description:	Event Space Rental		
10/8/19	Stoneburner Restaurant Seattle, WA		\$500.00	\$500.00
	Description:	Food for Event		

While Stoneburner normally handles all event fees and catering in the pavilion,⁷ Heidi Wills declared the contribution as split between lessor Hotel Ballard (owned by James Riggle) and lessee Stoneburner (owned by James Lechner’s Bastille2 LLC).

⁵ See email in the Appendix

⁶ Email from Stoneburner, attached.

⁷ Email from Stoneburner, attached.

It is important to note that Hotel Ballard owner James Riggle maxed out his personal contribution to Heidi Wills as an individual on 9/30/19 and was listed as an official host of the 10/8/19 fundraiser. The general manager at one of Riggle's other properties, the Olympic Athletic Club, also contributed⁸ the maximum \$500. The Olympic Athletic Club recently emailed its gym members a statement of support for Heidi Wills on 10/17/19.⁹

I urge the SEEC and Washington PDC to fully investigate this matter in a timely way. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Robert Cruickshank
(206) 492-9408
cruickshank@gmail.com
9037 7th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98117

⁸ Mark Durall, Olympic Athletic Club general manager contributed \$500 on 10/8/19, according to Wills' most recent C4.

⁹ See email in the Appendix

APPENDIX



Rooftop event

Elisabeth Spring <elisabeth@stoneburnerseattle.com>

Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 1:27 PM

To:

Hi Lea,

You would work with me to secure the space. We require a signed contract and a 25% deposit.

Please let me know if you have more questions.

Thanks,
Elisabeth

On Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 1:07 PM

wrote:

Thanks! Do I have to reserve the space through the hotel or do you invoice for the whole thing?

On Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 1:01 PM Elisabeth Spring <elisabeth@stoneburnerseattle.com> wrote:

Hi Lea,

Thank you for your interest in the Olympic Rooftop Pavilion for your event.

The Pavilion is available Tuesday, December 17 and Wednesday, December 18. The Pavilion is located on the rooftop of Hotel Ballard and is exclusively catered through Stoneburner. The Pavilion provides up to 1,370 square feet of event space. With sweeping views of the mountains and waterways it features vaulted ceilings, a 20 foot skylight and west facing floor to ceiling glass doors that open onto the patio.

The menus for the Olympic Rooftop Pavilion will reflect what is in season and available locally. Chef Jason Stoneburner harvests fresh produce from the Bastille Rooftop Garden (our sister restaurant across the street). Additionally, he also shops the Ballard Farmers Market each Sunday to select the best of what is in season from local farmers, fisherman and foragers.

Room rental includes set-up, teardown, staff, standard linens (\$100 fee), tables and chairs for 100 guests and votive candles. The food & beverage minimum for the Pavilion is \$4,000 and a rental fee of \$1,000. Tax and service charge are additional.

Attached please find our sample menu as well as photographs of our space. We are currently not holding space for your event. I will follow up with you shortly to discuss your decision timeline. In the meantime, please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide you with more information.

With thanks,

Elisabeth

On Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 12:55 PM

wrote:

Sorry to be a pain, I need to get this to my boss quickly. We're looking at Tuesday, Dec 18 as a possible date for about 50 people for a happy hour. Light apps and drinks on the rooftop pavilion.

Could you please give me a rough estimate?

- Lea

----- Forwarded message -----

From:

Date: Thu, Oct 17, 2019 at 3:55 PM

Subject: Rooftop event

To: <events@stoneburnerseattle.com>

Hello! I'm interested in hosting a corporate event on the rooftop for about 70 people with drink and light appetizers. Can you pls give me a quick cost estimate?

--

Elisabeth Spring

Director of Sales & Catering

Stoneburner

The Olympic Rooftop Pavilion

Please Join:

Sen. Reuven Carlyle | Rep. Gael Tarleton | Deborah Bach | Legh Burns
Sonja Forster | Mark Gleason | Scott Ingham | Dwight Jones | Tom Malone
Marty McOmber | Jim Riggie | Michelle Rosenthal | Jordan Royer
Peter Schrapen | Lanne Stauffer | Mike Stewart | Eric Stoll
Katie & Michael Strimban | Gretchen & Greg Swanson | Eugene Wasserman

For an Event in Support of Heidi Wills



Tuesday, October 8th from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Olympic Rooftop Pavilion – Hotel Ballard
5216 Ballard Avenue NW Seattle, WA 98107

Please consider a contribution at one of the following levels:

Co-Host – \$250.00
Supporter – \$100.00

RSVP to campaign@heidiwills.com

Paid for by Heidi Wills for Seattle - PO Box 23125 - Seattle, WA 98102



Peter Schrapen
@peterschrapen1

Fun event for @HeidiForCouncil tonight, over 70 people showed up to support Heidi. Thank you, Stoneburner and OAC. No more status quo on the council, it's time for fresh air and a new, collaborative direction. It's time for a change. #Seattle #TeamHeidiWills #Ballard #D6

10:12 PM - Oct 8, 2019 - Twitter Web App



Dear Member,

As many of you know, one of our members is a candidate for the Seattle City Council. Her name is Heidi Wills. If you see Heidi and her family at the Club, please feel free to approach her, discuss the issues important to you, and hear her vision for District 6.

If you would like to learn more about Heidi and her position on issues facing District 6, please visit her website:

<https://heidiwills.com/>

Sincerely,

Mark Durrall, GM