

Independent Ethics Commission – Formal Complaint Form

Before the Independent Ethics Commission
of the State of Colorado

For Commission Use Only

Received date: 01-MAY-2017

Case. No.: 17-18

The Complainant is: Sarah Hall Mann

Mailing Address (including city and zip code):

2375 Prospect Lane, Broomfield, CO 80023

Daytime telephone number: (308) 289-2643

Email address: sarmarhall@gmail.com

The Respondent is: Vicki Marble - Colorado State Senator, Senate District 23

Mailing Address (including city and zip code):

749 South Lemay Ave, Ste. A3, PMB #385, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Daytime telephone number: (303) 866-4876

Email address: vicki@vickimarble.com

When did the alleged violation occur: Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Describe the specific acts or things complained of, with facts that provide a full understanding of the alleged violation(s). If possible, cite the specific ethical standards alleged to have been violated and describe how the violation(s) occurred. Use additional pages if necessary. Attach any documentary evidence you wish to submit.

I allege ethical misconduct on the part of Colorado State Senator Vicki Marble for accepting an in-kind gift from Extraction Oil & Gas in the form of payment for a constituent event hosted by Senator Marble. By having Extraction pay for her event, Senator Marble was in violation of C.R.S. §24-6-203(3.5), which prohibits an incumbent elected official from receiving or accepting a gift, money, or an in-kind gift to defray any expenses related to their official duties. This is also potentially a violation of the Colorado Constitution Article XXIX, §3 Gift Ban. The event was advertised as being hosted by Senator Vicki Marble, was geared towards her constituents in Broomfield, and there was never any mention (either in the invitation or at the event) of it being sponsored by industry. Details below.

Additional Space on Next Page

Description of acts or things complained of (continued):

On February 15, 2017, Senator Marble hosted a an event titled "Been There Done That," which was billed as a "presentation of facts regarding the proposed oil and gas development in Broomfield and how other communities in Colorado have addressed similar issues." (Invitation attached in email). Extraction is currently proposing a drilling project that includes 139 wells on four sites near densely populated neighborhoods in Broomfield, which is what likely spurred this event because many people have been contacting Senator Marble with their concerns about the project. Sheryl Fernandez, Aide for Senator Marble, emailed invitations for the event to certain people; I personally saw the event advertised on social media. It was open to the public, but required an RSVP because of space limitation.

The event was hosted in a back room at the C.B. Potts restaurant in southwest Broomfield. (555 Zang St, Broomfield, CO 80020). There was a buffet of free food, (slider burgers, hummus and vegies, etc.) and each attendee received tickets for two free drinks, including soda, tea, beer, wine, and mixed drinks from the bar. Senator Marble opened the meeting, and then there were presentations by a panel of speakers, including former Erie mayor Joe Wilson, former Windsor mayor John Vazquez, Vital for Colorado representative Michelle Smith, and Water Valley Land Company representative Tara Sinclair. The presentations were followed by a question and answer session, during which Senator Marble, panel members, and representatives from Extraction answered written questions from audience members.

After the official event ended, I got into a conversation with Brian Cain, a media relations spokesperson from Extraction; Chandler Newhall and John Tonello, both also from Extraction, later joined us. (Eric Jacobson, Senior VP of Operations at Extraction also stopped by briefly). I spoke with the gentleman for nearly an hour; during that time, most everyone else left. Around 9:00 pm, while I was still speaking with Brian, Chandler, and John, a waitress came with the bill for the event. A female employee from Extraction (I think her name may be Patty Varra) told the waitress to give the check to Brian Cain. Brian handed her his credit card and asked for a receipt for his records. I witnessed all of this first-hand.

Check the box or boxes indicating the remedy sought:

Public Admonishment

Fines

I hereby acknowledge that the facts presented herein are true to the best of my knowledge, and I will cooperate in the process regarding this complaint and will appear at any proceeding of the Independent Ethics Commission if the complaint is scheduled for a hearing.

Signature: Sarah Hall Mann



Attorney (if applicable): _____

Dated at Broomfield (City), Colorado, this 1 day of May, 2017.

Created by Article XXIX of the Colorado Constitution, the Independent Ethics Commission may review and hold hearings on matters falling within its jurisdiction as outlined in Article XXIX.

Senator Vicki Marble
hosts
“Been There Done That”

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
@

CB & Potts – Flatirons
555 Zang Street
Broomfield, CO 80020

Starting at 6:00pm

Join the Senator for a presentation of facts regarding the proposed oil and gas development in Broomfield, and how other communities in Colorado have addressed these important issues.

To RSVP Contact: Sheryl Fernandez at 303-859-1421 or sherylannfernandez@gmail.com