

State of Colorado



Elizabeth Espinosa Krupa, *Chair*
Selina Baschiera, *Vice-Chair*
Annie Kao, *Commissioner*
Sarah Mercer, *Commissioner*
Cole Wist, *Commissioner*

Independent Ethics Commission
1300 Broadway, Suite 240
Denver CO 80203
Phone: (720) 625-5697
www.colorado.gov/iec

Dino Ioannides, *Executive Director*

November 16, 2021

Via Email to:

Ms. Tina Peters
c/o Mr. Scott Gessler, Esq.
Gessler Blue Law
7350 E. Progress Pl., Suite 100
Greenwood Village, CO, 80111
sgessler@gesslerblue.com

Re: Ethics Complaint 21-18, Tina Peters, Respondent

Dear Ms. Peters:

On November 16, 2021, the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission (“IEC”) reviewed an ethics complaint filed against you pursuant to Art. XXIX, § 5, of the Colorado Constitution. The IEC deemed the complaint non-frivolous. A copy of the complaint and a complaint supplement is enclosed with this letter.

You have the right to be represented by counsel of your choice. If you retain counsel, your counsel should enter an appearance as soon as possible and from that point forward any communications will be with counsel rather than with you directly.

You also have the right to file a response to the complaint pursuant to Rule 7.J. of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. If you file a response, it must be in writing, signed by the person submitting the response, and may explain, rebut, or provide information, including documentation, concerning the facts and allegations in the complaint. If you file a response, it must also include a statement that, to the best of your knowledge, information and belief, any statements set out in the response are true. The response must be filed with the IEC within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter. If you do not intend to file a response, please advise me of that fact as soon as possible.

A copy of the IEC’s Rules of Procedure may be found on the IEC’s website at iec.colorado.gov/rules/rules-of-procedure. You may contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dino Ioannides
Executive Director

encl.

Independent Ethics Commission – Formal Complaint Form

Before the Independent Ethics Commission
of the State of Colorado

For Commission Use Only

Received date: 27-Aug-2021

Case. No.: 21-18

The Complainant is: Anne Landman
(name)

Mailing Address: 671 Moonridge Circle
Grand Junction, CO 81505

Daytime telephone number: 970-216-9842

Email address: landman.anne@gmail.com

The Respondent is: Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters
(name)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20,000, 200 S. Spruce Street (81501)
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Daytime telephone number: (970) 244-1664 (work)

Email address: tina.peters@mesacounty.us

When did the alleged violation occur: Started August 10, 2021 and is continuing

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.

In an August 23, 2021 video posted on YouTube, Mike Lindell, the CEO of the My Pillow Company, says he flew Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters on his private plane [to a "Cyber Synposium" seminar he put on in South Dakota]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfpRuri0s4k&t=68s>

News articles report that Lindell is providing Peters with housing in "safe houses" and "hotels":
<https://www.businessinsider.com/mike-lindell-hiding-a-pro-trump-election-official-safe-house-2021-8>

<https://www.salon.com/2021/08/20/mike-lindell-admits-to-hiding-gop-official-facing-fbi-probe-in-a-safe-house/>

Presumably Lindell is also providing Peters with meals while she is hiding from state from authorities.

Description of acts or things complained of (continued):

On August 22, 2021, the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel reported that Clerk Peters used taxpayer dollars to purchase an airline ticket to Lindell's seminar in South Dakota. The seminar was an election conspiracy event at which Peters shared information about Mesa County's voting equipment:

https://www.gjsentinel.com/news/western_colorado/peters-used-tax-dollars-to-pay-for-south-dakota-flight/article_748c5fda-01f3-11ec-a8fa-0f4cfad97776.html

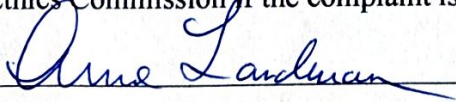
At 58:30 in the following hour-long video, Lindell tells Peters "Sorry your hotel was broken into. We'll get you to a better place and get you some protection." This infers he is paying for her housing and security.
<https://lindelltv.com/mike-lindell-interviews-mesa-county-clerk-tina-peters-on-the-raid-of-her-office/>

The Colorado Constitution's Article XXIX - Ethics in government, states no local government official "shall solicit, accept or receive any gift or other thing of value having either a fair market value or aggregate actual cost greater than fifty dollars (\$50) in any calendar year, including but not limited to, gifts, loans, rewards, promises or negotiations of future employment, favors or services, honoraria, travel, entertainment, or special discounts, from a person, without the person receiving lawful consideration of equal or greater value in return from the public officer, member of the general assembly, local government official, or government employee who solicited, accepted or received the gift or other thing of value."

It appears that Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters has accepted, and is continuing to accept thousands of dollars worth of services, travel, security and favors from Mr. Lindell in violation of the Colorado Constitution.

Advisement regarding remedies and penalties: Pursuant to Colo. Const. art. XXIX, § 6, a covered individual found to have breached the public trust for private gain is liable for double the amount of the financial equivalent of any benefits obtained by such actions. The manner of recovery and additional penalties may be provided by law. The Commission does not assess criminal penalties, award injunctive relief, or award damages to complainants.

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: 

Attorney (if applicable): N/A

Dated at Grand Junction (City), Colorado, this 27th day of August, 2021.

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.



STATE OF
COLORADO

Info, IEC <iecinfo@state.co.us>

Complaint

Anne Landman <landman.anne@gmail.com>
To: "Indep. Ethics Comm'n" <iecinfo@state.co.us>

Sun, Sep 26, 2021 at 11:07 AM

Dear Mr. Ioannides,

Is it possible to augment my ethics complaint No. 21-18 against Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters with additional information just published in the *Washington Post* today at 10:53 a.m. Eastern Time?

I'd like to submit the following passage from an article about Tina Peters in today's *Post*, which indicates she has accepted financial assistance from Mike Lindell (the "My Pillow Guy") to pay her legal fees:

"Lindell told The Post that in recent weeks he has paid for Peters's lodging, security and lawyers. He hopes that other elections officials will come forward to join the fight."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/an-elections-supervisor-embraced-conspiracy-theories-officials-say-she-has-become-an-insider-threat/2021/09/26/ee60812e-1a17-11ec-a99a-5fea2b2da34b_story.html

I am also concerned about her personal fundraising site that seeks to gather donations toward her legal fees: <https://standwithtina.org/>, which may violate Colorado ethics rules.

https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/mesa-county-clerks-legal-defense-fund-could-violate-colorado-ethics-rules-experts-say/article_f990318e-1ca1-11ec-b063-a71f8c6b6de4.html

Thank you,
Anne Landman
671 Moonridge Circle
Grand Junction CO 81505
970-216-9842