

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ETHICS HEARING BOARD- CITY OF PITTSBURGH

COMPLAINT FORM

1. Identify the person you are complaining about:

Name: Bruce Kraus

Office Address:

Friends to Elect Bruce Kraus
157 S. 18th St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
bruce4council@aol.com

Position or Title: endorsed Democrat candidate for City Council, district 3

Phone: Work: 412.431.8104

2. Explain in detail why you believe that the individual named above may have violated the City provisions. Attach additional sheets of paper if necessary.

I believe that Bruce Kraus has a vengeful attitude to the outgoing member of City Council, Mr. Jeff Koch. That is fine, but this complaint for the Ethics Hearing Board to handle comes because Mr. Kraus has expressed desires to the mayor and to others in the administration / management, perhaps, that would prevent future employment by the city and its authorities of Mr. Koch.

I have strong reasons to suspect that Mr. Koch has been 'black listed' and won't be re-hired into suitable job openings within the city, the public works department, and all the authorities, because of a political opponent. He may not even be eligible for an interview or consideration.

The Ethics Hearing Board should call upon Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and others in the higher positions in the city and ask a few simple questions. Guy Costsa and Directors of various Public Works Departments and human resources folks could be part of the discovery process.

The Ethics Hearing Board could ask existing employees if they had conversations or communications with Bruce Kraus. Ask next if Bruce Kraus ever mentioned hiring matters.

Furthermore, the Ethics Hearing Board, or its representative could interview present City Councilman, Jeff Koch. His term of employment in that present capacity ends at the end of 2007.

Ask Mr. Koch if he is interested in interviewing or working for the city again, in any capacity at any time in the future.

I think it would be prudent for the Ethics Hearing Board to investigate past employment records and employee reviews and qualifications.

It is a shame to have anyone blacklisted in terms of jobs and employment in the city. The city is understaffed in almost every department. The public sector needs quality workers to deliver quality services to the city and its residents and visitors.

3. Attach or make reference to any documents, materials, minutes, resolutions or other evidence which support your allegations.

A press release from Bruce Kraus archived on the internet at Poltics PA points to some of the hostility from the past.

District Three City Council Candidate Bruce A. Kraus today called for "Grant Street politicians to keep hands off of the District Three Council Race."

At a press conference this morning called by Council President Luke Ravenstahl to address the student voter dissatisfaction with the March 7th date set for the special election to replace the seat formerly held by Gene Ricciardi, Ravehstahl was asked by a reporter if there was truth to the speculation that the date had been set to preference a particular candidate, namely Jeff Koch. Mr. Ravenstahl, denied having endorsed any candidate in the race.

"It is no secret," Bruce A. Kraus said, "that Kevin Quigley, Chief Of Staff to Mayor Bob O'Connor, is working closely with Mr. Koch in an advisory capacity." Mr. Kraus also added that "Terry Matusak, a close personal friend and confidant to Mayor O'Connor is actively assisting Mr. Koch in his campaign."

Mr. Kraus also questioned why Mr. Koch, a public works foreman for over 20 years now, recently had his work schedule changed from a three till eleven shift, to eleven till seven. "This graveyard shift is usually reserved for new employees with little or no seniority," Mr. Kraus said.

"And now the controversy surrounding the selection of the date to hold the special election has me asking very serious questions about the influence of Grant Street in this District Three Council Race. If the date was intentionally set to keep students who are especially strong in the South Side flats area and Oakland, from voting in this race, in turn benefiting turnout for Mr. Koch, we the residents of District Three deserve to know."

Perhaps if Mr. Kraus would have had advance thought and discipline (as well as trust to this system) to make a complaint to the Ethics Hearing Board back in January 2006, before the March 2006 election, he could have prevented his opponent from moving his work schedule to the 'graveyard shift.'

Part of the promise of the Ethics Hearing Board's operation for the benefit of the city needs to be rooted in the future. The Ethics Hearing Board can assert a proactive attitude and stand with a complaint giver to insure that ill deeds don't occur. However, the confidentiality and jurisdiction elements must be reviewed, tested, revoked or even expanded.

I think blacklisting in matters of hiring and other job attacks of other public employees who opt into the political world as candidates needs serious attention by the Ethics Hearing Board. For evidence, consider the 2007 slate of offices and candidates. No challengers are running for D.A., Sheriff, Treasurer, County Controller, County Council, and other City Council slots. It is nearly impossible to recruit people to run for office in Pittsburgh and throughout the region. Attacks on employment, (future and present, opportunities and contracts) by public officials and nominated individuals should not be ignored nor tolerated.

I reserve the right to attach further insights or changes to these documents.

4. Sworn to and subscribed before me this
_____ day of _____,

(Notary Public)

My Commission expires:

I swear or affirm, under penalty
or perjury that the facts set
forth in this complaint are
true and correct to the best of
my knowledge, information and
belief.

Send completed form to:
Ethics Hearing Board
City of Pittsburgh Department of Law
313 City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 255-2015

Signature
Print Name:
Mark Rauterkus
Home Address:
108 S. 12th Street
Pittsburgh, PA, 15203

412 298 3432
Mark@Rauterkus.com