

# Elaine and Dave Williams

1. Elaine to Dave Williams – 2020/07/09 - Thursday

**From:** Elaine Cook <[ECook@ci.woodinville.wa.us](mailto:ECook@ci.woodinville.wa.us)>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 6:48 PM

**To:** David Williams <[daw@bellevue-law.com](mailto:daw@bellevue-law.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Nicolas Duchastel

Dear David Williams,

I am the current mayor of Woodinville. I also happen to be a 45th District Democrat. In the 5 years I have been on the Woodinville City Council I have led with compassion, humility, and a deep desire to serve. I am involved in and engaged with my community in every way possible and understand the needs and concerns of my constituents. I am not confused about who it is I represent or what my role as a representative is. I believe that you have been misled regarding the reasons for our removing of a planning commissioner. Looking into the matter may have led to a letter of support from you for the work we are doing and the action we took. Knowing that for over 2 years this appointed volunteer abused his role and intimidated community members, council members, a child, and most recently a commercial property owner, might have led you to understand our action.

I believe that the 45th should be proud of the progress Woodinville has made over the last few years. We support growth, take seriously our responsibility to make room for more affordable living, have granted money to many organizations in the region that support those most in need, and have done what we can to care for the vulnerable during this difficult time. I hope that you have followed all of the great work and progress we have made here. And we are just getting started.

In my 5 years on council, two of which has been as mayor, I don't believe that your group has ever weighed in on administrative decisions our council has made. I am concerned that something as mundane as managing one of our commissions has become the purview of your group.

On a more positive note, we championed and supported a Black Lives Matter protest here in Woodinville, led by a handful of amazing young black leaders in our community a few weeks ago. We are convening youth in our community to engage in a series of conversations about racial inequities and diversity. We are supporting the work the Northshore Senior Center is doing during this pandemic. They are feeding hundreds of people every day and we have granted them money to pay for the services they are providing. You may know that the North end cities have convened to plan for a homeless shelter for single adults, most likely in the Shoreline area. And we are providing PPE for our businesses as they begin their reopening process.

I hope to meet you one day.

Peacefully yours,  
Elaine Cook  
Mayor of Woodinville

Sincerely,  
Elaine

2 – Dave Williams to Elaine – 2020/07/10 - Friday

**From:** David Williams  
**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2020 4:00 PM  
**To:** Elaine Cook <ECook@ci.woodinville.wa.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Nicolas Duchastel

Hi Ms. Cook:

Thank you for your email.

My letter was sent on behalf of the 45<sup>th</sup> District, and was approved, word for word, by the General Membership. My response, on the other hand, is on behalf of myself personally, and not on behalf of the 45<sup>th</sup> District.

In no particular order:

I'm fine with meeting any time you'd like. I feel compelled to say that I'm quite familiar with Nicolas' personal style; I worked very closely with him on the Endorsement Committee, which I Chaired for three years before becoming Chair. It doesn't sound like we'll agree about much with regard to his situation but that's not a reason not to talk. On the contrary, sometimes fervent disagreement is a very good reason to start a conversation. Besides, as Democrats, you and I have much in common.

As a Democrat, indeed a Democrat whom we endorsed in 2015, you'd be welcome to attend our meetings. Many councilmembers from the other municipalities in the 45<sup>th</sup> attend our meetings periodically, to face their constituents, report their progress on such matters as you mention below, and take (sometimes pretty hard-nosed) questions. Both our Congresswomen, and all three of our State Legislators not infrequently attend for those same purposes. For that matter, two current Woodinville Council members pretty regularly attend. I could be wrong, but I don't recall you attending one of our meetings, and I think it would be great if you did.

I will say that I've represented my share of victims of wrongful terminations over the past 40 years, and though being dismissed from the Planning Commission isn't the same as being fired, in my opinion some of the same principles apply, namely due process and fundamental fairness. Respectfully: Whatever good works the Council has effected don't justify discarding those principles. We don't consider what's happened to Nicolas to be "mundane", and if I wanted to be snarky, **which I don't**, I'd say something like "I'm concerned that you do."

We appreciate your service to the Woodinville Community, where I happen to live, as least according to the United States Post Office (I'm closer to Redmond). As it happens, I was at the June 7<sup>th</sup> Black Lives Matter protest in Woodinville, because Nicolas had volunteered to help organize it, and asked me to help him.

Thank you again for your email, and best wishes.

D

Dave Williams  
Chair, 45<sup>th</sup> District Democrats  
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