

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

SEP 17 3 00 PM '99

September 13, 1999

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 4920

This is in response to your notice dated September 1, 1999, which I received at my office September 7, 1999. I am Mrs. Mary JoAnn Werner, the Treasurer for the Kind for Congress Committee. I will respond directly to your inquiry and to the complaint that has been filed. I will address each issue individually:

1. The individual who wrote the complaint, Gary Arneson, indicated that we were in violation of a city ordinance that requires that "...it (the campaign sign) be put up only after the candidate files for election and it be taken down 10 days after election." I am enclosing a copy of the response from the city of La Crosse with regard to Mr. Arneson's accusations. The city of La Crosse states that we are not in violation of any city ordinance. The city has not requested us to do anything with the sign.
2. The photo to which Mr. Arneson is referring in his complaint is actually a picture of a mural on the side of a wall of a building owned by Ron Kind personally. When he first ran for U.S. House of Representatives, the sign was painted with an inscription stating "Paid for by Mary Jo Murphy, Treasurer, Kind for Congress Committee." A few months after this mural was painted, an individual or individuals sprayed graffiti on the bottom part of the mural. As you can see from the picture, this graffiti was eliminated. In the process of removing this graffiti, unfortunately, the "paid for by..." inscription was also inadvertently removed. Note the dark gray stains under the picture. Since your letter of notification, the "paid for by..." portion of the sign has been repainted.

I was unaware that the graffiti removal had eliminated the "paid for by..." portion of the mural. I understand that under federal election laws, all campaign advertising needs to specifically state who paid for the sign and the authorized person in charge of paying for the

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sign. On the day that I received your letter, I informed Congressman Ron Kind of this situation. He has contacted individuals to remove this sign and paint over it with a mural or solid paint. I am also enclosing a copy of Ron Kind's response to the city of La Crosse.

2. Mr. Arneson also indicates that the sign violates size restrictions. The city is unaware of size restrictions in its ordinances.

Congressman Ron Kind, Kind for Congress Committee members, and myself as Treasurer have all been diligent in complying with the federal election laws. In addition, we are compliant with state and local ordinances. We did not intentionally or knowingly violate any FEC laws or restrictions, or any state or city ordinances. Because of this issue, Ron Kind has decided to paint over this sign, as he is interested in promoting goodwill with the city and its constituents.

Please contact me if you have any additional concerns regarding this.

Sincerely,



Mary Jo Werner, Treasurer
Kind for Congress Committee

MJW/mfb

2004-09-13



INSPECTION DEPARTMENT
400 LA CROSSE ST
CITY HALL
LA CROSSE WI 54601-3396

RECEIVED

AUG 24 1999 PHONE
608-789-7530

August 23, 1999

U.S. Congressman Ron Kind
205 5th Ave. S.
La Crosse, WI 54601

Re: Political sign, 217 Pearl St.

Dear Mr. Kind,

Enclosed please find a photocopy, of a photograph, received by this office on August 9, 1999. The photocopy depicts a "Ron Kind for Congress" message. I am writing this letter to ask you to consider removing this sign.

As you may know, the City of La Crosse recently passed an ordinance regulating the size of political signage. Chapter 15.04 (I)(7)(c) states, "In areas zoned other than residential, each sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area." Since your sign existed before the passage of this ordinance, you are under no obligation to have it removed. However, the revitalization of the downtown is progressing with a number of new building projects, many building façade renovations and the streetscaping project. The sign is unsightly, out of place and no longer necessary. Please consider having it removed.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call.

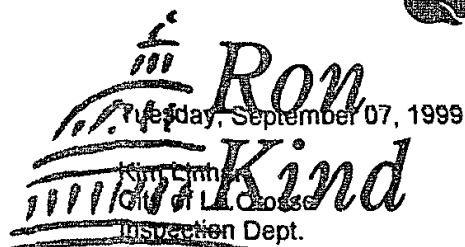
Sincerely,

Kim Linhart
La Crosse Inspection Dept.
789-7585

20 04 402 0011

20100204 402 0012





Friday, September 07, 1999

Kim Kind
City of La Crosse
Inspection Dept.
City Hall

400 La Crosse St.
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Kim:

Thanks for your letter of August 23 about the Kind for Congress sign on the side of my building on Pearl St. I agree with your assessment. I would love to replace it with a nice mural and am wondering if there are any low interest loans available through the city for building renovation or restoration projects in the historic downtown area? If there is any information you could forward to me I would be grateful.

Ron Kind
3061 Edgewater Ln
La Crosse, WI 54603

I am in the process of trying to locate a local artist who could do the painting and get some quotes on the size and cost of the project.

Thank you for your letter but I can assure you, I have been making an effort to replace the sign.

Best Wishes,

Ron Kind