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Everett refugee advocacy nonprofit will “stay in the fight” in 2025 **P3**

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Real Impact

Investigation: Lynnwood City Council Vice President alleged Everett address



Lynnwood City Council Vice President Joshua Binda at the City Council Meeting on January 27, 2025. Lynnwood Times Mario Lotmore.

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—A six-week long, in-depth Lynnwood Times investigation has uncovered that Lynnwood City Council Vice President Josh Binda was evicted from his Lynnwood apartment in 2023 and has been allegedly living at a south Everett address near Seattle Paine Field Airport for at least the last 12 months he has served on the Lynnwood City Council.

The investigation further uncovered that Vice President Binda, 25, owes just over \$18,000 in unpaid traffic citations (\$1,400 to the City of Lynnwood alone), PDC fines (\$1,363), and several legal judgments against him (over \$14,000). Records also show that within the last five years, Binda had a total of 18 court cases, several related to wage garnishments that involved the City of Lynnwood.

Election records obtained by the Lynnwood Times indicate that Council Vice President Binda may have violated state and federal election laws by having declared the address he was evicted from in November 2023 as his home address with the Snohomish County Auditor for which he then used to vote in 2024 elections. According to the Secretary of State’s Office, Binda declared a Lynnwood P.O. Box as the

location to receive his mail-in ballot.

The voter registration of record Josh Binda as of 9:30 p.m., January 27, 2025, showing that the voter registration is inactive—meaning unverified—the mayor is using to “confirm” Councilman Binda as a Lynnwood resident.

According to Nathan MacDonald, Manager of Communications and Public Affairs for the City of Lynnwood, the city was not aware that Council Vice President Binda may be living in Everett and will need to “look into it,” pursuant of the state law’s requirement to be a registered voter in the city a council member serves.

The Lynnwood Times reached out to Council Vice President Binda to give him the opportunity to address these allegations of not living in Lynnwood, outstanding fines and judgements, if he were intending to run for re-election via phone call on Friday, January 24. He requested a list of questions via email that were sent on Friday afternoon. As of the publication of this article on Monday, January 27, Binda has not replied to these emailed questions to communicate his responses to readers.

Binda was first elected in November 2021, defeating former city council-

woman Lisa Utter. A former Black Lives Matter activist, Binda became the youngest Black American to be elected to office in Washington state.

As council vice president, Binda votes on, manages, and provides oversight of the City’s \$420 million biennium budget; creates laws impacting anyone who visits, lives, or does business in Lynnwood; assists in setting council agendas; and is an official representative of the city at events. In January of 2025, Binda was elected Council Vice President, a council leadership position, for the 2025 Legislative Session by his fellow council members.

According to payroll records, Binda was compensated approximately \$20,000 from the City of Lynnwood in 2024, and the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission shows that Binda reported earnings between \$30,000 to \$59,999 from his Josh Binda Speaks LLC in his most recent 2024 Financial Affairs Disclosure report for the period January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

According to the submitted 2024 Financial Affairs Disclosure Report, which Binda certified to be accurate and true on July 29, 2024, he lists the address for his Josh Binda Speaks LLC business at a south Everett apartment,

Voter Information

Name
JOSHUA BINDA
Home Address
52ND AVE W LYNNWOOD, WA 98037
Mailing Address
52ND AVE W LYNNWOOD, WA 98037

Your Voter Registration Status

Registration Status
Inactive
Registration Date
10/25/2018
As of Feb 4, 2025

The voter registration of record Josh Binda as of 9:30 p.m., January 27, 2025, showing that the voter registration is inactive—meaning unverified—the mayor is using to “confirm” Councilman Binda as a Lynnwood resident.

the same south Everett apartment throughout our investigation. This is just one data point of several other instances The Lynnwood Times will reveal where this south Everett address is associated with Lynnwood Council Vice President Binda along with undercover surveillance.

The Josh Binda Speaks LLC company in the July 2024 PDC filing with an Everett address as its location, was founded in February of 2023 and its purpose involves the Lynnwood councilman touring various venues performing in-

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Larsen donates books to Mariner Sno-Isle Library, latest on new Mariner Community Campus project

By MARIO LOTMORE

EVERETT—Congressman Rick Larsen (WA-02) personally hand-delivered 47 children’s and young adult books to Mariner Library from the Library of Congress’ Surplus Books Program on Saturday, February 1 as part of the inaugural Mariner Future Fest presented by ChildStrive, Sno-Isle Libraries, and Sound Transit. He then sat down with kids and young adults and read to them the children’s book “I Feel Purple” by Margaret Salter.

“This is a really special focus on the Mariner Community,” said Sno-Isle Libraries Executive Director Eric Howard. “I really want to thank the Congressman for coming.”

Larsen shared that public libraries breakdown barriers within a community and the importance of reading to being informed and knowledgeable.

“I grew up in Arlington, Washington and every Wednesday night at the Larsen household was library night,” Larsen said. “We would pile into Chevy Impala station wagon, made when cars didn’t have seatbelts...Dad would drive us to the library we would bring our stack of books we read in the last week, we turned them in and we would check out more books for the next week. Libraries are very important to education and very important to my family.”

Because Mariner Library has the highest percentage of Spanish speaking patrons within the Sno-Isle Libraries system, books Larsen donated were both



Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02) with members of the Mariners High School Cheer Squad at Mariner Future Fest on February 1, 2025. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

in English and Spanish.

During Storytime, the book read by Rep. Larsen, “I Feel Purple,” explores the color purple and the various emotions and experiences it could possibly represent and encourages the reader to reflect on where one may see purple in daily life.

Jessica Russell, Director of Collection

Services, shared with the Lynnwood Times what piqued her interest in reading at a young age.

“I was so curious about the world and yet, you know, kind of shy and hesitant. So, reading let me have this incredible

universe of experiences in ways that felt safe to me,” Russell said.

Over the last 30 years, Russell has read thousands of books in what she

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Everett refugee advocacy nonprofit will “stay in the fight” in 2025

By KAYVON BUMPUS

LYNNWOOD—The young bucks on the Lynnwood City Council outplayed more seasoned Council members to snatch the top leadership positions at Monday’s Business meeting with Nick Coelho, 38, being elected as President and Josh Binda, 25, as Vice President for the 2025 Legislative Session.

“A few people told me not to talk to the news,” Van Dinh-Kuno chuckled. “They said to watch out, because Trump’s people might see it and go after us! But I don’t care...it’s important to speak.”

Dinh-Kuno is the Executive Director of Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest (RISNW), a nonprofit “multi-service organization” that provides a variety of resources to immigrants, especially those newly arrived and attempting to stabilize. She spoke to the Lynnwood Times about the future of refugee advocacy under the new Trump administration’s hardline border policies.

“I’ve never seen this [policy] at this level before, anywhere, anytime,” said Dinh-Kuno, who has worked for RISNW for over 30 years. Originally a refugee from Vietnam herself, Dinh-Kuno came to the United States after the Fall of Saigon in 1975 and draws from this life-shaping experience in her tireless support for immigrant communities.



Van Dinh-Kuno with Farhad’s two boys at their new Arlington home after escaping war-torn Ukraine in August of 2022. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

Based in Everett, RISNW offers translation and interpretation in “40 languages and dialects”, as well as assistance with the naturalization process, connection with employment and educational programs, and other services. The nonprofit’s mission statement is to outstretch a helping hand to immigrants, guiding them “along a pathway to economic independence and successful integration into US society.”

But RISNW and the communities it ad-

vocates for have faced a startling new reality under the second Trump administration. As reported by NPR, recent executive orders and other actions have “closed off access to the CBP One app and asylum protections at the U.S. border... opened the door for immigration authorities to arrest immigrants in schools, churches and hospitals; and cleared the way for authorities to begin removing more than a million migrants who were legally admitted to the U.S. under the Biden administration.”

While the Trump campaign denied association with Project 2025 during the election, his administration’s immigration policy seems to draw directly from that playbook. Downsizing and eliminating existing programs for legal immigrants, as well as revoking or complicating immigration status for those previously admitted, is a move in lock-step with the Heritage Foundation’s vision of Project 2025.

So too is the attempted wide-scale “federal funding freeze” that has now been “formally rescinded” after a judicial block, although White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt still claimed on Wednesday that “The President’s EO’s on federal funding remain in full force and effect, and will be rigorously implemented.”

The New York Times reported that this cancelled funding freeze would have risked “as much as 32 percent” of WA state’s fiscal year budget, according to state officials, which would “interfere with critical state programs.”

“Number one; these orders have created chaos,” Dinh-Kuno said. “Number two; they create fear, and number three; they disrupt people’s lives everywhere.”

Centering on South Snohomish County,

Continued **PAGE 8**

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Bill critics allege will undo Parents' Rights initiative, moves forward

By **CARLEEN JOHNSON, THE CENTER SQUARE**

OLYMPIA—House Republicans in the Washington State Legislature offered up dozens of amendments Thursday, January 30, during an executive session before the House Education Committee, but none were successful in slowing down a bill that critics say would undo a parents' bill of rights initiative passed by lawmakers last year.

House Bill 1296 would, according to the House Bill Report, promote "a safe and supportive public education system through student rights, parental and guardian rights, employee protections, and requirements for state and local education entities."

In March 2024, the Legislature passed Initiative 2081. The bill took effect on June 6.

I-2081 gives parents and legal guardians of public school children the right to access information about their child's academic, medical, safety, and law enforcement matters.

Also in the mix: a judge in King County Superior Court granted a motion for summary judgment in favor of I-2081, denying the plaintiff's requests with prejudice. This means that the case is dismissed permanently and cannot be

brought back to court. Republicans offered up more than two dozen amendments in a futile attempt to blunt what they consider the excesses of the bill.

Rep. Travis Couture, R-Allyn, offered an amendment to limit the term "gender expansive" in the bill.

"What this amendment does is say the Legislature never intended to include things like xeno-gender for example," he explained. "What xeno-gender is, is people who identify as cats and dogs and creatures and plants. I think it's pretty safe to say that when my kids go to school and in conjunction with their teachers and other staff, they say they want to identify as a cat, that I should know about that right away as a parent, and that is not a real gender."

Bill sponsor Rep. Rep. Monica Stonier, D-Vancouver, asked for no vote on Couture's amendment.

"The suggestion that any child coming to our schools with reference to any gender expression or identity would be considered not human is offensive and demonstrates sincere disconnect with what happens in our schools currently, so I'm asking you to vote no," she explained.

Another amendment from Couture got the attention of the Trump administra-

tion via a post on Truth Social.

"The underlying bill essentially states that schools can wait 48 hours before telling parents if their child was involved in any sort of sexual misconduct or there was any sexual misconduct of staff," Couture explained. "We have seen a stunning amount of sexual misconduct and sexual assault by staff in our schools ... for God's sake, please vote yes."

Couture's amendment would have required school districts to notify parents immediately if a student were the victim of sexual misconduct by an employee.

Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self, D-Mukilteo, urged members to reject the amendment.

"For justice's sake, we are told to take the direction from them [law enforcement], and that is what we do, and that is what we urge our staff to do, and so I'm going to urge a no vote," she explained.

HB 1296 passed out of the committee on a party-line vote Thursday, but Rep. Couture told The Center Square Republicans are not giving up.

"The people of Washington are sick of this tyranny, and we want a balanced government that protects our most

vulnerable constituents and doesn't go down the pathway of crazy radical ideology turning into public policy that harms our people," he said.

Another Republican member of the House Education Committee shared his frustration after the vote on HB 1296.

"I was in a committee this morning trying to do my best to oppose the removal of Initiative 2081, the parental bill of rights," Rep. Michael Keaton, R-Puyallup, said.

He apologized for growing emotional, reiterating Republicans offered 25 amendments that were all voted down.

"It's been a very tough fight so far because you know ... you show up here with a ton of optimism and hope to be able to get things done," the freshman legislator said.

Washington State Republican Party Chair and state representative from Aberdeen Jim Walsh vowed to continue the fight.

"They have so miscalculated what people think, and I think they came into this session super-arrogant about what they could cram through, and this is balance returning because they've gone way too far," he told The Center Square on Friday.

from page 2 **SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES**

called "reading phases," different focuses and fixations in her reading life. Sno-Isle Libraries has a vast collection of over 1.4 million items for residents to check out as they see fit.

"A library symbolizes the freedom to read, the library supports all kinds of opinions and perspectives," she added.

MARINER COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Larsen then toured the future site of the upcoming Mariner Community Campus (MCC) project, that when completed will bring together a public library and mixed income housing. The project is located at the northeast corner of 4th Ave W and 128th St SW in South Everett but what locals prefer to call "Mariner City."

Terry Lott Jr, Mariner Community Lead with Sno-Isle Libraries, shared with the Lynnwood Times that the new Mariner Community Campus is expected to open no later than 4 years and expected to serve 30,000 residents. It is currently in the pre-design/pre-development phase.

"So, we'll have space for nonprofits, for government agencies to come in and do classes. Maybe it's a cooking class, maybe it's a tutoring class.

They'll actually have a place to be without having to like to set up a brick and mortar. Then the anchor it with the brand new state of our Mariner Library," said Lott Jr.

Currently, the Everett Housing Authority is working on purchasing the strip mall behind the old Patty's Egg-nest plot that was acquired by Sno-Isle Libraries in June 2024. If the purchase goes through, Lott Jr. shared the vision of a combined plot with Mariner Library Community Campus on ground level with housing above.

"This is right along with the Snohomish County Planning & Development and their future comprehensive plan for this neighborhood," said Lott Jr. "It's directly aligned with that. And it gives us some advantages. We're going to be a four-minute walk to Mariner Park & Ride, a two-minute walk to the Swift line, and then you're going to be within five minutes of whatever station that Sound Transit sets."

Lott Jr added that when the Mariner Community Campus is complete, a Ballot Dropbox, for the first time, will be placed within the Mariner community, bridging the barrier to voter participation and engagement in the democratic process for tens of thousands of residents.



Future site of the upcoming Mariner Community Campus located at the northeast corner of 4th Ave W and 128th St SW in South Everett on February 1, 2025. Lynnwood Times | Mario Lotmore.

The Snohomish County Planning & Development Services is hosting a FREE all-ages workshop on February 8 for a newly proposed Light Rail Community (LRC) zone that involves the Mariner Community. To learn more visit <https://lynnwoodtimes.com/2025/02/04/light-rail-community/>.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SURPLUS BOOK PROGRAM

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library with over 178 million items in its collection. The Library of Congress' Surplus Books Program is available for eligible organizations and institutions within the United States and fall into one of the follow-

ing categories:

- Full-time, tax-supported or non-profit educational institution: school, school system, college, university, museum, or public library.
- Agency of local, state, or federal government.
- Nonprofit institution or organization that has tax-exempt status under the provisions of section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (see 41 CFR 101-44.207 (a) (17)) and that operates a library and/or research center open to the public.

Snohomish County Civic Engagement Day has its biggest turnout to date

By KIENAN BRISCOE

EVERETT—Nearly 300 high school students took a field trip to the Snohomish County Campus on Thursday, January 30, to participate in the County’s third annual Civic Engagement Day, where students can learn the ins-and-outs of local government.

Classes were spread throughout the County Campus Administrative Building and the Snohomish County Courthouse centering on six departments including: the Sheriff’s Office, Prosecutor/Office of Public Defense (OPD), County Council, Public Works, Snohomish County Elections, and Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

From 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. a total of 28 classes were held covering an array of topics. County Council members Nate Nehring and Jared Mead taught students the roles and responsibilities of the County Council, Officers working with the Sheriff’s Office brought in their furry partners with K-9 demonstrations, Snohomish County Prosecutor Jason Cummings spoke on how crimes are prosecuted, and of course there was a break for lunch where students could enjoy some provided pizza because, as Councilman Nehring joked, “nobody would show up if it weren’t for the pizza.”

County Council members Mead and Nehring were the masterminds behind the day which is not just about teaching local students how local government operates, they shared, but also about stirring interest in students to pursue government jobs.

Nehring shared that last year he had several students approach him asking how they could get more involved in County government, inquiring about volunteer opportunities on boards and commissions which, he said, you “don’t typically hear from high school students.”

Again, this year, during the Q&A segment of Nehring and Mead’s seminar, a student shared that they just turned 18 and asked if they could run for office. Nehring replied yes and got the impression it was something they had never thought of before.

Another student asked what type of college degree was needed to run for County Council and was pleased to hear Nehring’s answer; that not only is there no education requirement to run, but Nehring encouraged anybody and everybody, from every socioeconomic background, to run because, he said, “elected officials should be representative of the constituents, reflecting a diverse range of backgrounds.”

Mead chimed in with another example of having two high school students contacted his office last year inquiring about internship opportunities.

What started as Mead and Nehring visiting local schools to teach about civics eventually grew into a Campus-wide event, growing from about 75 students its first year to its biggest year yet.

Over the years Mead and Nehring have



Snohomish County Council President Jared Mead (left) and Council Vice President Nate Nehring (right) speaking with students during Civic Engagement Day at the Snohomish County Campus on January 30, 2025. Lynnwood Times | Kienan Briscoe.

engaged students and teachers to gather feedback they’ve used to improve the event every year.

The two Council members added that they could not have organized the event each year without the amazing work done by their legislative assistants.

“It’s really cool to see the participation from students. This started a few years ago with sort of a smaller gathering and it’s grown every year and now we have about 300 kids and 10 schools to the point that we’re almost running out of capacity which is a really good problem to have,” Council member Nehring shared with the Lynnwood Times.

Council member Mead added that he suspects school teachers and principles spread the word, leading to the event’s growth in participation.

“It’s really inspiring to see young people this interested and invested in what’s going on local government,” said Mead. “A lot of times, it feels like, especially in our public meetings, nobody’s paying attention but this is the stuff that really matters and I’ll argue that until I’m blue in the face. Local government is where all the things that impact people’s daily lives are really happening day-to-day and yet most people are hyper focused on the federal government.”

Participating schools included Henry M Jackson High School, Marysville Pilchuck High School, Marysville Getchel High School, Legacy High School, Heritage High School, Cascade High School, Innovation Lab High School, Lakewood High School, Everett High School, Snohomish High School, as well as two homeschooled students.

“I strongly feel that the responsibility to build a healthier and brighter society for our children and grandchildren falls to each and every one of us,” said Nehring. “If we are waiting for a politician to come along and solve our problems by uniting everyone, we may be waiting for a very long time. But we each have the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and get started today. I think if we can each make a commitment to re-

maintaining humble, giving others the benefit of the doubt, and treating everyone with respect (especially those who are different from us) then we have a great foundation for a better future.”

The event was entirely funded through Mead and Nehring’s office budgets with participating school’s being responsible for the transportation. Last budget, the two County Council members proposed an amendment that would offer

scholarships to schools to cover the costs associated with transportation, but it simply wasn’t in the cards given the already tight budget year.

If you know of a class or school that would be interested in hosting County elected officials as guest speakers, please reach out to Angela Ewert at angela.ewert@snoco.org or Russell Wiita at russell.wiita@snoco.org.

from page 1 **BINDA**

spirational speaking at seminars usual-ly to youth.

The address at the formation of this company in February 2023 was the councilman’s former Heather Ridge Apartments in Lynnwood from which he was evicted in November of 2023. As of January 2025, this former Lynnwood address is still on file with the Secretary of State’s Office as the business’ physical location and in March of 2024, an SOS document shows that the councilman certified “under penalty of law and is to the best of my knowledge, true and correct” that the evicted Lynnwood address is the physical location of his Josh Binda Speaks LLC company.

Josh Binda Speaks LLC is the same company in which Binda was also investigated for and signed a settlement agreement in 2023 with the City of Lynnwood for unlawfully using Council Chambers in order to film a promotional video for his business and used city resources (e.g. city email account) for personal financial gain. Coincidentally, Binda’s speaking tour promotional video was filmed allegedly by former fire commissioner and independent journalist Steve Hickey who was recently court ordered to vacate a \$1.5 million house in Ravensdale for squatting in December 2024.

Hickey was put on leave from his Fire Commissioner position back in May of 2024 after allegations surfaced of him abusing his position for personal gain while also allegedly using municipal equipment to promote his journalism channels. Hickey resigned in late December 2024 following the investigation into corruption by Kangley-Palmer Fire and Rescue.

Our six-week-long Lynnwood Times’ investigation was initiated by a concerned Lynnwood resident into allegations that Council Vice President Binda is not a resident of Lynnwood nor is living in Lynnwood. For ease and simplicity, the words south Everett apartment referred throughout this article is the same south Everett apartment—full address intentionally redacted by the Lynnwood Times—alleging the physical living location of Lynnwood Council Vice President Binda.

Below is a summary of findings that will be explained in more detail later in the article:

- November 6, 2023: Court-ordered Eviction from Heather Ridge Apartments for which Binda was trespassed from the premises. This was Binda’s documented Lynnwood address.
- January 29, 2024: A Statement of Candidacy (Form 2) filing with the Federal Election Commission signed by Councilman Binda which he certified under penalty of 2 U.S.C. §437g that his physical address as a candidate is the south Everett apartment. A Statement of Candidacy form is filed with the Federal Election Commission when a person intends to run as a candidate for federal office.
- January 29, 2024: A Statement of Organization (Form 1) filing with the Federal Election Commission signed by Councilman Binda’s Treasurer which she certified under penalty of 2 U.S.C. §437g that the physical address of his campaign, “People for Josh Binda,”

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
FEC FORM 2
STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY
 FILING FEC-4747504

1. **Joshua Binda**
 Everett, WA 98004

2. Identification Number: H4W02173

3. Party: Democratic Party

4. Office Sought: House of Representatives

5-6. State & District of Candidate: Washington - 2

DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

7. I hereby designate the following named political committee as my Principal Campaign Committee for the 2024 election(s).
 People For Josh Binda
 Everett, WA 98004

DESIGNATION OF OTHER AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES

8. I hereby designate the following named committee, which is NOT my principal campaign committee, to receive and expend funds on behalf of my candidacy.

DECLARATION OF INTENT TO EXPEND PERSONAL FUNDS (House or Senate Only)

9. I intend to expend personal funds exceeding the threshold amount (see 11 C.F.R. 400.9) by
 \$0.00 for the primary election, and
 \$0.00 for the general election

Signed as: Joshua Binda
 Signed by the candidate on: 01/29/2024 ←

Filed: 01/29/2024
 (End FEC FORM 2)
 Generated Sun Jan 26 00:34:44 2025

A Statement of Candidacy (Form 2) filing with the Federal Election Commission signed by Councilman Binda which he certified under penalty of 2 U.S.C. §437g that his physical address as a candidate is the south Everett apartment—full address intentionally redacted by the Lynnwood Times. Source: Federal Election Commission.

is the south Everett apartment. A Statement of Organization form is used to register a candidate’s political campaign committee.

- April 19, 2024: A Statement of Organization (FEC Form 1) amendment filing with the Federal Election Commission signed by Councilman Binda which he certified under penalty of 2 U.S.C. §437g that the physical address of his campaign and campaign books is the south Everett apartment.
- July 29, 2024: Binda signed a Washington State Public Disclosure Commission’s annual Financial Affairs Disclosure report certifying the South Everett apartment address as the location for Council Vice President Binda’s Josh Binda Speaks LLC business.
- December 23, 2024: The Snohomish County Auditor’s Office is unable to verify Binda’s purported “new” Lynnwood home address that he reported on December 23, 2024, and as of January 24, 2025, Binda’s voter registration status is inactive.
- January 13, 2025: After the city council meeting that evening, Binda was directly (firsthand) observed arriving at the south Everett apartment at approximately 11:10 p.m., where he unlocked the door of the unit, then entered the unit at approximately 11:22 p.m. This was surveillance 2 of 3 by an experienced investigator.
- January 21, 2025: After the city council meeting that evening, Binda was directly (firsthand) observed arriving at the south Everett apartment at approximately 9:29 p.m., where he unlocked the door of the unit, then entered the unit at approximately 9:32 p.m. This was surveillance 3 of 3 by an experienced investigator.
- January 22, 2025: Several neighbors at the south Everett apartment positively identified Council Vice President Binda as possibly living at the location.
- January 23, 2025: An undercover courier delivered a package at approximately 8 a.m. to the south Everett apartment for which Councilman Binda accepted and signed.

Washington State law RCW 35A.12.030 states that elected officials within a mayor-council government

must be a registered voter in the city they serve at the time of their filing or declaration of candidacy and must be a resident of the city at least one year next preceding their election.

“To be a legally registered voter, the elected official must maintain a permanent residence in the precinct in which they are registered. “Residence” in this context means “a person’s permanent address where they physically reside and maintain their abode,” wrote Flannery Collins with the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC). “An elective office becomes vacant when an elected official ceases to be a legally registered voter of the municipality. Therefore, once an individual moves out of the jurisdictional boundaries of the municipality they serve, unless that move is truly temporary, they are no longer qualified to serve on the governing body of that municipality.”

According to the Snohomish County Auditor’s Office, Binda’s voting status is currently inactive following several attempts by the Auditor to verify that he is living at the purportedly “new” Lynnwood address on file as of December 23, 2024. The Office verified with the Lynnwood Times that Binda’s voting registration was placed on inactive status because they have not received confirmation, or any subsequent proof, that he is indeed living at the Lynnwood residence in which he recently registered on December 23, 2024.

As far as requiring City Council members to maintain residency within the jurisdiction they serve throughout the duration of their term, there is currently no state law that prohibits this. However, according to a spokesperson for the Washington Secretary of State’s Office, the intent of the law is for an elected official to continuously reside in the jurisdiction, telling the Lynnwood Times, “This is often the case because how can you serve a jurisdiction, you’re not a resident of?”

The SOS’ Office informed the Lynnwood Times that it’s not their responsibility to police residency and it ultimately falls upon a City and its own codes to enforce residency requirements.

While Lynnwood’s Municipal Code 2.04.070 does not outright state a City

Council member must remain a resident throughout one’s term, several other neighboring jurisdictions do. Mukilteo, for example, states “You must be a resident of Mukilteo to serve on a City Board, Commission or Committee” on City position applications.

The City of Everett, similarly, includes in their municipal code, Section 2.2, that “Council members must remain City residents while in office and must remain residents of any Council district from which elected.”

By comparison, Lynnwood’s Municipal Code and its lack of language requiring a City Council member to maintain a residency through their term, is unique to the region and a city of this size and is up to City Council members to address.

FEC FILINGS LIST THE SOUTH EVERETT APARTMENT ADDRESS

For the 2024 Presidential Election, Binda unsuccessfully ran against Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02)—the Ranking Member of the United States House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee—for the Second Congressional District seat.

According to Federal Election Commission filings on January 29 and April 19 of 2024, the Lynnwood Councilman used the south Everett apartment address as his primary, campaign, and records addresses.

On January 29, 2024, a Statement of Candidacy (FEC Form 2) was filed and signed by Councilman Binda which he certified under penalty of 2 U.S.C. §437g that his physical address as a candidate is the south Everett apartment. A Statement of Candidacy form is filed with the Federal Election Commission when a person intends to run as a candidate for federal office.

On that same day, Binda’s campaign Treasurer signed and certified a Statement of Organization (FEC Form 1) under penalty of 2 U.S.C. §437g with the FEC that the physical address of Binda’s campaign “People for Josh Binda” is the south Everett apartment. A Statement of Organization form is used to register a candidate’s political campaign committee.

Just three months later, on April 19, 2024, Councilman Binda amended the Statement of Organization (FEC Form 1) to remove his Treasurer replacing her with himself, including updating the Custodian of Records—physical location of his congressional “People for Josh Binda” campaign books—to the south Everett apartment and switching financial institutions from Wells Fargo to BECU. The amendment was signed and certified by Councilman Binda under penalty of 2 U.S.C. §437g with the FEC.

FEC records show that the “People for Josh Binda” received \$4,634.88 in contributions and expensed \$2,400 for campaign flyers and \$734 for campaign shirts. According to the FEC, as of January 24, 2025, the campaign is showing an ending cash balance of \$1,900.88. However, this reflects filings as of June 30, 2024.

The Treasurer, Jessica Pisane, originally used by Binda for his “People for Josh Binda” congressional run who he later replaced within the first three

from page 6 **BINDA**

months of the campaign to himself, successfully offered treasurer services for OSPI Superintendent Chris Reykdal (a \$354,000 campaign) and 24th LD Washington State Representative Adam Bernbaum (\$218,000 campaign) in 2024. She also successfully performed treasurer services to Seattle City Council Candidate Alexander Dawson Cooley in 2023 (a \$94,000 campaign).

Pisane in a phone call with the Lynnwood Times confirmed that she originally helped Binda on his congressional campaign.

For Binda's 2021 Lynnwood City Council campaign, Andy Lo was listed as Treasurer. Lo confirmed back then with the Lynnwood Times that he separated with Binda in September of 2021, just after the Primary election, because of questionable transactions and lack of communication from Binda. Lo was and still is an experienced, respected, and prominent campaign Treasurer within the state of Washington.

These five data points listing the south Everett apartment as his address in three FEC filings signed and certified under penalty of 2 U.S.C. §437g by Councilman Binda and/or his Treasurer is evidence that Councilman Binda is allegedly living at the south Everett apartment and not in Lynnwood.

UNDERCOVER SURVEILLANCE LEADS TO THE SOUTH EVERETT APARTMENT ADDRESS

An experienced investigator surveilled Councilman Binda on three separate occasions after three city council meetings—December 2024 to January 2025—to provide evidence to the allegation that Lynnwood Council Vice President Binda is not a resident of Lynnwood nor is living in Lynnwood.

The findings resulted in that two of the three occasions Councilman Binda was directly (firsthand) witnessed to have concluded his travel from the Lynnwood City Council meeting at City Hall to the south Everett apartment.

For the one occasion which Binda was not witnessed to have concluded his



Lynnwood Council Vice President Josh Binda accepting and signing a package delivered to his alleged south Everett apartment residence by an undercover courier at approximately 8 a.m. on January 23, 2025. Source: Lynnwood Times.

travel to the south Everett apartment, the surveillance ended prematurely when the councilman was directly observed at a dinner with a fellow councilwoman at a Lynnwood restaurant late into the night after the city council meeting. The surveillance was called off and did not continue after Binda and the councilwoman left the restaurant together after dinner.

An undercover decoy posing as a courier was able to obtain a signature from Council Vice President Binda at the south Everett apartment on January 23, 2025.

Below are the findings from the surveillance by the experienced investigator and an undercover decoy:

Surveillance 1: After the city council meeting on December 9, 2024, Councilman Binda was observed leaving with Councilwoman Derica Escamilla in her vehicle from City Hall—she was the driver.

The vehicle with both Binda and Escamilla drove to Escamilla's residence and parked outside of her residence—neither person ever left the vehicle.

After several minutes, the vehicle with both Binda and Escamilla then left her place where they went to Olive Garden on 196th Street in Lynnwood and were observed having dinner together. Because it was getting late, past 10:30 p.m., the experienced investigator called off the surveillance.

Surveillance 2: After the city council meeting on January 13, 2025, Council Vice President Binda was observed leaving with Councilwoman Derica Escamilla in her vehicle from City Hall—she was the driver.

They arrived at the south Everett apartment at approximately 11:10 p.m. where they were observed sitting in the vehicle. They could be heard via the car's loudspeakers talking on the phone with a female about the aftermath of the city council meeting.

This conversation lasted until 11:22 p.m. after which Councilman Binda was directly (firsthand) observed leaving the vehicle then proceeded to the door of the south Everett apartment, unlocked the door, then entered the unit. Councilwoman Escamilla did not join Councilman Binda to the unit and left the property.

Surveillance 3: After the city council meeting on January 21, 2025, Council Vice President Binda was observed leaving City Hall shortly after 7 p.m. where he walked to the Lynnwood Library and remained there until 8 p.m.

The councilman then walked from the Lynnwood Library to Wendy's on 52nd and 196th in Lynnwood where he enjoyed a meal. At approximately 8:30 p.m., the councilman left Wendy's to the Community Transit Blue Swift Line's 196th St SW NB Station located at 196th Street and HWY 99.

Binda was directly observed boarding the 9:09 p.m. Blue Swift Line BRT to Everett. The bus arrived at the 4th Ave W NB Station in south Everett at approximately 9:21 p.m. where Binda was observed leaving the bus.

At approximately 9:29 p.m. Binda arrived at the south Everett apartment where he paced back-and-forth on the sidewalk in front of the apartment building for approximately 2 minutes

speaking on the phone with a female about how to "work Nick," addressing "naysayers" on council, and discussing a "youth council."

Still on the phone, Councilman Binda was directly (firsthand) observed proceeding to the door of the south Everett apartment, unlocked the door, then entered the unit at approximately 9:32 p.m.

Neighbors ID Binda: On January 22, 2025, several neighbors at the south Everett apartment positively identified Council Vice President Binda from his City Council headshot picture when it was presented to them. The neighbors said that to the best of their knowledge they thought the person in the picture lived at the residence as they see Council Vice President Binda entering and leaving the apartment almost daily or on the property frequently.

Package Delivery: At approximately 8 a.m. on January 23, 2025, an undercover courier delivered a package to the south Everett apartment for which Binda accepted and signed.

The Lynnwood Council Vice President answered the door shirtless and in his underwear. He then proceeded to tell the undercover courier that he was expecting his laptop to be delivered today. The courier asked Binda how long he lived at the south Everett apartment to which Binda answered, "technically this is my dad's place." The courier did not follow up with a question and left.

The Lynnwood Times was able to confirm that the south Everett apartment where Council Vice President Binda is allegedly living is leased to Binda's father.

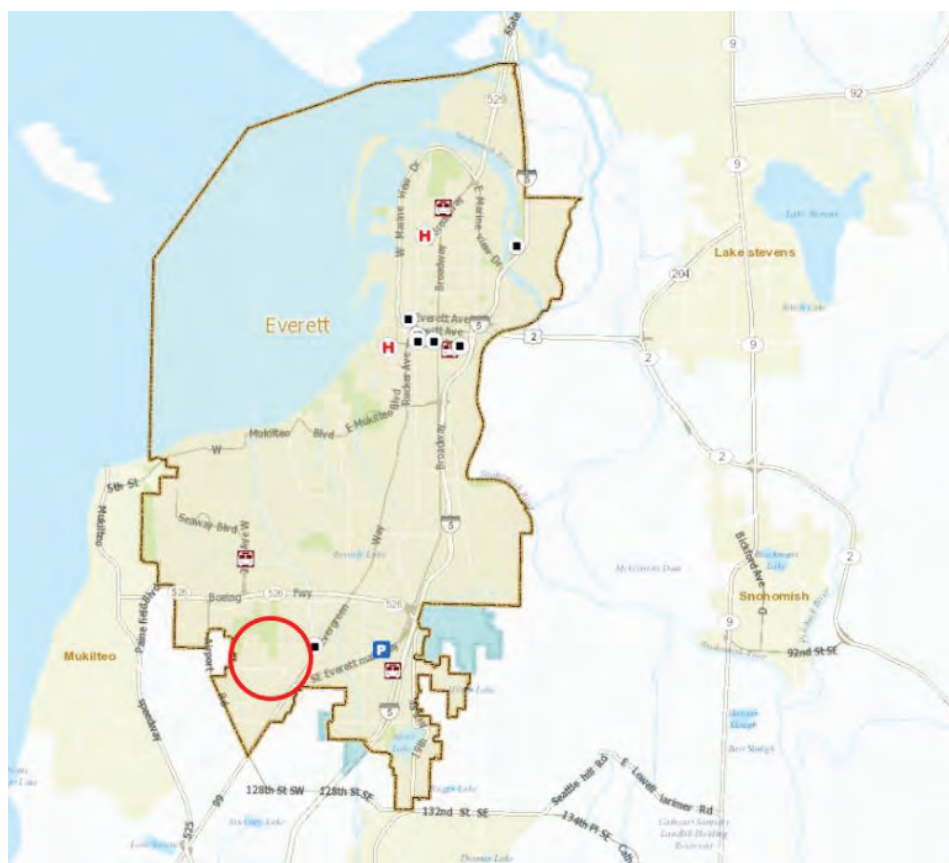
The independent data points of Council Vice President Binda arriving to, unlocking the door of, and entering the unit of the south Everett apartment; the confirmation from neighbors frequently observing Binda at the south Everett apartment; Binda signing for a package at the south Everett apartment; and Binda divulging he was expecting a laptop to be delivered at the south Everett apartment are evidence that Binda is allegedly living at the south Everett apartment and not in Lynnwood.

BINDA VOTER REGISTRATION IS INACTIVE AND POSSIBLE VOTER FRAUD

According to Washington state voter registration records obtained by the Lynnwood Times, Council Vice President Binda's voter registration status is currently inactive as of January 24, 2025, because his purported "new" Lynnwood home address in the Meadowdale area (52nd Ave W) cannot be confirmed. This "new" address is coincidentally very similar to his previously listed address before moving to Heather Ridge Apartments.

Voter registration records show that until December 23, 2024, Council Vice President Binda listed his home address as a unit in the Heather Ridge Apartments in Lynnwood—the address where he was evicted from in November of 2023. However, according to voter registration records obtained by the Lynnwood Times, a P.O. Box was declared by Binda for the mailing address to receive his mail-in ballots—not the evicted home address.

Records show that Binda did vote in



The south Everett location of the alleged residence of Lynnwood Council Vice President Josh Binda denoted by the red circle. The location is several miles away from the City of Lynnwood boundary and is in the City of Everett boundary. Source: Map Everett & City Addressing

Snohomish County PUD approves rate increase representing \$32.9 million in additional revenue

By MARIO LOTMORE

EVERETT—With a vote of two and one abstention, the Snohomish PUD Board of Commissioners approved a 4.6 percent system-average rate increase for all customer classes during its meeting on January 21, effective April 1, 2025. Both Commissioners Sid Logan and Tanya Olson voted to approve the motion; Commissioner Julieta Altamirano-Crosby abstained.

“The most important thing this board does, and we do struggle, these are tough calls. An adjustment has been made this time from what we perceive, I believe in the short-term, are our needs,” Commissioner Olson said supporting the motion. She stressed the importance of long-term strategic planning to mitigate risks.

“As much as I would like to support this, I am going to abstain,” said Commissioner Altamirano-Crosby. “This is my second meeting, and I was not part of all the planning and public hearings.” Commissioner Logan noted that the 4.6 percent increase is one of PUD’s largest but when comparing to neighboring utilities the proposed rate increase by

the Snohomish PUD is modest.

Over the projected rate period from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, the expected revenue is \$32.9 million. Originally a rate of 4.9 percent increase was first discussed in November 2024 prior to January’s approval of 4.6 percent.

According to the PUD, the drivers for the rate increase were severe weather events the region experienced in 2024:

The PUD spent an additional \$45 million purchasing electricity in January of 2024 due to the unusual sub-freezing temperatures during Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, when higher-than-normal electricity demand coupled with below-average Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) hydropower generation sent energy market prices soaring. The PUD also spent \$16 million on restoration efforts after the powerful bomb cyclone windstorm in November 2024. The rate increase for PUD residential electric customers will only be applied to the daily base charge. The energy charge for residential customers will remain 10.26 cents per kilowatt-hour. Residential customers will see an increase to their bill of about 13 cents per

Rate Increase to Residential Base Charge

Service Amp Size	Daily Increase	Average Monthly Increase
Small (<101)	\$0.13	\$3.95
Medium (101-200)	\$0.21	\$6.39
Large (>200-400)	\$0.30	\$9.13
Extra Large (>400)	\$0.49	\$14.90

Source: Snohomish PUD

day for small (multi-family customers or those with an amp size at or below 100), and 21 cents per day for medium customers (majority of single-family homes with 200-amp service).

For PUD small business customers, the rate increase will see their base charge grow by 80 cents per day and their energy charge decrease slightly from 9 cents/kWh to 8.365 cents/kWh.

“We faced significant challenges in 2024 and I’m proud of how the organization worked together to minimize this rate increase,” said John Haarlow, PUD CEO/General Manager. “We recognize the impact cost increases can have on our customers and remain committed to providing reliable and environmentally

sustainable power, and an exceptional customer experience.”

The mitigate the rate increase, Snohomish staff through multiple projects reduce expenditures in the 2025 budget by \$24 million and altered its contract with BPA—scheduled to take effect on Oct. 1, 2025—which will significantly reduce the cost impact of future extreme weather events as in 2024 on MLK weekend.

The PUD has tools to help customers with their bill, including robust income-qualified assistance programs that offer 25% or 50% bill deductions for qualifying customers.

Public Transit Made Easy: Zip Shuttle Connects People to Buses, Light Rail, and Beyond

SPONSORED BY COMMUNITY TRANSIT

“When people think about public transit, they often picture buses and light rail,” says Kevin Futhey, a project manager on Community Transit’s Innovative Services team. “But what about those who can’t walk to a stop or access transit easily? That’s where Zip Shuttle comes in.”



Community Transit’s Zip Shuttle Service. Source: Community Transit.

Community Transit’s Zip Shuttle Alderwood is an on-demand, shared-ride service that connects people to popular neighborhood destinations and local transit hubs. For people who don’t live near a bus stop, getting to transit can be a hurdle. Zip Shuttle bridges that gap with an affordable service for just \$2.50 or less. Youth 18 and under ride free and wheelchair accessible vehicles are available upon request.

The blue-and-white Zip Shuttle minivans are similar to popular rideshare services like Uber or Lyft, but without the high price tag. Riders can book trips via phone or the app, providing their pick-up and drop-off locations. When the vehicle is nearby, they’ll get a notification to be ready at the pick-up point.

“Our goal is to meet people where they are,” says Futhey. “Along with our Alderwood service, we’ve expanded Zip Shuttle service to Arlington, Lake Stevens, and Darrington because we know that transit access isn’t a one-size-fits-all solution. Each community has unique needs, and Zip helps fill those gaps. These new locations are pilots. We are testing to see how this service works in these communities.”

Community Transit’s board of directors recently voted to lower reduced fares. Starting March 1, Community Transit will lower its reduced fares for eligible riders — including those with an ORCA LIFT pass, Medicare, or disabilities — to just \$1 per ride for both Zip and bus services. A monthly pass will cost \$36.

“Lowering reduced fares is a big step in making transit more accessible,” says Futhey. “For just \$1, seniors and ORCA LIFT cardholders can use Zip or any of our bus services, making it more affordable than ever to leave the car at home.”

Zip Shuttle drivers don’t accept tips, and there’s no surge pricing. When using an ORCA card, riders can seamlessly transfer from Zip Shuttle to other transit connections and their Zip fare will be credited toward their next ride if the transfer is made within two hours.

“Imagine you’re a senior living in Lynnwood, planning a trip to SEA-TAC

airport to visit your grandkids,” says Futhey. “Driving all that way makes you nervous, airport traffic adds stress, and paying for parking isn’t realistic on a fixed income. These aren’t unusual challenges. Starting in March, your roundtrip fare taking Zip and light rail would only be \$2.”

In a recent survey from Community Transit, 42% of Zip riders said they used Zip to connect to other transit options. The survey also showed that a quarter of Zip riders use the service to get to work or school, and two-thirds of riders have used it to run errands.

“So many people have told me how Zip has helped them,” says Lucia Smith, who works in customer care at the Ride Store. “Many of these customers have shared how they appreciate the flexibility of Zip and said that it’s an accessible alternative to our paratransit service. It’s also a great way to get connected with their community.”

Community Transit is also enhancing the Zip Shuttle customer experience. Starting February 1, Alderwood-area riders will be able to book trips through a new app with more user-friendly features.

“The new app will improve the booking process,” says Futhey. “We expect smarter trip pairing, which means we’ll serve more customers, faster. From fare reductions to the new app, we’re listening to what our riders need and making it easier to choose transit.”

Want to learn more? Visit ctzip.org to see where Zip Shuttle can take you or call 1-833-DIAL-ZIP to get started.

Hundreds rally for undocumented immigrant protections

By JUAN JOCOM, WASHINGTON STATE JOURNAL

OLYMPIA—More than 500 people braved the cold with their monarch butterfly signs – symbols of immigration, freedom, and movement – to support undocumented immigrant rights during a rally on Thursday, January 30 in Olympia, organized by the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN).

Immigrant groups from across Washington brought their monarch butterfly cutouts during a rally in Olympia, Jan. 30. Monarch butterflies, a symbol of migration and resilience, are a source of pride for Mexico. The butterflies migrate annually to Mexico. Photo by Juan Jocom.

Brenda Rodríguez López, executive director of WAISN, said she wasn't afraid despite warnings that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers might be present during the protest.

"There have been sightings – confirmed sightings and detentions – in places like my hometown in Pasco, and that makes me enraged that people are being hunted down," López said.

Rafael Hernandez came with CAFÉ

Wenatchee, an advocacy group, and said reports of ICE officer sightings in Washington have left the immigrant community feeling threatened.

Other speakers, including WAISN representatives and lawmakers, expressed gratitude to the community while also demanding health-equity for immigrants, an end to ICE collaboration with the Department of Corrections, domestic workers' rights, anti-violence and anti-segregation measures, limits on non-safety traffic stops, legal aid for immigrants and support for newly arrived migrants.

"I showed up today because immigrants like myself, like my family, like the people here today, deserve to live with dignity and respect," López said.

Democratic legislators said they are taking action to protect undocumented and refugee rights in Washington. Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self, D-Mukilteo, assured the crowd that state lawmakers would do their best to protect undocumented immigrants and refugees in Washington, regardless of federal policies.

"If we unite just like we're doing today, we will see success," said Rep. Julio



Immigrant groups from across Washington brought their monarch butterfly cutouts during a rally in Olympia, Jan. 30. Monarch butterflies, a symbol of migration and resilience, are a source of pride for Mexico. The butterflies migrate annually to Mexico. Photo by Juan Jocom.

Cortez, D-Everett.

rized her feelings this way.

Zoe Mondragon, 7, who woke up at 3:30 a.m. to travel to the rally, summa-

"Sometimes I feel like it's not fair," Mondragon said. "We're all humans."

SAVE THE DATE



LYNNWOOD WASHINGTON

State of the City



With Mayor Christine Frizzell
Wednesday, February 26, 9 a.m.
Lynnwood Event Center
Free and open to the public

from page 3 **RISNW**

Dinh-Kuno used the example of an Edmonds College apprenticeship to make a point about potential impacts. "There's a carpentry program there available to immigrants, low-income Americans, everybody..." Edmonds College promotes this kind of "educational opportunity" for its entire student body, "regardless of their immigration status", worrying advocates like Dinh-Kuno. "This kind of [program] could be targeted... training could be stopped and people won't receive certificates of completion," she stated. "People just trying to work for a better life won't be able to under these circumstances."

Dinh-Kuno also mentioned the examples of Ukrainian and Afghan refugees, whose respective resettlement programs through the federal Citizenship and Immigration Services agency were also indefinitely suspended by Trump's "Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program" executive order. "And these are legal! We aren't talking about illegal immigrants here, we are talking about a legal process," Dinh-Kuno added. "People who think he's just going after illegals – that's not true at all."

Other foreign national resettlement

programs have also been "abandoned", according to Dinh-Kuno, and many aid groups will now have to independently fundraise to continue operations. RISNW has its funding secured until June 30; however, Dinh-Kuno stated that they will be heavily reliant on continued support from the state government after that point. She expressed faith in her state government: "Senator [June] Robinson, Senator [Marko] Lias, Representatives Julio Cortes and Lillian Ortiz... they understand the needs of refugees and immigrants."

However, the Trump administration's desired "funding freeze" may return in an updated, more legally sound form, whether through future executive action or through legislation. For groups like RISNW, federal unpredictability means that future state funding is far from guaranteed.

To the Snohomish County community at large, Dinh-Kuno expressed, "Take time to study and find out the reasons why immigrants are being targeted. The 2024 election was won on a platform of anti-immigration... Many refugees and immigrants call the Lynnwood area home, and make up an important part of that community. We value hard work and labor and contribute to what makes America strong."

Op-Ed from Police Chief



Lynnwood police chief says state law ties the hands of police in illegal immigration enforcement

In a message to residents on Friday, Lynnwood Police Chief Cole Langdon shared that the Keep Washington Working Act prevents law enforcement from assisting in immigration enforcement. Last Friday, Mukilteo Police Chief Andy Illyn shared a similar stance.

Below is his community message in its entirety:

As your Chief of Police, I want to take a moment to reaffirm the Lynnwood Police Department's commitment to the safety and well-being of all community members. Our mission is to provide proactive, competent, and effective public safety services to all people, with the highest regard for human dignity, through efficient and professional law enforcement and crime prevention practices.

I understand that there are concerns and anxiety over the recent federal immigration conversations and decisions. While there is still much uncertainty about what recent decisions mean locally, the Lynnwood Police Department will continue to comply with the law. We will continue to comply with the Keep Washington Working Act (RCW 10.93.160), which was passed in 2019 and restricts the involvement of state and local law enforcement in enforcing civil federal immigration law. This means that any community member, regardless of immigration status, is encouraged to call 911 to report a crime.

The men and women of the Lynnwood Police Department are honored to serve our community, and we remain dedicated to upholding our core values of professionalism, vigilance, and community. We will carry out our duties of responding to crimes committed within our City, encouraging crime prevention strategies, and engaging with community members respectfully and without discrimination.

Cole Langdon, Lynnwood Police Chief

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the 2023 General Election on November 7, the 2024 Special Election on February 13, the 2024 Presidential Primary on March 15, the 2024 Primary Election on August 6, and 2024 General Election on November 5. The date of Binda's eviction from the Heather Ridge Apartment residence was on November 6, 2023, a day before the end of the 2023 November General Election cycle.

According to RCW 29A.84.030, "A person who willfully violates any provision of this title regarding the conduct of mail ballot primaries or elections is guilty of a class C felony punishable under RCW 9A.20.021." Also, as 2024 was a Presidential Election, 52 U.S. Code § 10307 Section C states that under federal law it is unlawful to provide false information in registering to vote or voting.

From December 23, 2024, onward, the Snohomish County Auditor's Office reports a "new" home and mailing address for Councilman Binda in the Meadowdale area (52nd Ave W) of Lynnwood, but the Auditor's Office is unable to verify the address and lists Binda as an inactive voter as of January 24, 2025.

Both the purportedly "new" home and mailing addresses submitted by Binda are the same but coincidentally they share a very similar address (just off by one digit and identical streets) listed as Binda's address from a parking violation he received in March of 2021 and a traffic infraction he received on June 16, 2021. These citations show Binda's former address was 17433 52nd Ave W in Lynnwood (before he was evicted by Heather Ridge Apartments) and is just off by one digit for his purported "new" December 23, 2024, address for which the County Auditor's Office is unable to confirm.

The Lynnwood Times knocked on the doors of each of the eight units at the "new" home location listed for Council Vice President Binda and was told by several neighbors that they neither knew nor heard of a Josh Binda. A City Council headshot picture of the councilman was presented to the neighbors at the time of inquiry. The Lynnwood Times will be following up with those units that were unavailable during our inquiries on Friday, January 24.

The Lynnwood Times also will be further investigating the "coincidence" in Binda purporting his "new" registration address very similar as his former 17433 52nd Ave W address.

The independent data point of the Snohomish County Auditor's Office being unable to verify Binda's purported "new" Lynnwood home address that he reported on December 23, 2024, is evidence that Binda is allegedly living at the south Everett apartment and is not currently an active registered voter in Lynnwood.

BINDA'S EVICTION FROM HIS LYNNWOOD APARTMENT

Binda was served an eviction notice from where he lived at the Heather Ridge Apartments in Lynnwood on October 21, 2023, for unpaid rent. He was personally served an eviction lawsuit notice and summons to appear in Snohomish County Superior Court by Bruce Munro of Puckett and Redford PLLC.

Binda's rent at Heather Ridge was approximately \$1,350 a month but he failed to make payments for six straight months from April of 2023 through September of 2023. Binda also did not pay his roughly \$68 a month utility bill from February of 2023 through September of 2023 or his \$35 a month pet fee from April of 2023, through September of 2023. This, in addition to a \$45 a day late fee totaled approximately \$10,300.45 of unpaid rent, utilities, pet fee, and fees as agreed upon in his rental lease contract. Binda was also required to pay the attorney fees, court fees, Sheriff fees, and filing fees.

In August of 2023, Binda entered a rent repayment plan under Washington State's Eviction Resolution Pilot Program (ERPP) with payments of \$484 a month—a third of his monthly rent—but also failed to meet these payments.

Binda was served a notice to pay rent or vacate the premises on September 7, 2023, and a Summons and Complaint for Unlawful Detainer on October 21, 2023, requiring an appearance and answer by October 30. However, Binda failed to appear in court, nor did he reply by the deadline placing himself in default. By not complying to vacate or pay rent by the deadline, Binda was then considered to be unlawfully detaining the premises by state law.

Attorney Randall Redford, Attorney representing the Heather Ridge Apartments, motioned for a judgement against Binda on November 3, 2023. Redford, on behalf of Heather Ridge Apartments, was granted that judgement on November 8 to collect the unpaid amount of \$10,300.45 plus \$45 a day with a 12% interest rate.

That judgement hearing also authorized the Snohomish County Sheriff to force Binda to vacate the premises, and seize his property, if he did not vacate by November 17, 2023.

However, as part of the court's Writ of Restitution signed on November 8, 2023, Binda was and has been trespassing from the Heather Ridge Apartments and is not allowed on the property without the management's prior written permission.

The independent data points of his eviction from his Lynnwood apartment in November of 2023 coupled with the court-ordered trespass, establishes a possible date Council Vice President Binda was forced to relocate possibly to the south Everett apartment and not legally authorized to reside at the Heather Ridge Apartments in Lynnwood.

BINDA'S MULTIPLE TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS AND OTHER JUDGEMENTS

Most of Binda's 18 court cases over the last four years involve driving violations and traffic infractions, from which he incurred approximately \$3,800 in fines. He still has an outstanding balance in collections as of the end of December of just over \$1,900 of which \$1,400 is owed to the City of Lynnwood. Binda collects a monthly salary from the City of Lynnwood of approximately \$1,650.

Below is a summary of court documents of his driving violations.

1. In December 2019 he was pulled over for expired registration and

driving without insurance accruing a \$1,026 fine. He entered a payment plan and has since paid this off in full.

2. In December of 2020 he was pulled over in Lynnwood for improper lane usage, expired tabs, and driving without a valid license, incurring \$923 in fines in Lynnwood Municipal Court. He has since paid only \$127.
3. In March 2021, he was pulled over for expired tabs again, charged a \$30 fine with an added \$25 delinquent parking fee. When he did not pay this, the \$55 total fine was sent to collections and DOL was notified to suspend his license.
4. In June 2021, Binda was issued a traffic infraction by Mountlake Terrace police for expired tabs incurring a \$231 fine that was increased to \$283 for failure to pay. This is still unpaid.
5. In September 2021, he was pulled over for driving without headlights in Lynnwood incurring a \$191 fine. This is still unpaid and has entered collections.
6. In June 2022, Binda was pulled over in King County for following too close to another vehicle and was fined \$187. He did not pay and the fine has since entered into collections.
7. In November 2022, Binda received a traffic citation for speeding 24 mph over the speed limit by Washington State Patrol incurring a \$273. He has since paid this off in full in March 2023.
8. In January 2023, he was pulled over for driving 17 miles per hour over the speed limit on I-5 in Snohomish County incurring a \$248 fine. He has since paid this off in full.
9. In February 2023, he was pulled over for driving 10 miles over the speed limit in Thurston County. He has since paid off the \$187 fine in full.
10. In March 2023, Binda was pulled over for driving with a suspended license in the third degree (meaning his license is eligible to be reinstated) on I-5 in Thurston County. He attended an arraignment that same month and the case was closed without any charges.
11. In August 2023, Binda was issued a citation for running a red light by a photo enforcement camera in Lynnwood incurring a \$189 fine. This fine was not paid and has since entered collections.
12. On July 1, 2024, Binda was issued a citation for running a red light again by a photo enforcement camera in Lynnwood incurring a \$170 penalty. The vehicle was clocked at 58 mph in a 35-mph zone. This fine has not been paid.

The remaining court cases involve Binda's failure to pay rent and utilities at his Lynnwood apartment, his Snohomish County Sheriff's Office-backed forced eviction, and the subsequent judgements approved to garner his wages.

Binda has two additional unpaid judgements against him totaling \$4,615, as of December 17, 2024. Below is a breakdown of those judgements:

- A 2022 judgement for garnishment is by Olympic Collection, Inc. representing Fitz Towing in the amount of \$854.64 for a 2012 Ford Focus. The garnishees were Blue Origin (employment terminated July 2022), Cocoon House, and

- City of Lynnwood. This judgement is still outstanding.
- A 2023 judgement for garnishment is by Credit Concepts of Washington representing Sno-King Auto Sales in the amount of \$3,760.84 for a 2012 Ford Focus with a 29.90% APR which he financed in 2021. The garnishee was the City of Lynnwood. This judgement is still outstanding.

Binda still yet to paid PDC violations According to PDC records, Binda has still not paid his multiple violation fines. Below is a breakdown of the outstanding balance of the \$1,363 in PDC fines as of January 24, 2024 to the state of Washington by Councilman Binda:

- A \$1,000 fine from using campaign funds for personal use and failure to make campaign books open to public inspection (a fine that initially had \$500 of it suspended if he had paid it on time, but has since been reinstated after he failed to do so),
- A \$300 fine for a second violation of RCW 42.17A.700, and
- A \$63 balance on a \$250 fine for failing to file F1 financial statement documents in time.

Throughout his 2021 campaign leading up to his eventual 2021 election win, Councilman Binda recorded \$4,848.19 in expenditures towards rent, towing fees, event tickets, jewelry, laptops, airfare, groceries, dental work, haircuts, and office furniture. An additional over 100 purchases totaling \$4,952.12 was recorded as "Expenses of \$50 or less."

In July 2023, Binda testified at a PDC Brief Adjudicating Proceeding that he had not paid off his fines because he didn't know "how to a write a check."

POTENTIAL BREACH OF OATH

Though Council Vice President Binda's list of traffic infractions is considered civil matters in Washington State—and do not qualify as a breach of his oath of office—his failure to pay the approximately \$14,000 in restitution could result in a criminal offense if a prosecutor decides to do so.

According to state law RCW 42.12.010, an elected office position shall become vacant after an official commits any "offense involving a violation of his or her official oath", or "whenever a judgment shall be obtained against that incumbent for breach of the condition of his or her official bond."

As mapped out in RCW 43.01.020, Binda was required to take the following oath leading up into his swearing in as a Lynnwood City Council member: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the state of Washington."



Judge denies Binda's protection order against the Times, a victory for freedom of the press

By KIENAN BRISCOE

LYNNWOOD—A Snohomish County Superior Court Judge has denied Lynnwood City Council Vice President Josh Binda's request for a protection order against Lynnwood Times' owner and award-winning journalist Mario Lotmore, marking a huge victory for first amendment rights and freedom of the press for all journalists.

In her decision on January 28, the presiding Judge wrote that Binda did not allege sufficient facts to warrant entry of the order per state law requirements.

"[T]heir acts appear to align with behavior that may serve 'lawful purpose' given respondent works for the Lynnwood Times and entry of this order may affect first amendment issues," the Judge further explained.

In his filing, Binda left the evidence segment blank, instead choosing to attach a Lynnwood Times article as evidence. That article reported the facts to support that Binda may not be a resident of Lynnwood—a requirement to hold office by state law and the Lynnwood Municipal Code—and further reported that Binda may have committed election fraud by voting in a district he did not reside in.

Binda denied that this is the case on the record which he called "a false narrative."

Binda alleged, in his official protection order filing, that he was being "stalked" by Lynnwood Times Owner Mario Lotmore given the Lynnwood Times' relentless coverage of the council member's questionable conduct over the years.

Binda also requested the court to order Mario Lotmore to pay him \$15,000 in financial relief stating the coverage of him in the Lynnwood Times impeded his "ability to maintain stable employment." This was also denied by the judge.

The Lynnwood Times investigation uncovered that Vice President Binda, 25, owes just over \$18,000 in the following: unpaid traffic citations (\$1,400 to the City of Lynnwood alone), PDC fines (\$1,363), and several legal judgments against him (just over \$14,000). Records also show that within the last five years, Binda had a total of 18 court cases, several related to wage garnishments that involved the City of Lynnwood.

CONFLICTING RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES: COURT-SWORN VS. LYNNWOOD MAYOR

To level set readers, there are currently three addresses being used by Council Vice President Binda—a Lynnwood address he was evicted from, a Lynnwood address associated with his voter registration, and an Everett address where he is allegedly living with his father. Understanding the different addresses is paramount to understanding



Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell, City Council Vice President Josh Binda, and Councilwoman Derica Escamilla at the City Council Meeting on January 27, 2025. Lynnwood Times Mario Lotmore.

General Findings

N. Other: Petition does not allege sufficient facts to warrant entry of an order, further acts appear to align with behavior that may serve "lawful purpose" given Respondent works for the Lynnwood Times and entry of this order may affect 1st amendment issues.

The judge's statement in the Denial Order of the Protection Order filed by Lynnwood Council Vice President Josh Binda against Lynnwood Times Owner and Investigative Reporter Mario Lotmore. Source: Snohomish County Superior Court.

- K. **Assets:** Do not transfer jointly owned assets.
- Finances:** Provide the following financial relief: I am requesting financial relief in the amount of \$15,000 due to the significant impact that Mario Lotmore's harassment has had on my ability to maintain stable employment.
- L. **Vehicle:** The protected person shall have use of the following vehicle:
 Year, Make & Model _____ License No. _____

Lynnwood Council Vice President Josh Binda request of \$15,000 in the Protection Order against Lynnwood Times Owner and award-winning journalist Mario Lotmore that was denied on January 28, 2025. Source: Snohomish County Superior Court.

the conflicting addresses Council Vice President Binda provided the court and to Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell.

During the Lynnwood Times' 6-week investigation, it was discovered that Binda was evicted and trespassed from his Lynnwood Heather Ridge apartment in November 2023, located on 68 Ave West in Lynnwood, referred to as the "evicted address." The evidence from the investigation appears to indicate that Binda since January of 2024, has lived at an Everett apartment with his father which is referred to as the "Everett address." The third address, located on 52nd Ave W in Lynnwood is the voter registration address associated with Binda, referred to as the "voter registration address."

Prior to December 18, 2024, the "evicted address" was the address for Binda's voter registration but with a P.O. Box for his mailing address to receive ballots. On December 18, 2024, Binda updated this address to his new "voter registration address" on 52nd Ave W in Lynnwood. As of Tuesday, February 4, Binda's voter status at the "voter registration address" is still inactive after the Snohomish County Auditor's Office failed to receive confirmation from Binda that he truly is living at that address after multiple attempts.

According to the Protection Order the judge denied on Tuesday of last week, Binda provided his "evicted address" as his place of residency on the court

document signed by him on Monday, January 27, 2025, and submitted the following day to the court. According to court documents associated with that case, Binda is also trespassed from that property.

During an 8 a.m. phone call on Monday, January 27, with Lynnwood Mayor Frizzell along with Council President Nick Coelho, Binda provided his "voter registration address" as his place of residency, which is in direct conflict to the address he provided the court the very next day certifying under perjury to be his place of residency.

What's more, when Binda filed the Pro-

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tection Order against Lotmore, he used the same South Everett address—the “Everett address.”— the Lynnwood Times uncovered to be where Binda is allegedly living, as the mailing address to receive court documents.

Binda also chose to file the Protection Order at an Everett court 13 miles away despite the South District Court in Lynnwood being just less than 3 miles away from where he told the Mayor Christine Frizzell he lives and literally across the street from the address he told the court he lives.

Council Vice President Binda has not responded to a request by the Lynnwood Times for him to explain to readers why he presented to the mayor a different address as his place of residency other than what is on signed court documents. Also, Council Vice President Binda has yet to respond to our inquiry as to why he certified to the court that he is living at his evicted Lynnwood apartment—the “evicted address.”

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN BINDA’S PROOF OF RESIDENCY

The Lynnwood Times disclosed the conflicting addresses to all Lynnwood City Council members and the Mayor on the evening of Monday, February 3, 2025. The City of Lynnwood informed the Lynnwood Times that “City Administration is currently determining the next steps.”

“The City does not play a role in the election. We are not responsible for verifying a candidate’s residency when they register to run for a local office and/or after they are elected,” wrote Nathan MacDonald, Manager of Communication and Public Affairs for the City of Lynnwood.

Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell said during a City Council meeting on Monday, January 27, “After the story was published this morning, my team and I met with Council Member Binda where he provided his current address which is in Lynnwood. We then verified that address with the Snohomish County Elections & Voter Registration office.”

Upon requesting supporting evidence to her claim of verification, MacDonald elaborated that the mayor’s comments were “not the end of the conversation” and that the City would continue to research the City’s role “when an elected official moves either within our out of their jurisdiction.”

The City confirmed with the Lynnwood Times during that exchange that the address provided to the Mayor by Councilman Binda was the “voter registration address” on 52nd Ave W in Lynnwood, which as of February 4, is still unverified as a legitimate residence of Council Vice President Binda according to the Secretary of State’s Office and the Snohomish County Auditor’s Office.

The January 27 meeting was also the very same meeting where Council Vice President Binda announced that he had filed the protection order against Lot-

D. **Exclude and Stay Away:** Do not enter, return to, knowingly come within, or knowingly remain within 1,000 feet or other distance (specify) 1000 feet of:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the protected person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protected person’s vehicle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protected person’s school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protected person’s workplace
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protected person’s residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protected person’s adult day program
<input type="checkbox"/> the shared residence	
<input type="checkbox"/> the residence, daycare, or school of	<input type="checkbox"/> the minors named in section 4 above
<input type="checkbox"/> these minors only: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Address: The protected person chooses to (check one):
 keep their address confidential list their address here:
68th Avenue West, Lynnwood WA 98036

The evicted and trespassed Lynnwood address Council Vice President Josh Binda declared as his place of residence in the Protection Order against Lynnwood Times Owner and award-winning journalist Mario Lotmore that was denied on January 28, 2025. Source: Snohomish County Superior Court. Lynnwood Times intentionally redacted part of the physical and email addresses.

5. **Service address.** What is your address for receiving legal documents? You have the right to keep your residential address private. You may use a different mailing address for receiving legal documents.

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Mail: 12th Avenue West, Everett WA 98204
 Email (if you agree to receive legal documents by email): @gmail.com

Council Vice President Josh Binda declared in the Protection Order as his mailing address the address the Lynnwood Times uncovered as his alleged living address. Source: Snohomish County Superior Court. Lynnwood Times intentionally redacted part of the physical and email addresses.

more stating:

“I have officially filed for a protection order against Mario Lotmore, the owner of the Lynnwood Times, for the safety of myself, and my family,” said Binda. “I’m doing this because I don’t want any other public servant, or community member, to be treated the way that I’ve been treated at the hand of his dangerous and gross misinformation, as well as fake journalism. I especially don’t want any other young person who is bold enough to run for office, and take part in our democracy, to be treated the way that I’ve been treated for the past four years by Mario Lotmore and the Lynnwood Times.”

Lynnwood resident Dio Boucsiequez, who led a committee effort to recall Council Vice President Binda back when it surfaced that he misused campaign funds and used his position as Councilman for personal gain, criticized Mayor Frizzell for the City’s slow process verifying the Councilman’s residency.

“Why is the mayor dragging her feet on taking action against Councilmember Binda, who obviously doesn’t live in the City of Lynnwood? A three-month long investigation is unnecessary. The facts are apparent,” wrote Boucsiequez. “Mayor Frizzell’s administration MUST take leadership and act with urgency. Every week that Binda remains on the council, the mayor allows him to take Lynnwood residents’ hard-earned money fraudulently. This must stop.”

MacDonald confirmed with the Lynnwood Times that the authority to take legal action against Binda for allegedly illegally holding public office must be brought forward and approved by the city council.

“The Mayor cannot bring forward lawsuits without the Council’s approval,” MacDonald wrote to the Lynnwood Times. “The City would take direction from the Council if they want to pursue

legal options for a council member.” Council President Coelho, informed the Lynnwood Times that he will be reviewing all the information he has been presented regarding Binda’s residency and his responsibilities as Council President to understand “where they may intersect.” He shared that because the agenda meeting hasn’t occurred, he cannot commit to Binda’s residency as an item for the council’s upcoming meeting scheduled for Monday, February 10.

An article from MRSC, maps out Loss of Residency and the possible courses of action that a Council or the public can take. Below is an excerpt detailing actions if Council Vice President Binda does not voluntarily resign:

“If an official no longer resides in their jurisdiction (and/or district or ward), they may resign voluntarily. If the official does not resign voluntarily, RCW 7.56.010 provides for an action of quo warranto (literally, “what warrant”) that can be filed in the county superior court against any person who “unlawfully” holds public office. This civil action can be filed by any person who has an interest in the office. Since ordinary citizens usually do not have standing to file, the county prosecuting attorney is directed to do so (see RCW 7.56.020) and a person can seek a writ of mandamus, asking the court to order the county prosecuting attorney to take action (Kilduff v. San Juan County (2019)). If the court finds that the official no longer resides in the jurisdiction, it can issue an order that the position is vacant.”

Binda has yet to respond to a Lynnwood Times inquiry if he will resign from the Lynnwood City Council.

BINDA POTENTIAL RESUME EMBELLISHMENTS

In addition to Council Vice President Binda allegedly misleading City of Lynnwood government (and its res-

idents) into where he’s living, his resume — and the biography used on the City Council website as well as the Washington Voter’s Pamphlet — appears to be embellished according to a Lynnwood Times fact check.

Binda claimed to be currently “attending the university of Washington where he is majoring Business Management and minoring in Political Science” on the City’s website for years 2023, 2024, and as of February 4, 2025. However, according to Victor Balta, Media Contact for the University of Washington, a review of the student database (which Balta confirmed shows alumni as well as of the end of December 2024) shows no student having attended the University of Washington under Binda’s name.

Binda claimed to be a practicing Real Estate Agent for John L. Scott however the Lynnwood Times confirmed that his real estate license is inactive and therefore he cannot practice in the State of Washington. There is no record of Binda ever selling a home.

Binda claimed that he worked as an integration engineer for Jeff Bezos’ rocket company Blue Origin. A 2023 court document for wage garnishment confirmed that his last day of employment with Blue Origin was on July 15, 2022. Two independent sources familiar with Blue Origin’s Integration Engineer job title shared that the position does not require a college degree only a high school diploma or equivalent. The Lynnwood Times is currently awaiting confirmation from Blue Origin concerning Binda’s employment and in what capacity.

The Journal 425 – who named Binda their 30 under 30 in 2022 – and King 5 both have previously reported that Binda has “made his living as real estate agent and as an engineer for Blue Origin.”

Binda claimed that he attended Sno-Isle Tech where he attained his aerospace engineering certification and that he was the student body president both years he was there.

Diane Bradford, Communications Director for the Mukilteo School District, did confirm with the Lynnwood Times that Binda attended Kamiak High School, where he graduated from in 2017 and took classes at Sno-Isle TECH. However, Bradford was unable to confirm what certification he was awarded by Sno-Isle nor was she able to divulge his involvement with the student body at Sno-Isle TECH as their database does not indicate that information, according to her.

Separate from Bradford’s response, the Mukilteo School District did confirm, a year earlier, that no one by the name of Josh Binda was ever student body president nor in student government at Kamiak High School. The Lynnwood Times is still awaiting confirmation of Binda’s involvement with Sno-Isle TECH’s Associated Student Body.