

**ETHICS COMPLAINT CITY OF  
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND**

**TO: City Clerk**

**SUBMITTED BY: Name: Salvatore DeRosalia**

**Address:** [REDACTED]  
**Bainbridge Island, WA 98110**

**Telephone:** [REDACTED]

Ethics Complaints concern the actions of individuals in relation to the City of Bainbridge Island Ethics Code.

1. Does the situation for which you are making a complaint involve: (please circle one)

**a. An Elected Official**

**JOE DEETS - Bainbridge Island Council Member, North Ward**

2. Please describe the facts that constitute the violation(s) of the Code of Ethics. (If necessary, please attach additional pages for description)

**During the Saturday, January 12, 2019 North Ward Meeting, Council Member Joe Deets said in front of everyone in the room, "Thanks for being the only diversity in the room, Sal."**

**This was in direct response to another Citizen's comments about the lack of diversity on Bainbridge Island.**

**This is demeaning, racist and discriminatory language. I was humiliated in front of everyone in attendance at the North Ward meeting.**

**What Council Member Deets did was degrading. That type of comment should not be said by anyone, let alone an elected official that is there to represent myself and others.**

**When I asked Joe Deets about this incident, he claimed he did not recall it what he said. His full written response is quoted below.**

**Mayor Kol Medina was also present at the Saturday, January 12, 2019 North Ward Meeting. Mayor Medina remembered the comment Joe levied after being provided with the context.**

**In addition to myself and Mayor Medina, I have spoken to two (2) other witnesses whom were present and remember Council Member Deets comment about me at the North Ward Meeting on Saturday, January 12, 2019. They are more than willing to provide written and/or verbal statement(s) that speak to what they saw and heard from Council Member Deets during the meeting and how it made them feel. Please let me know if you would like me to obtain these statements for the record.**

**Below is Council Member Deets written response:**

**Councilmember Deets' Response:**

*"While I honestly do not recall the language that you sited, I recognize that I can never really know how you felt to what it was I said. The fact that you say you felt uncomfortable is sufficient enough for me to decide that I could have done better, and that I will endeavor to be more mindful of my interactions with you."*

3. Section(s) and subsection(s) of the Code of Ethics that are alleged to have been or would be violated **[optional]**: \_\_\_\_\_

4. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct:

Date: March 26, 2019

Place: City of Bainbridge Island | 280 Madison Avenue N.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

