

127503

RETURN ADDRESS:

Skamania County

FILED
SKAMANIA COUNTY
3 16 97

ADVISOR
GARY M. OLSON

Please Print or Type Information.

Document Title(s) or transactions contained therein:

1. Notice of Tort Claim
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

GRANTOR(S) (Last name, first, then first name and initials)

1. Skamania County
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

☐ Additional Names on page ____ of document.

GRANTEE(S) (Last name, first, then first name and initials)

1. Russom-Hay, Teri
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

☐ Additional Names on page ____ of document.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION (Abbreviated: I.E., Lot, Block, Plat or Section, Township, Range, Quarter/Quarter)

N/A

☐ Complete legal on page ____ of document.

REFERENCE NUMBER(S) Of Documents assigned or released:

N/A

☐ Additional numbers on page ____ of document.

ASSESSOR'S PROPERTY TAX PARCEL/ACCOUNT NUMBER

N/A

☐ Property Tax Parcel ID is not yet assigned.

☐ Additional parcel #'s on page ____ of document.

The Auditor/Recorder will rely on the information provided on the form. The Staff will not read the document to verify the accuracy or completeness of the indexing information.

2. Johnson ✓
3. Jones ✓
4. Direct ✓
5. Direct
6. Direct
7. Direct

- Kerry M. L. Smith
- Eric J. Fjelstad
- Lisa A. Amato
- Oregon and Washington Bars

SMITH, FJELSTAD & AMATO

ATTORNEYS

GRESHAM CORPORATE CENTER I
1550 N.W. EASTMAN PARKWAY, SUITE 180
GRESHAM, OREGON 97030

TELEPHONE: (503) 669-2242
FACSIMILE: (503) 669-2249

RECEIVED

MAR 5 1997

**SKAMANIA COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

March 4, 1997

**VIA FACSIMILE
CERTIFIED MAIL. RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Bradley W. Andersen, Esq.
Mr. Al McKee
Skamania County
P.O. Box 790
Courthouse Building
Stevenson, WA 98648

**Reference: Notice of Tort Claim of Teri Russom-Hay
Against Skamania County**

Dear Mr. Andersen and Mr. McKee:

On behalf of Teri Russom-Hay, this letter constitutes notice pursuant to Washington law of claims by Ms. Russom-Hay against Skamania County and other unknown persons and/or agencies of Skamania County arising out of such persons' and entities' discriminatory treatment of Ms. Russom-Hay. She has resided at all material times in Hood River, Oregon.

The discriminatory treatment is based on Ms. Russom-Hay's status as a "whistleblower" relating to possible criminal acts that she uncovered while working for Skamania County as its Parks and Recreation Director. Such violation failure or failures violated state and federal law protecting whistleblowers and public employees' right of free speech.

The acts constituting Ms. Russom-Hay's causes of action began several years ago and culminated in her termination effective 5:00 p.m. on November 4, 1996. They consist of, without limitation, retaliation for Ms. Russom-Hay's efforts to inform members of the county government of possible fraudulent conduct by Phoenix Reed. This was the second time that Ms. Russom-Hay had informed the County of questionable behavior by another county employee, and the second time that she suffered as a result. Moreover, our investigation revealed that Ms. Russom-Hay may have been terminated at least in part for not living in Skamania County, in addition to the whistleblower/free speech issue.

March 4, 1997
Page 2

Despite requests, we do not know who terminated Ms. Russom-Hay or decided to do so. However, we suspect it was the board of directors.

Please consider this letter a demand for compensation for damages suffered by Teri Russom-Hay as a result of the statutory and constitutional violations noted above, as well as related tort claims, including emotional and mental distress, punitive damages and attorney fees. We believe Ms. Russom-Hay's economic damages to date are at least \$15,000.00. These damages increase every day.

Correspondence concerning this claim should be directed to counsel at the address set out above.

Sincerely,
SMITH, FJELSTAD & AMATO

Eric J. Fjelstad
Eric J. Fjelstad

STATE OF OREGON)
) ss.
County of Multnomah)

I hereby verify that the foregoing is true and accurate to our present knowledge.

Lisa A. Amato
Lisa A. Amato
Of Attorneys for Ms. Russom-Hay

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 5th day of March, 1997.



Mary Welsh Vandenberg
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 1/22/2000

EJF:mwv
c: Ms. Teri Russom-Hay