



**Stephanie Rudat**

Visual Storyteller · October 4 at 6:18 PM

**I think we need to confront disinformation as a whole, but especially as it's being propagated in the wake of a tragedy in our community, so that we can collectively say 'no thanks for the vitriol', and focus on doing well for our community.**

I caught a few comments on Facebook over the past 18 hours that encouraged me to speak up. If we don't call out the disinformation, it has the potential to take on a life as something believable and invested in by our neighbors. We cannot allow disinformation to taint our community. In this case, the disinformation involves falsifying public record.

In Klahanie's FB Group, Amy Ritchie misrepresented the public record to try to paint Mayor Christie Malchow as if she doesn't care about Human Services and, therefore, does not genuinely care about the drug problem affecting residents. In a comment on Christie Malchow's Facebook page, she accused Mayor Malchow of voting against funding human services.

**Opinions are one thing but facts are another. Falsifying facts is consequential.**

I've taken the time to investigate these accusations in reference to the Human Services Study within the March 5, 2019 City Council meeting calling for a vote on a Human Services strategic plan, which was tabled. I also looked into the previous vote regarding funding Human Services which took place on October 2, 2018, calling for funding, and passed with Mayor [Christie Malchow](#) giving a vote of YES. That's how I was able to confirm that the following statements were not an accurate representation of the whole picture and are just an attempt to muddy the reputation of a councilmember up for re-election.

With regard to the claim that Mayor Christie Malchow voted against human services, [Amy Ritchie](#) falsely stated, "You and Tom said you would bring it back up for discussion the next week, but you never did..."

With regard to Mayor Christie Malchow's post about how the community can help address the drug crisis in Sammamish, Amy Ritchie misrepresented the truth by stating: "...about something she voted against 6 months ago is disingenuous and she as a public figure who is making this event political..."

**That is not what happened.** These are complete fabrications that have, in essence, been disseminated across multiple pages and groups on Facebook and is being shared offline. **WE MUST NOT BELIEVE LIES.**

**Here are the exact quotes and voting records so that you can have evidence of fact:**

*Vote for adopting the Human Services Strategic Plan:*

**Mayor Malchow:**

"so the motion is that we table this and Mr. City Manager then, if assuming this passes then we'll probably need to get this on a study session I would suggest"

**Interim City Manager Larry Patterson:**

"...and we may let me get together we'll take a look at those questions I may have some calls that we need to talk with some of you about and we may have that back to you next Tuesday"

***Vote for the 2019-2020 Human Services Grant Funding:***

**Mayor Malchow:** Yea (Voting in favor)

What transpired was a routine governmental procedure and I have included a link to the direct moment in the meeting right here -

<https://youtu.be/qc1QasJ6eQ4?t=6340>

Aside from that, you'll see that just a few months earlier, **Mayor Christie Malchow voted to APPROVE the Human Services Commission's recommendation for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$325,445 in grant funding.** Yes, she actually voted FOR Human Services to be funded.

It was the Interim City Manager who was supposed to bring it back to council for a Study Session. Not Mayor Christie Malchow. If we are going to hold a single person accountable out of all of the commission, staff, and council, why just Christie? Why isn't Amy's husband, **Council Member Jason Ritchie**, mentioned for not following up?

Blaming the Mayor by intentionally misrepresenting and hijacking a community tragedy for political purposes is the final straw for me. **It's not okay to falsify public record, ever.** Just because you do not like someone doesn't give you permission to behave in such a way that fuels distrust within the community.

**Disinformation and dirty politics fracture our community. I want it to stop.**

**Thank you for reading and for helping to squash the lies. Now, please share it. Be a part of crushing disinformation in Sammamish.**