

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. This is Jim Burke with local news and commentary for Thursday, July 18, 2024.

Two stories of law enforcement and first responders having a busy week on the north Olympic Peninsula from the *Peninsula Daily News*: Yesterday, law enforcement officers arrested a man following a high-speed chase on U.S. Highway 101 from Port Angeles to Sequim. Jason Viada, Port Angeles Police Department deputy chief, said police officers responded to a call Wednesday afternoon about an individual “behaving erratically” outside a bank in the 1600 block of First Street in Port Angeles. A responding officer attempted to stop the man, who was not identified by law enforcement, but the officer was unable to keep him from getting into a vehicle. The man then traveled eastbound toward Sequim on U.S. Highway 101. Viada said, “At times, he [traveled] at speeds semi-reasonable, 50 miles per hour, but it did get up to 100.” Viada also said that no one was injured, although there were some “close calls.” He went on to say that officers did attempt to stop the man’s vehicle using spike strips, but the man avoided them. His car spun out and stopped near the exit at U.S. Highway 101 and Sequim Avenue. That’s where officers and Clallam County Sheriff’s Office deputies detained him. The man could face charges of driving under the influence and eluding law enforcement, and he was put in restraints by six law enforcement officers and medical personnel, then loaded into an ambulance. Viada said he will be treated for injuries and then booked into the Clallam County jail. Viada said, “Mental health and drugs; that’s what we’re dealing with every day.”

And, Darrell Ray Healer, 54, climbed into an ambulance at Safeway on Lincoln Street in Port Angeles, and refused to leave at about 4pm Monday. He appeared to be suffering from both drug abuse and mental health issues, according to a press release from the Port Angeles Police Department. The Port Angeles Fire Department and Olympic Ambulance personnel already were on the scene. After Healer said he was homicidal and suicidal, medical personnel requested law enforcement. The second officer to arrive was a trained negotiator and spoke for more than 20 minutes with Healer. During negotiations, Healer gave a detailed description of an alleged handgun. He then reached into his waistband and is quoted as saying, “I’m going to kill you, or you’re going to kill me,” according to the press release. Healer surrendered to officers and was transported to Olympic Medical Center for clearance and then booked into jail for harassment, obstructing, and vehicle prowl. No gun was found.

And the hits keep coming for leaders in Port Townsend City Government. As you have already heard, as the *PT Leader* has published 3 articles already with a former City official leveling accusations against current City Manager John Mauro, the *Peninsula Daily News* has published an article about an ethics complaint against Mayor David Faber: it is edited here for brevity.

A four-point ethics complaint has been filed against Port Townsend Mayor David Faber. In an 18-page document, Reverend Chrystal Cox outlines each of the points, including that Faber is up-zoning city property at Camas Prairie Park for his personal benefit and that of his associates. Cox also alleges that Faber voted for the \$40 million new pool construction motivated by the value it would add to his real estate holdings, that he provided legal services as a special privilege, and that Faber allegedly kept people who he “didn’t like” out of a public meeting in August 2022.

Faber said, “It’s without merit, either factually or legally. This is one of a string of complaints that Chrystal Cox has leveled against numerous people for years, with a dubious factual and legal basis. I anticipate that the ethics complaint will be summarily dismissed, and if not, the findings will be ‘no ethical issues.’”

Cox filed the complaint with Hearing Examiner Phil Olbrecht, an attorney contracted by the city of Port Townsend. Cox stated in an email that Faber has until 5pm of July 26 to respond. While the complaint references several legal violations, all four reference RCW 42.23.070(1), which states, “No municipal officer may use his or her position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself, herself, or others.” You can read the entire article on the *Peninsula Daily News* website <https://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/ethics-complaint-names-port-townsend-mayor/>).

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I’m Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.