

From: Postman, David (GOV) <>

Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 12:46 PM

To: Walker, Russ <>; Ingalls, Christopher <cingalls@king5.com>; Carson, Cheryl <>

Subject: Affordable housing story

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AP just deleted a tweet about the president claiming the U.S. is the only country that grants birthright citizenship. They did that because AP had failed to note in the tweet that the statement was incorrect. Even in the confines of a tweet the news organization felt it essential to fact check a public official.

I wish you had applied those standards to the affordable housing story and press release you have pasted verbatim from two Republican senators.

The statement by Miloscia and O’Ban is packed with falsehoods and doesn’t even accurately reflect KING 5’s reporting. If the piece is promotional to tout your reporting it should be marked as such. It looks particularly bad given that the senators slather praise on the station amidst their unchecked partisan spewing.

There is no effort at fact-checking. (This is a problem with the original story, too. I understand the person you identify as “ARCH’s longtime program manager who administers affordable housing” no longer is employed by the group and wasn’t working for ARCH when the story aired.)

It should have been noted that this was not an official press release from their legislative offices but apparently a campaign release from Miloscia. Senate ethics rules would have prohibited them sending it in their official roles.

Miloscia says: “Now we learn from the excellent work of KING 5 news that staffers in the Washington state House of Representatives and the Governor’s office took advantage of insider knowledge to purchase scarce Bellevue affordable housing for apparent use as a vacation home.”

KING 5 hasn’t reported evidence that anyone took advantage of insider knowledge or is using the condo as a vacation home. But it is there on your website, under Chris’s byline and accompanied, yet again, by your ambush footage.

O’Ban makes a similar baseless claim about insider knowledge.

It is hard for me to understand your coverage of this issue. On the one hand, you surveil a woman and then accost her in the parking lot after work before you even make an effort to sit down and ask her any questions. There is no reason to do that beyond a little bullying and to give you footage that you use to try to make her look like a fleeing felon.

On the other hand, two Republican senators are given free rein to get coverage of what is essentially a campaign ad for Miloscia.

KING 5 is an excellent news organization with some of the finest reporters in Washington state. This story fails on many grounds to live up to those standards. It is easy for you to dismiss our concerns – as you did with Jaime’s note. Yes, we work for the governor and John Aultman does, too. But in our six

years in office it has been exceedingly rare that we would raise such concerns. I hope that can be taken into consideration when weighing the sincerity of our concerns.

dp

(Email from Gov. Chief of Staff David Postman)