ORDER NO. 2026-09
AN ORDER OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION

…to acknowledge the Port of Seattle Commission's Board of Ethics' Findings and Conclusions re: Board of Ethics Case No. 2026-01.

ADOPTED
NOVEMBER 23, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Port of Seattle Commission Board of Ethics ("Board") received complaints in January and February 2026 alleging potential violations of the Port of Seattle Commission Code of Ethics ("Ethics Code") regarding social media use by Commissioner Toshiko Hasegawa (consolidated under Case No. 2026-1).

TEXT OF THE ORDER

The Commission has fully reviewed the Board's Findings and Conclusions, the independent investigator's report, and Commissioner Hasegawa's response, and met with the Board's members on October 27, 2026. After careful deliberation, the Commission has determined that corrective action is not needed in this matter.

The complaints concerned Commissioner Hasegawa's social media posts depicting surveillance images of Port of Seattle Police Department (POSPD) officers. The independent investigator and the Board both found a valid Port business justification for her original January 21, 2026 post, which verified that the officers on the skybridge were POSPD officers, not Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The complaints and Commissioner Hasegawa's actions should be viewed in context. In October 2025, the Commission adopted an updated Welcoming Port Policy Directive, reaffirming that all people, regardless of immigration status, are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness across Port facilities. Responding to concerns about ICE activity at the airport was, and remains, an urgent priority, and clear public messaging about whether ICE or POSPD was present supports the Port's commitment to community safety.

After considering Commissioner Hasegawa's statements, the Commission understands her deep feelings of concern for her impact on the POSPD officers. Commissioner Hasegawa apologized to the Police Chief and offered to apologize to the officers for any hurt or impact the posts caused. The closure of this matter will afford Commissioner Hasegawa the opportunity to publicly apologize.

The manner in which Commissioner Hasegawa received the images did not suggest that they were confidential. Port policies on confidentiality and surveillance footage have since been updated, and the Commission is developing social media guidance.

The Commission receives annual trainings on the Ethics Code. At the Commission's next annual training, we will focus on issues similar to those recommended by the Board. These trainings should include review of new Port policies on confidential information and guidance on acceptable and appropriate use of social media. The Commission reaffirms the Port's RAISE standards with regard to how we treat each other.