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August 5, 2022

Ms. Sarah O'Hare
Presiding Officer, Co-Chair
Spokane Ethics Commission

RE: REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE

Dear Ms. O'Hare,

Thank you for your work on behalf of the citizens of the City of Spokane on the City of Spokane Ethics Commission (the "Commission"). The Commission is a vital part of the checks and balances in ensuring City employees and elected officials are adhering to the highest standard of ethics in complete compliance with SMC 1.04A.030.

I am in receipt of your Pre-Hearing Order scheduling the next hearing for August 31, 2022. After reviewing the Pre-Hearing Order, I respectfully request a continuance. I am traveling for much of August with family and simply do not have the time to prepare properly for the hearing. Further, I am neither an attorney nor an expert in this process and need additional time to gather additional evidence and prepare for the hearing.

For me to answer the question of whether Mr. Beggs or another party did benefit, gain, or profit from his actions in forwarding the confidential proposals, I need to know who Mr. Beggs' source was for the proposals. Mr. Beggs has admitted that he did not receive the materials through official channels from the Administration. My understanding is that is because the materials were not authorized by the Mayor to be released to City Council at that stage in the process. To secure this information, I filed a Public Records Request with the City of Spokane this week. However, it is my understanding that the public records process can often take up to 6 months or even a year to receive the records.

I respectfully request the Commission, as part of its duty to investigate complaints, request that Mr. Beggs provide copies of all his communications related to obtaining the three proposals and scoring sheet prior to the hearing. This will assist in the determination of whether the Administration authorized the public release of the proposals and related materials.

Thank you for your help and consideration. As a taxpayer and citizen of Spokane, I appreciate your service to the community and the Commission's important role. Thank you for understanding that as a private citizen with a full-time career, I need additional time to prepare properly for the hearing.

Sincerely,



Thomas Bassler, Jr. MD