

Stragier, Doris

From: Wilkerson, Betsy
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 4:07 PM
To: Piccolo, Mike
Cc: jeffry@finerwinn.co
Subject: Ethics Complaint

Importance: High

Mike, I am requesting a continuance of the ethics hearing, currently scheduled for November 15, to the first of the year, and corresponding change in all the briefing deadlines. A continuance is warranted for several reasons.

First, and foremost, I have not heard back from legal on its intention to provide legal counsel in this matter. While legal has articulated reluctance to provide counsel, its response really is not grounded in anything but a policy decision, and really doesn't respond to Mr. Wright's arguments on the subject. Before my case is heard, I should at least have a definitive decision on providing counsel.

Second, I strongly object to having all four cases heard together. The facts as they relate to my case are very different from those relating to Council Member Zappone and the staff members. Worse, the pre-hearing order really does not address the fact that there are four respondents, all of whom will be asking different questions of witnesses relating to different circumstances. If the cases are heard together, the testimony is likely to be very confusing and disjointed. I feel that jeopardizes what for me is a very simple case. I think a continuance is essential to separate the cases and prepare a proper hearing order for each case.

Third, this is a very difficult time to be preparing for a hearing. I know CM Zappone has requested a continuance citing budget pressures. These pressures are real, and I agree with him that the timing of the budget consideration alone is reason enough to continue proceedings.

For all these reasons, and the fact that we are presented with a limited board membership and remaining unresolved issues about conflicts of interest, to me justify a continuance. And we did not ask for the first continuance. I am ready to defend these complaints, but I want it done in an orderly fashion and at a time that allows for thoughtful presentations of the issues. This is not the time.

Please convey these requests to the commission for me.

warmest regards,



Betsy Wilkerson

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My Pronouns are: She, Her, Hers y Ella

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