



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

MAURA HEALEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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June 11, 2018

By Email Only

Amy Mah Sangiolo
amysangiolo@gmail.com

Re: Your Public Records Request

Dear Ms. Sangiolo:

This letter is in response to your public records request made pursuant to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, G.L. c. 66, § 10. In a June 11, 2018 email to the Division of Open Government, you requested copies of records held by the Office of the Attorney General (AGO), specifically, a complaint “regarding an alleged open meeting law violation by members of the Newton City Council on May 20th, 2018.”

Enclosed please find the requested records, comprised of two (2) pages, that are responsive to your request and subject to disclosure under the public records law, G.L. c. 66, § 10 and G.L. c. 4, § 7, cl. 26.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hanne Rush".

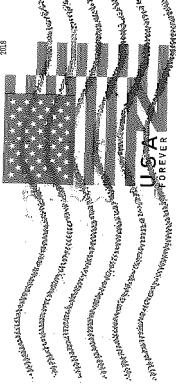
Hanne Rush
Assistant Attorney General
Division of Open Government
Ph: 617-963-2820

enclosures

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

BOSTON MA 021

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Attorney General
ATTN: Division of Open Government
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

02108-15899

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The attached violation of the Open Meeting Law Complaint has been filed with the Division of Open Government, the chair of the public body, President Mark Laredo and with the Municipal Clerk, David Olson.

Violation of the Open Meeting Law Complaint

Public Body that is subject of this complaint:

Newton City Council

Specific person(s) you allege committed the violation:

Several current members of the Newton City Council

Date of alleged Violation:

5/20/2018

Description of alleged violation:

On Sunday, May 20, 2018 a private meeting of the Newton City Council was organized and hosted by Councilor Brenda Noel

- Every female Councilor was invited to the meeting and all but one were in attendance.
- No male Councilors were invited to the meeting therefore there were no male councilors in attendance.
- City Council business, such as a perceived lack of decorum at Council meetings, was discussed at the meeting. Council business was not limited to just this topic.
- There were six members of The Public Facilities Committee present at the meeting. Since there are eight members of the Committee in total the six members present constituted a quorum.
- Full Council budget deliberations and the review and approval of the Capital Improvement Plan, docket item 63-18, were scheduled to begin the next evening Monday, May 21, 2018.
- Capital Improvement items within the Public Buildings Department are subject to the review and approval of the Public Facilities Committee.
- One such item was an affordable housing project proposal for Crescent Street in West Newton. This Capital Improvement item was included in docket item 63-18 and was before the Full Council at the time of the May 20th meeting.
- Three days prior to the private meeting several members of the Public Facilities Committee filed a resolution to amend docket item 63-18 by removing the affordable housing project at Crescent Street. This was budget resolution #9.
- On Thursday May 24th, the fourth day after the private Council meeting, the Full Council voted 12 – 10 to remove the Crescent Street project from the Capital Improvement Plan. Ten out of the twelve female councilors voted as a block to remove the Crescent Street project.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

- All emails between councilors invited and attending the meeting on the 20th should be provided to the city clerk and made public
- Full disclosure by attendees of all council business discussed at the meeting of the 20th
- A new vote of docket item 63-18 should be taken with those Councilors present at the meeting of May 20th forfeiting their right to vote on the item.

Your Contact Information:

This complaint is being filed anonymously by an individual. It is anonymous due to concerns that there will be retribution for filing this complaint.

RECEIVED

JUN 07 2018

OFFICE OF MUNICIPALITY
DIVISION OF OPEN GOVERNMENT