

Thomas J. Bassler, Jr., MD  
1425 E. South Ridge Ct  
Spokane, WA 99223

August 11, 2022

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

RE: REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE

Dear Ms. O'Hare,

I recognize and appreciate that the Ethics Commission is a vital part of the checks and balances in ensuring City of Spokane employees and elected officials adhere to the highest standard of ethics in complete compliance with SMC 1.04A.030. The Commission acknowledged that Council President Beggs' blatant disregard for the confidential RFP process warrants further investigation.

As noted in my complaint and previous letter, I have followed the process allowed to me as a private citizen to obtain the documentary evidence necessary to address the allegations in my complaint. My lack of access to Council President Beggs' email inbox should not be a reason for the Commission to not fulfill its investigative role on behalf of the Citizens of Spokane. I know what occurred and am now asking for a continuance in order to obtain written documentation.

Council President Beggs, in addition to violating the City Ethics Code, is continuing a troubling pattern of violating the separation of powers inherent in the existing form of a strong mayor form of government.

By inserting himself into the shelter selection process, he usurped the Mayor's responsibility to solicit and evaluate shelter proposals in the City contracting process. Great care was taken to ensure that the process is fair and equitable.

The CoC Board was assisting the Mayor in evaluating proposals. Its responsibility was to make a recommendation to the Mayor, not the City Council. In order for the selection evaluation process to remain confidential and fair, it was essential for Beggs and the rest of the City Council to wait for the completion of the selection process, then request and receive the proposals from the Administration.

Not until the selection process was complete and the winning bid selected, would the proposals be a public record.

Further, the whole idea of public contracting is set up, by [SMC 07.06.010](#), and is designed to treat all bidders fairly and equitably. It's a competitive process. Council President Beggs'

interference with this process jeopardized that fairness. Beggs can try to argue he did not have a horse in the race and was just wanting to get information for policy discussions. But he did not follow the proper channels and therefore brings into question the fairness of that process.

I appreciate Beggs' willingness to share his email sources of the proposals and scoring sheet and look forward to receiving those.

In summary, there is clear and convincing evidence that Beggs, exerted undue influence and disclosed confidential information, in violation of both RCW [39.26.030](#) and SMC [Section 01.04A.020](#). For these reasons I respectfully request that the Commission reaffirm its decision to move this complaint forward with the investigatory phase and to grant my request for a continuance so I may have the time to properly prepare and present documentary evidence at the hearing.

Sincerely,

Tom Bassler, Jr. MD