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January 21, 2021

MOTION

WE MOVE that the undersigned move that the City Solicitor issue a legal opinion addressing the following question: "Under the City Charter, dose the Mayor have legal authority to negotiate or direct any development contracts with Developers who want to do business with the City."

Statement

Recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (F.B.I.) and the U.S. Attorney's Office filed three indictments against sitting members of our Council. The U.S. Attorney's Office stated emphatically that there is a culture of corruption within our city government. Not long ago we received an open letter to Mayor Cranley and the City Manager Paula Boggs-Muething from a citizen from the OTR, Danny Klinger stating among other things that the Mayor is involved with negotiating development deals. It is a long-standing principle that our City Manager is solely responsible for the negotiations of development contracts. Under our Charter, this responsibility is a safeguard so the neither the Mayor nor City Council are able to influence the negotiations of development contracts, however this allows our City Manager to perform his or her role with out any political influence. Given the most recent indictments and what appeared to be widespread belief among many of our citizens that corruption exist beyond the indicted councilmembers. We should take every step to preserve the authority of the City Manager without the Mayor or member of City Council to ensure and restore faith in the actions of government.

Councilmember Wendell Young



10/10/2020
