

Harward, Sonya

From: Piagentini, Anthony
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 7:38 AM
To: Ackerson, Brent; Ammon, Lisa E; Arthur, Jecorey; Baker, Phillip; Bass, Trevin; Batshon, Khalil; Bell, LaTonya J.; Bennett, Olivia; Benson, Stuart; Blackburn, Amanda; Blackwell, Rick; Blazis, Heather; Burton, Jared; Carroll, Debbie; Chappell, Jennifer; Derouen, Andrea; Eatherly, Kip; Engel, Robin; Ernest, Edwin; Ethridge, Kyle; Feltner, Sara; Flood, Madonna; Foster, Betsy; Fowler, Cindi; Garton, Michael; Haag, Stephen; Hardin, Tony; Harrington, Scott; Harward, Sonya; Hawkins, Tammy; Horner, Aaron; Howard, Caleb; Hudson, Jeff; Katz, Rebecca; Kramer, Kevin; Lewis, Christopher; Luckett, Amy; Luckett, Daniel; Maddox, Norma; McCraney, Paula; Mulvihill, Patrick; Nichols, Barbara; Noble, Jeffrey; Owen, Andrew; Parker, Marilyn; Philippe, Christella; Piagentini, Anthony; Powell, Brian; Presley, Jasmine; Purvis, Donna; Rashad, Kumar; Reed, Scott; Reno-Weber, Ben; Reynolds, Alex; Ruhe, Betsy; Seum JR, Dan; Shanklin, Barbara; Smith, Emily; Soforo, Justin; Stenberg, Beth; Stewart, Amy; Thieneman, Cindy; Torsky, John; Townes, Jared; Turner, Erica; Washington, Carmen; Webster, Angela; White, Sophia; Winkler, Markus; Wohl, Geoff; Woods, Cheryl; Wright, Brianna
Subject: Abstention for Anthony Piagentini re: ARPA Budget Ordinance

Dear Council Colleagues,

This Thursday, we will be debating and potentially voting on a change to the ARPA allocations. This past Thursday at Budget, I abstained from that vote. The reason is that I have a consulting contract with the Louisville Healthcare CEO Council (aka the CEOc), they are one of multiple recipients of one of the grants being discussed and amended, as such I have a private interest (“employment, board membership, or participant in the management and/or operations of an entity by a Metro Officer or family member of a Metro Officer”) in a recipient of this grant so it is right that I should abstain (as I have done so in the past).

I am emailing you today because, in the Ethics Commission’s findings of fact and conclusions of law which is publicly posted, they discuss my lack of emailed communication 11 months ago as a fault in mine prior to the public meeting where I did in fact abstain. I would note that the Ethics Ordinance does not make any mention of a requirement to email anyone prior to their abstention. Further, in my almost 5 years of office, I can’t recall one time where a colleague emailed me to explain their abstention before doing so in a public meeting. Abstaining in the next public meeting is required by law and I did that last week and will do it again this Thursday. At Thursday’s meeting, I will explain this again on the public record and, as I did this past Thursday, I will ask the President if I can ask if anyone has any follow up questions for me in that public setting before moving forward with the debate. With that said, I would offer this email as the additional documentation of my abstention to ensure this new standard inferred by the Ethics Commission is followed.

Further, I will be asking the President to call on me as soon as the item is motioned and seconded, prior to even the sponsor or Budget Chair Blackwell speaking on it, so I can voice this abstention and give everyone the maximum amount of time to scrutinize this abstention and/or ensure everyone is aware of it with plenty of time before they cast a vote. Again, even though there is no requirement in the law regarding when someone abstains during a vote and many of my colleagues have abstained after the debate is concluded, this came up as an issue as well in my hearing so I will ensure my abstention is logged first and foremost prior to any ongoing debate. I did the same in the Committee hearing and I appreciated Chair Blackwell’s indulgence on that matter.

I would ask that if anyone has any evidence or information that is contrary to what I am sharing or that draws into question the way in which I am attempting to comply with the law, to please inform me, the Council President Winkler,

and/or the County Attorney's office at your earliest convenience. I would be happy to clarify anything you have concerns with as soon as possible before Thursday's vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anthony Piagentini



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