



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 11, 2014

Ms. Denise Williams, Chairman  
Bloomington Board of Election Commissioners  
115 East Washington Street, Room 403  
Bloomington, Illinois 61702

RE: Open Meetings Act Request for Review – 2014 PAC 27844

Dear Ms. Williams:

The Public Access Bureau has received a Request for Review under section 3.5(a) of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) (5 ILCS 120/3.5(a) (West 2012)) from Mr. Bruce Meeks alleging that the Bloomington Board of Election Commissioners (Board) violated the provisions of OMA by failing to post an agenda on its website for the February 4, meeting. Mr. Meeks's Request for Review is enclosed for your reference.

This office has determined that further action is warranted. Section 2.02(a) of OMA (5 ILCS 120/2.02(a) (West 2012)) requires a public body to post an agenda for each regular meeting at the principal office of the public body and at the location where the meeting is to be held at least 48 hours in advance of the holding of the meeting. Additionally, a public body that has a website that the full-time staff of the public body maintains shall also post on its website the agenda of any regular meetings of the governing body of that public body. In order to further evaluate this matter, we ask the Board or its representative respond in writing to the allegations in Mr. Meeks's Request for Review. In your response, please identify when and where the agenda and notices for the February 4, 2014, meeting were posted. In addition, please verify if there is a full-time staff member responsible for maintaining the Board's website.

As required by section 3.5(b) of OMA (5 ILCS 120/3.5(b) (West 2012)), please provide this information to our office within 7 business days after receipt of this letter. As we review this matter, we will notify you if we require additional records or information. Please note that under OMA, this office is required to forward a copy of any response from a public body to the requester and provide the requester an opportunity to reply. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2012). OMA provides, however, that the Public Access Counselor may not disclose to the requester or the public records obtained from a public body for purposes of addressing a request for review. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(g) (West 2012)).

Ms. Denise Williams  
February 11, 2014  
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If you have any questions, please contact me at (217) 524-7958.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shari L. West". To the right of the signature, there are initials "SH" written in a similar cursive style.

SHARI L. WEST  
Assistant Attorney General  
Public Access Bureau

cc: *Via electronic mail*  
Mr. Bruce Meeks  
brucehelp@yahoo.com

**Access, Public**

**From:** Bruce Meeks <brucehelp@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 02, 2014 12:09 PM  
**To:** Access, Public  
**Subject:** Request for Review - BEC

**RECEIVED**

FEB 03 2014

Public Access  
Counselor

27844

**OMA – REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR (PAC)**

**\*\*\*Note to Requester: You must file a Request for Review within 60 days of the date of the alleged violation of the Open Meetings Act (OMA). If the alleged OMA violation occurred more than 60 days ago, the Public Access Counselor cannot accept your Request for Review.**

Name of Requester: Bruce J. Meeks  
Requester's Contact Information  
Address: 1402 Wright St.  
Telephone Number: 309 807 4299  
E-mail Address [brucehelp@yahoo.com](mailto:brucehelp@yahoo.com):

**I hereby submit this request for the Public Access Counselor to review this potential Open Meetings Act (OMA) violation.**

Date of Alleged Violation of OMA by Public Body: February 2, 2014 - February 4, 2014

Name of Public Body: The Board of Election Commissioners for Bloomington, Illinois

Please provide a summary of the facts supporting your allegations that the public body failed to comply with the Open Meetings Act

Violation of The Open Meeting Act - 5 ILCS 120/2.02) (from Ch. 102, par. 42.02 (a)A public body that has a website that the full-time staff of the public body maintains shall also post on its website the agenda of any regular meetings of the governing body of that public body.

The meeting for February 4, 2014 at 10:00 AM prior to 10:00 AM Sunday February 2, 2014 and after 10:00 AM till the transmittal of this request there is no agenda posted on their website. Both an .jpg and Html files are attached of screen shots taken after 10:00 AM Sunday February 2, 2014. Thus, violating the Open Meetings Act in not having the agenda posted and not posted prior to the 48 hours of the meeting.

The attached files supports that this public body does have a website and that the staff which is full time can and does post, updates and makes changes to the website of that public body.

If the allegation(s) are found to be violations that with emphasis added in the opinion include recommendations that the web page related to meetings show an actual map such as Google map of the location and also a map of the office building with it showing the office location for better public knowledge, awareness and access. That also the location of any and all the physical posting of the agenda on the premises of the what is referred as the Government Building 115 E. Washington St., Room 403 Bloomington, Illinois, That a new additional location of the physical posting also occur at the City of Bloomington City Hall 109 E. Olive Bloomington, Illinois with that map location also be on the website. With information stating that indeed it is not a violation to post an agenda many hours ahead of the 48 hours set by State Statue.

The Board of Election Commissioners for Bloomington, Illinois has posted on a their website that they will follow this:  
"Board Meeting Schedule

"Board meetings in 2014 will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Board of Elections on the following dates: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 3, Oct. 7, Nov. 3, Dec. 2."

**Complying with**

Every public body shall give public notice of the schedule of regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar or fiscal year and shall state the regular dates, times, and places of such meetings)

It is further alleged this is not the first instance of this occurring and request that the meeting for February 4, 2014 be canceled and re-scheduled with proper notices given 30 days prior to the meeting be posted according the laws of the State of Illinois. By having this promptly filed before the meeting gives the public body time to cancel and the follow the Open Meetings Act.

Additionally - That all staff, appointed officials, legal advisers and elected officials working with, advising or have any oversight of this commission be verified they have or have not completed Open Meetings Training and have those compliance documents available and sent to the Attorney Generals Office - Public Access Counselor for review.

It is my recommendation that all future meetings be moved to a more accessible and many other positives for the public to be at the council chambers at City Hall 109 E. Olive. Where these meetings can be better accessed by the live streaming video and/or video recording of the meetings that can be accessible by the voters and citizens any time they have the time in a more welcoming way that the current approach and location offers.

Signature of Requester: Bruce J. Meeks  
February 4, 2014

## Access, Public

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**From:** Bruce Meeks <brucehelp@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 02, 2014 12:12 PM  
**To:** Access, Public  
**Subject:** Request for Review - BEC (w/attachments)  
**Attachments:** BEC Meetings.htm; www\_becvote\_org 1312014\_10\_26PMCST.doc

Two Attachments included in this email.

Website is

<http://www.becvote.org/minutes.htm>

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**From:** Bruce Meeks <brucehelp@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "publicaccess@atg.state.il.us" <publicaccess@atg.state.il.us>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 2, 2014 12:08 PM  
**Subject:** Request for Review - BEC

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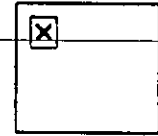
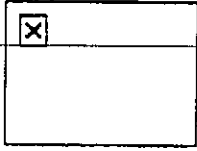
Signature of Requester: Bruce J. Meeks  
February 4, 2014

# City of Bloomington, Illinois

## Board of Election

### Commissioners

115 E. Washington St., Room 403, PO Box 2400 Bloomington, IL 61702



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#### Agendas and Minutes

Minutes will be posted within 7 days of approval of such minutes. Minutes will remain posted for no less than 60 days.

Minutes - [October 1, 2013](#)

Minutes - [November 5, 2013](#)

Minutes - [December 3, 2013](#)

Agendas will be posted no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Agenda - [October 1, 2013](#)

Agenda - [November 5, 2013](#)

Agenda - [December 3, 2013](#)

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*Email us:*

*becvote (@) becvote.org*  
*(leave out spaces)*

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City of Bloomington, Illinois  
**Board of Election Commissioners**



1114 W. Third Street, Bloomington, IL 61701 | Phone: 309.733.1100

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