



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 20, 2019

The Honorable Chris Koos
Mayor
Town of Normal
11 Uptown Circle
P.O. Box 589
Normal, Illinois 61761

RE: OMA Request for Review – 2019 PAC 56747

Dear Mayor Koos:

The Public Access Bureau has received the enclosed Request for Review in which Ms. Karyn Smith alleges that the Town Council of the Town of Normal (Council) violated the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Specifically, Ms. Smith alleges that the Council denied her the right to address the Council at its February 4, 2019, meeting because she wished to address a topic which was not on the agenda. We construe the Request for Review as alleging violations of section 2.06(g) of OMA (5 ILCS 120/2.06(g) (West 2016)).¹ We have determined that further action is warranted.

In order to further evaluate this matter, please provide a detailed written response to the allegations raised by Ms. Smith's Request for Review. In your response, please clarify whether the Council provided an opportunity for public comment during the meeting held on February 4, 2019, refused to allow a member of the public to address the Council during the February 4, 2019, meeting, and, if so explain the reason for the denial. Please also provide this office with a copy of the minutes (draft form, if necessary), agenda, and any recording of the February 4, 2019, meeting, as well as a copy of the Council's rules regarding public comment.

This information must be submitted to our office within seven (7) business days after receipt of this letter. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(b) (West 2016). As we review this matter, we will

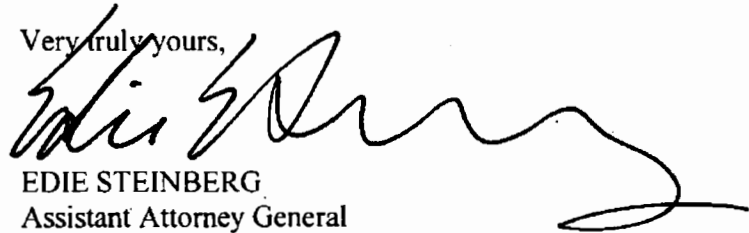
¹Section 2.06(g) of OMA requires any person to be "permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body."

The Honorable Chris Koos
February 20, 2019
Page 2

notify you if we require additional records or information. Please note that under OMA, "[t]he Public Access Counselor shall forward a copy of the answer or redacted answer, if furnished, to the person submitting the request for review. The requester may, but is not required to, respond in writing[.]" 5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2016). **If you claim that any portion of your written response is confidential, please send two versions of your response letter: a complete copy for this office's confidential review and a redacted version suitable for this office to forward to the requester.**

Please contact me at (312) 814-5201 if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



EDIE STEINBERG
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

Enclosure

cc: *Via electronic mail*
Ms. Karyn Smith

PRIVATE INFO

PRIVATE INFO

PRIVATE INFO

cc: *Via electronic mail*
Ms. Pamela Reece
City Manager
Town of Normal
11 Uptown Circle
P.O. Box 589
Normal, Illinois 61761
preece@normal.org