

February 3, 2020 Minutes:

Public Records Act Forum

Commissioner Shabazz stated that he wanted to follow up on a previous request for an agenda item at the next Commission meeting about organizing a forum or method of communicating about the Public Record Act; if the matter needs to be placed on an agenda to make it happen, he would like it done; if not, he would be interested in working with staff to host something to inform the community about the Public Records Act.

The Chief Assistant City Attorney stated the City Attorney's office would be happy to work with Commissioner Shabazz to set it up; the matter can be placed on the agenda or Commissioner Shabazz could meet with the Attorney's office to figure out something; the Attorney's office would be happy to do it.

Chair Schwartz stated that he would welcome having an agenda item if there is a proposal for something the Commission could do; he is open to any kind of proposal; it is a great idea.

The Chief Assistant City Attorney stated both can be done; Commissioner Shabazz can meet with the Attorney's office and the matter can be placed on an agenda to do something more formal.

Commissioner Shabazz stated that he shared the suggestion at the last meeting and did not follow up to make sure it was on the agenda tonight; he does not know the level of detail needed for an agenda item.

Commissioner Tilos stated something might need to be done outside of the agenda since the next meeting is not until October.

The Chief Assistant City Attorney stated the Attorney's office is happy to meet with any Commissioners about the type of forum.

Chair Schwartz stated both can be done.

Commissioner Pauling suggested a subcommittee work on the forum; inquired whether the forum should be held by summer before getting too far into the election cycle; inquired whether the forum would be done by June.

Commissioner Shabazz responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Pauling inquired whether a subcommittee can be formed.

The Chief Assistant City Attorney stated that he is a little reluctant to have the Commission create a subcommittee because the matter is not on the agenda; he suggests meeting with Commissioner Shabazz to set something up that could involve the Commission; the forum could be noticed as a Commission meeting; the forum could be done in June if desired.

Chair Schwartz stated having a subcommittee could be included as part of a proposal at the next meeting.

Commissioner Little inquired whether Commissioner Shabazz is interested in educating people; stated that she would not want to stand in the way of Commissioner Shabazz doing outreach; questioned the need for a formal process.

Chair Schwartz stated a formal process is not needed, but the next agenda could include a formal Public Records Act communications project or subcommittee if desired by Commissioner Shabazz.

Commissioner Shabazz stated the distinction is wanting to utilize the platform of the Open Government Commission to educate people about the Public Records Act; stated that he will follow up with the City Attorney's office; hopefully the entire Commission can be invited.

December 18, 2019 Minutes:

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Shabazz expressed his appreciation for all the work of staff regarding his complaint as a member of the public; stated he would like to use his role as a Commissioner to make the Public Records Act more available to Alamedans and welcomes suggestions from other Commissioners and staff on ways to do that.

The Chief Assistant City Attorney stated staff could agendaize the issue at the February meeting.