



Mikki Huntsman <huntsmanm@reno.gov>

Jardon Resignation Letter

Jenny Brekhus <brekhusj@reno.gov>

Thu, Aug 11, 2022 at 11:06 AM

To: Neoma Jardon <jardonn@reno.gov>

Cc: Mikki Huntsman <huntsmanm@reno.gov>, Jenny Brekhus <brekhusj@reno.gov>

Dear Ms. Jardon:

This email message is sent in response to obtaining a copy of your resignation letter from the Reno City Council.

Upon review, it appears that you will be eligible to sit in on tomorrow's Council meeting at which the Council will decide how to fill your seat. As the resigning member, Charter Section 1.070 allows you to participate in the decisions to be made at the meeting.

However, for the interest of the Council as a fair and impartial body, I urge you to not participate. The reason why I make this request follows.

You have stated that you will begin a new job next week as the Executive Director of the Downtown Reno Partnership. As you know, the Downtown Reno Partnership is the contracted entity for the City's Business Improvement District (BID) and will receive almost \$4M in downtown generated assessment revenues this year to fulfill the important work outlined in the contract.

In addition, a critical junction will come next year as the BID enters its fifth year and the Council must evaluate area service levels per NRS.271.3695(4). This is above and beyond the annual levy of assessments to our downtown property owners. In fact, I have a calendar event reminder for this month, to follow up with your predecessor about this review. He and I mutually agreed upon holding a preliminary discussion and I offer you the same opportunity. Due to this arrangement, I interpret the position that you are about to take on subject to our lobbyist regulation requirement.

Your participation in the impactful decision of how a new member to the body is seated in advance of important financial discussions your organization will be holding with members of the Council is awkward and puts the Council in a difficult role to engage with you as a colleague in transition. The revolving door from a governance role to a lobbyist/contractor role is one often regulated by cooling off periods. The reason such periods are required is to eliminate a circumstance or appearance of circumstance that contracting decisions are made on the basis of prior colleague relationships and not on the services a contractor provides. For this reason, I think a voluntary cooling off period of not participating tomorrow, is beneficial to the Council's future engagement with you in your new role.

Finally, as the decision before the Council tomorrow is exceptional and not routine, I think that your non-participation is beneficial to the new Ward 5 member. Obviously, that person will have the chance to earn the seat because of your resignation decision. That person who will represent a large swath of downtown may not even be aware of the interaction that they will be having with you over the upcoming BID issues. I think that you should entirely step away from making decisions how that person is selected at this time so as to not create an impression that the new Ward 5 member, owe you an informal personal obligation for setting the path for them to gain the seat.

Thank you for your review of this request and I wish you the best. The clerk is copied on this letter in order to upload it into tomorrow's record.

jb

Begin forwarded message:

[Quoted text hidden]

