



City of Bellevue
115 E Pine Street | PO Box 825
Bellevue, ID 83313
208-788-2128 Fax 208-788-2092
www.bellevueidaho.us

March 25, 2026

Council Member Suzanne Wrede
City of Bellevue

Re: Formal Notice of Violation – Idaho Open Meeting Law

Dear Council Member Wrede:

Upon advice of our legal counsel this letter serves as formal notice regarding your recent email transmitted to a quorum of the Bellevue City Council concerning City business and matters pending before the Council.

Your communication constitutes a violation of the Idaho Open Meeting Law, Idaho Code § 74-201 et seq. Specifically, by directing a detailed and substantive email to a quorum of the governing body addressing disputed facts, legal authority, and policy positions on a pending matter, you engaged in deliberation outside of a properly noticed public meeting in violation of Idaho Code § 74-203.

The Open Meeting Law expressly prohibits governing body members from using serial or collective communications—including email—to deliberate toward a decision outside of a noticed public meeting. Your email was not informational in nature; it advocated positions, challenged legal conclusions, and sought to influence Council action. As such, it falls squarely within the conduct prohibited by statute.

As an elected official, you are charged with actual knowledge of and adherence to these requirements. Violations of the Open Meeting Law may subject members of a governing body to civil penalties under Idaho Code § 74-208, including fines for knowing violations. Repeated or intentional violations expose both the individual member and the City to significant legal risk, including the potential invalidation of subsequent actions taken by the Council.

Accordingly, you are hereby directed as follows:

1. Immediately cease and desist from engaging in any further email or other communications directed to a quorum of the City Council that discuss, advocate, or seek to influence decisions on matters within the Council's jurisdiction outside of a properly noticed public meeting.
2. Refrain from responding to or further disseminating the subject email thread or engaging in any follow-up communications with other Council members concerning the matters addressed therein, except during a duly noticed public meeting.
3. Direct any future concerns or materials intended for Council consideration through the City Clerk or City Attorney for proper placement on a public meeting agenda.

Be advised that, due to the nature of this violation and the need to ensure compliance with Idaho law, this matter is being referred to the Blaine County Prosecuting Attorney for review and potential enforcement action pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-208.



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The City will not tolerate circumvention of the Open Meeting Law. Compliance is mandatory, not discretionary.

This letter will be retained as part of the City's official record.

Sincerely,

Christina Giordani
Mayor, City of Bellevue

cc: City Clerk
City Attorney