

April 28, 2025

Alderman Paul Clifford
Recreation Committee Chairperson
City of Rutland

RE: Open Meeting Law Complaint — Violation on April 28, 2025

Dear Alderman Clifford and Members of the Recreation Committee,

I am submitting this complaint under 1 V.S.A. § 314(c) regarding a violation of Vermont's Open Meeting Law that occurred during the Recreation Committee meeting held on April 28, 2025.

Specifically:

- The agenda for the meeting warned only "Recreation Department Issues In Committee."
- At the meeting, the committee took action on a substantive matter not included on the agenda: a motion was made and passed unanimously (5–0) recommending that the Mayor reconsider the appointment of Kim Peters as the City's Recreation Superintendent.
- This action was not warned to the public in advance, as required by 1 V.S.A. § 312(d) and (f).
- The action was not taken to address an emergency, and thus cannot be justified under the emergency exception in 1 V.S.A. § 312(f).

The failure to warn this matter deprived the public of proper notice and an opportunity to participate in a matter of significant public interest, in direct violation of Vermont's Open Meeting Law.

Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 314(b)(4), I respectfully request the following cure:

- That the action taken on April 28, 2025 regarding the Recreation Superintendent be declared **void**;
- That the Recreation Committee properly warn and notice any future discussions or actions regarding the Recreation Superintendent in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 312;
- That the Committee re-commit to strict compliance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law moving forward.

Please consider this complaint in good faith and respond within the statutory timeline (10 calendar days), as required by law.

Sincerely,

Michael Talbott, Ph.D.
michaeltalbott@gmail.com