



Sheela Amin <sheela.amin@como.gov>

Fwd: Observations/Parting thoughts, City Council Meeting 1/22/19

1 message

City Of Columbia Ward6 <ward6@como.gov>
To: sheela.amin@como.gov

Thu, Jan 24, 2019 at 5:08 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bill Davis <bill8davis@gmail.com>
Date: January 22, 2019 at 2:26:00 PM CST
To: mayor@como.gov, ward1@como.gov, ward2@como.gov, ward3@como.gov, ward4@como.gov, ward5@como.gov, ward6@como.gov, john.glascock@como.gov, "Pratt, Pat" <pprat@columbiatribune.com>, Lynn Maloney <lynnmaloney11@gmail.com>, "Sean Spence, GM" <sean@kopn.org>
Subject: Observations/Parting thoughts, City Council Meeting 1/22/19

Prior to coming to Columbia I was encouraged by my to wife to think about what service I could render to the Columbia community. My career was law enforcement, the judicial system and as a regulatory compliance policy developer.

When I arrived in Columbia I decided to serve as a member of the police review board. When I joined the board I decided to spend a few months learning the process and the players. After my first year I determined the following: 1) the board had spent no time reviewing or discussing police policies 2) on the cases that did come forward many members were making decisions based on gut feelings and not on police policy 3) members who had been to police oversight training weren't utilizing that training to improve the boards knowledge 4) There were a number of speakers but their subject matter provided little to improve the boards knowledge of overall police operations 5) during most meetings the city staff provided oftentimes found ways obstruct versus supporting the board and inserted themselves into the discussion all too often (nine months ago it was recommend the board purchase a banner for public appearances at meetings. City staff derailed all efforts to make a purchase to this day.)

The following are recommendations I feel would improve the boards purpose.

1. Institute term limits for chair and vice chair to encourage development of all members.
2. Many police agencies across America have an oversight bureau that provides independent review of policy and practice, and do not rely solely on an internal department investigation.

A review board can be a valuable asset to a community, but not if it is impotent as this board seems to currently be.

Thanks to Mr. Ruffin and Mr. Thomas for always responding to my request for a face to face.

Best regards,

Bill Davis