

April 7, 2025

Jay Evans
Interim City Manager
5211 Maryland Way
Brentwood, TN 37027

RE: Ethics Complaint

Dear Jay,

Please consider this my written statement in response to Rebecca Martinez's ethics complaint.

The complaint centers around an October 26, 2024, email I sent in response to a question from a Brentwood citizen expressing his opposition to a taxpayer-funded racquetball facility. Instead of replying only to the citizen, I hit "reply all," and that reply inadvertently included other commissioners. When I realized what had occurred, I immediately asked that the email be recalled to avoid confusion about whom it was directed. The City of Brentwood Technology Director has previously instructed city leaders at a public meeting that all city commissioners can use the 'recall a message' option. I did not seek an exemption or privilege unavailable to all commissioners. I did not violate any rules. If I was clumsy in initially replying to all recipients, that is a human error and not an ethical violation.

This is the entire factual basis of the ethics complaint.

The ethics complaint states that I have been accused of violating [Brentwood's Municipal Code Section 2.233](#)—Use of position or authority, about (b), which states *that an official or employee may not use or attempt to use his position to secure any privilege or exemption for himself or others that is not authorized in this article or by the Charter, general law, ordinance, or policy of the city*. The allegation does not state how I used my position to secure a privilege or exemption.

I limit my statement to the allegation that I violated the City of Brentwood Municipal Code. The other allegations of state statutes are not appropriate subjects for consideration at the Brentwood level, as they pertain to state laws. To be clear, I have not violated any state statute concerning open meetings. On the afternoon of October 26, 2024, I immediately spoke with the Brentwood City Attorney for guidance to ensure my human error was not violating the open meetings law.

I would like to request how the complainant, Rebecca Martinez, was aware of the October 26, 2024, email between commissioners and why the complaint was just now filed more than five months later. It should also be known that Martinez was the co-chair of the Brentwood Racquet Facility Ad Hoc Committee.

Ironically, this issue is being raised less than one month before the May 6 City of Brentwood Election. A final matter to consider is that the Board of Commissioners will address this issue just weeks before the election. My opponents' voting on this issue would be a political

advantage and constitute a conflict of interest. Our country has seen enough weaponization of law for political purposes. The Brentwood Commission should be above that.

I have always conducted myself with integrity and within moral and legal standards. This is the first time an ethics complaint has been filed against me since I have served Brentwood over the past sixteen years.

Sincerely,

Rhea Little

Cc: Jeffrey D. Moseley
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