

INITIAL STATEMENT

We shouldn't be here today, and it shouldn't be necessary for me to "defend" myself from censure by my colleagues.

In two days we will celebrate the fourth of July, Independence Day. On that day we recognize the courage of our Founding Fathers who fought to secure our rights - including free speech, and citizen representation in the bodies which govern us. If it is necessary for me to appeal to our Judicial Branch to ensure these rights are DEFENDED I will do so.

At our regular session one week ago today, I POLITELY asked three of my colleagues to recuse themselves from the Arrowswest (Weidner) Apartment hearing. I did this due to a POSSIBLE APPEARANCE of a conflict of interest resulting from each of them receiving a \$2,500 campaign donation from the applicant - Weidner.

Three years ago the citizens of District 1 elected me to be THEIR REPRESENTATIVE on City Council. This project is in District 1. I believed, and I still believe, that the majority of citizens from our district wanted me to ask for those recusals due to the APPEARANCE that some members of council might not be

COMPLETELY impartial. I represent those citizens. No matter how shrill the response has been to that simple request I was PROPERLY doing what I was elected to do - representing the citizens of District 1, (and actually the entire city) when I asked it.

I did not impugn anyones integrity, I did not accuse anyone of anything. I SIMPLY, and POLITELY, asked three council members to recuse themselves from the hearing.

I have recused myself from a land use item before (the water tank above Mountain Shadows). Was I impugning my own integrity? NO. Was I accusing myself of something? NO. I was recognizing that to one of the parties involved in that hearing there might be the APPEARANCE that I would not be fully impartial. That is all I was asking of my colleagues.

This Special Session called to censure and remove me from my committee assignments is a huge overreaction - and I believe some of it's actions may be unconstitutional. I ask you to reconsider what you are doing, vote NO on this censure, and adjourn this session.

STATEMENT BEFORE VOTE TO REMOVE ME FROM COMMITTEES

I find it ironic that when being censured and punished for my concern about the APPEARANCE OF A POTENTIAL “conflict of interest”, those who will be voting on my censure and removal from boards and committees already know which board and committee assignments they will receive if I am censured and removed. I would say that ironically, this also has the APPEARANCE OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST. This is similar to a jury which knows that if they convict the accused then Juror A will receive his house, Juror B will receive his car, Juror C will receive what is in his bank account. This does not appear to be impartial.