

Why are we meeting today?

- It is clear that CM Donelson was in violation of Council rules. This was not the first time some of us found his actions questionable, but many of us gave him grace in the past. However, he crossed a line with his recent actions.
- I understand that CM Donelson is representing some of his constituents, and thought that asking about campaign contributions was representative of what they think.
- However, he certainly was not representing the viewpoint of all of them. I am a resident of his district and I can tell you many of his constituents are not aligned with his anti-growth campaign or his overall approach.
- Last Tuesday, comments were made that question the integrity, credibility, and trust of Council. This was done in retaliation for not supporting a building height limit the day before.
- Rather than expressing concern for that decision to each of us privately, or a concern over a perceived conflict of interest with his colleagues in an appropriate manner, he chose to make it a public display.
- As an example of understanding the difference between political theatrics and actual collaborative, productive work, in his press conference he shared an example of a similar, private conversation with CM Henjum in the past that actually resulted in a positive outcome.
- CM Donelson claims he didn't take developer money. This is simply not true, making his claims about other council members rather hypocritical. The perception that he can be impartial but the rest of us cannot, is a fascinating premise.
- Unlike Donelson who apparently represents a very specific group of people, I was elected at-large to serve the entire city - not the west side, not pro-growth, not downtown, but the interests of the greater good.
- I took an oath to do precisely that when I was sworn in to this position, and I take that very seriously. I will continue to make decisions that are in the best interests of our residents, current and future and I want to leave a positive legacy for the next generations.
- Because the majority of us find his actions inappropriate and disingenuous, we are here to discuss if there should be any consequences for his behavior.

Why should we take action with this meeting?

- City Council functions as a Body, not a group of single individuals. As a Body, we represent the entire city at large, not only certain segments or viewpoints. This apparent division with CM Donelson impacts our ability to effectively govern and lead as a body.
- He made contradictory statements that we should simply identify the perceived conflict, but that we would not necessarily have to recuse ourselves. He also stated that we need to recuse because of the perceptions. I need to understand his intent and which of these statements he believes to be true.
- CM Donelson alleged that the "jury was stacked" on the Arrowswest matter. Since this matter is a public hearing and we have not yet held that hearing, pertinent information has not yet been presented. As a result, he has no idea how I would vote, I have no idea how I would vote, because I am impartial and I do approach each of these issues with an open mind.

What action should we take?

- I call for a public apology from CM Donelson today. Not an apology to me as an individual, but to the Body of City Council, to the People of Colorado Springs, and to the community at large.
- If no apology is forthcoming, then we need to seek other remedies.
- CM Donelson represents the Body of Council on a number of boards and commissions. He betrayed our trust and is no longer conducting himself in a way that aligns with the majority of council. So, it seems to me, one option is to remove this responsibility since he does not align with the Body of Council.
- I look forward to hearing what my colleagues have to say.