

City Council today will be holding a discussion and vote on the violation of the Rules and Procedures of City Council by Councilmember Donelson where the majority of City Council would like to address recent behavior as a body. The process we will follow is each Councilmember will make opening remarks for about 5 minutes each. There will be NO clock, but I ask Councilmembers to refrain from a dissertation. Councilmember Donelson has elected to speak first after I read the Resolution and my remarks. I then go to Councilmember remarks followed by a Motion, additional discussion if necessary and

then vote on the Motion. There are no public comments today. **The items on today's agenda are administrative, and not legislative or quasi-judicial.** After that, we will discuss the Ratification of Councilmember Liaisons, and vote.

**Read the Resolution:**

As Council President, I am going to begin with my remarks before moving on to others. This is a sad day for me on City Council. Councilmember Donelson and I have served together my entire time on Council, and I have long considered him a friend. I do not want to be here, and I do not want to take these actions.

But, allegations against individual Councilmembers have to be addressed. As a Council we may not always agree on issues, but I know we all want the best for our citizens and city. The oath we took to the US Constitution, Colorado State Constitution and Colorado Springs City Charter are in my thoughts always. This is one of those times. I am obligated to follow our rules and procedures vested in the Council President. Our rules and procedures prohibit Councilmembers from making personal attacks and impugning the motives of any other councilmember's argument or vote and states that

councilmembers should develop an atmosphere of civility. We should act with decency toward one another and not impugn or demean another Councilmember. This includes comments that may be perceived as derogatory or defamatory. This is not a free speech issue. We have to work together on very challenging issues and to violate these codified rules can tear us apart. As Council President I am responsible for maintaining decorum.

I will always defend Councilmembers and citizens' rights to express themselves. Which I have done for both Councilmember Donelson and

others in the past, which I hope they would attest to.

Individual Councilmembers are required to remain impartial before public hearings and disclose any conflicts of interest or ex parte communications. Individual Council members are responsible for recusing themselves when necessary, it is their decision alone. No one can compel a Councilmember to recuse themselves and another Councilmember should not be demanding a fellow Councilmember recuse themselves or call them out. According to the City Code of Ethics, campaign

contributions are not a conflict of interest. Campaign contributions are public record and can be found on the City of Colorado Springs website, under the City Clerk page. This information is not difficult to find by design. Councilmember Donelson could have had a reasonable public policy discussion regarding campaign finance at any time, without implying other Councilmembers were corrupt. In the three and half years I have served on Council with Councilmember Donelson, this is the first time this request has been made by Dave at a public hearing, and I find the timing of that request was a direct

result of the previous days choice by his colleagues not to advance his Building Heights Resolution. If this conversation had been brought forward in a manner that was productive and truly had the goal of being transparent, there would have been constructive outcomes suggested, such as highlighting campaign contributions in multiple places on the website, having an agendaized discussion at a Work Session regarding campaign finance and ways the City Council could further public trust through new policies. Instead, the decision was

made to surprise his colleagues on the dais.

Dave and I agree on many things, and I did not want this to happen. I have tried to reason with Dave by acknowledging we both got heated last week as we all do. I have apologized for things I have said on the dais before to both citizens and Councilmembers and moved on. But his actions implied to citizens that certain members of the Council are corrupt and that could not be further from the truth.

I do not want to censure you Dave, a sincere acknowledgement of the effects of your words on your fellow

councilmembers today would go along  
way to making this right.