

**THIS COMMUNICATION IS NOT FOR ANY FORM OF SOCIAL OR PUBLIC MEDIA.  
PLEASE DO NOT POST ON ANY SOCIAL OR PUBLIC MEDIA.**

This communication is sent to the mayor of Bellefontaine Neighbors by members of the Board of Aldermen to Cease and Desist all actions planned by the mayor to reverse the vote of President of the Board of Aldermen that took place on May 16, 2024, at the public Board of Aldermen Meeting at Bellefontaine Neighbors City Hall.

On May 16, 2024, the mayor reversed her appointment of Philip D. Luken to be police chief based on the fact that the vote taken by the BOA at the May 2 meeting was not a legal majority. The vote was (4) yes, (3) no, and (1) abstain. Bellefontaine Ordinance 2-31 states this appointment requires a majority of the members of the Board. This is an 8-member board, therefore, the majority vote required is 5 members.

The next item on the agenda was to select the Board president. The vote was (4) Gillespie, (3) Thomas (1) abstain. Bellefontaine Ordinance 2-17(b) states a majority vote of the Board of Aldermen is necessary for the appointment. The ordinance further states in the event of a tie (4-4), the mayor has authority to cast the deciding vote, in this case, the 5th vote. There was not a tie vote.

However, for the motion, the mayor and city attorney publicly announced, based on the police chief vote (which was the exact vote count as for the Board president), Thomas remains president, per Ordinance 2-17, until a successor is selected and qualified by law.

A few days later, on social media, the mayor posted there were "issues and votes that are in question, and we are consulting local and state officials to gain clarity about past practices. One current issue is the vote for President of the Board of Aldermen." Mayor posts BN Ordinance 2-17(b), with her editorials regarding its meaning.

Further, On May 22nd, 2024, the president of the Board received a phone call from the mayor stating her intent to announce Gillespie as Board president, she stated based on past practices. Mayor cited 2018, 2019, and 2022 meetings for Board president votes that were not a legal majority vote. A week later the mayor sent a follow up email confirming her intentions to make this announcement at the June 6, 2024, BOA meeting.

We believe the mayor is willfully and intentionally breaking the law by refusing to uphold our city ordinances. This Board of Aldermen is not responsible for illegal past practices of previous boards. The ordinance does not permit any vote from the mayor except in the case of a tie. There was no tie vote for president.

We ask this mayor to cease and desist any further illegal activities or announcements, via social media or public meetings regarding this matter up to the point where this matter should be decided by a judge. We will continue to seek legal redress in this, and other unlawfully violated matters pertaining to the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO.

President of the Board of Aldermen, James W. Thomas, Sr., Ward 3  
Alderwoman Regina Harmon-Ward, Ward 3

Alderwoman Alease Dailes, Ward 4  
Alderwoman Alicia Smith, Ward 4

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