



STATE OF NEVADA
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April 19, 2015

Via First Class Mail

Deborah A. Banks
2541 Garfield Drive
Sparks, Nevada 89431

Re: Open Meeting Law Complaint, A.G. File No. 13897-163
City of Sparks Planning Commission

Dear Ms. Banks:

This letter will confirm that we have closed our investigation of an Open Meeting Law (OML) complaint received from Deborah Banks (Ms. Banks) in August 2015. Ms. Banks asked the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to investigate the City of Sparks Planning Commission (Commission) for failure to properly agendaize item No. 10 on its June 18, 2015 agenda. Item No. 10 announced the Commission would consider amending Title 20 (Zoning and Land Use controls) of the Sparks Municipal Code. It was an action item.

As part of the proposed amendment to Title 20, Chet Adams, Sparks District Attorney (Mr. Adams), proposed an additional amendment "to protect the City of Sparks citizens from feral cat colonies." He said his proposed amendment was in response to Washoe County's recent "unilateral legalization of a feral cat colony program" enforced and administered by the Nevada Humane Society. The Commission recommended amendment of Title 20, including Mr. Adams proposed amendment.

At the start of our investigation, we sent a discovery letter to the Sparks Planning Commission. The Sparks District Attorney's office responded on September 15, 2015. We reviewed relevant agenda and minutes of the meeting, and we interviewed Ms. Banks by telephone.

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During public comment at the August 10, 2015 public meeting of the Sparks City Council, Ms. Banks asked Council to amend the language regarding feral cat colonies out of the proposed amendment bill (No. 2693).


The Office of the Attorney General discussed the proposed amendment with Senior Assistant District Attorney Doug Thornley who provided a proposed solution. On September 11th Ms. Banks informed our office she wished to withdraw her OML complaint based on the City Council's proposed solution.

On September 15th the Commission determined that the provisions of the Bill (No. 2693) concerning feral cats should be amended out of the Bill and considered as a separate issue at a later date. The issue Ms. Banks was concerned about (feral cats) was resolved in her favor.

The Office of the Attorney General has closed this matter.

Sincerely,

ADAM PAUL LAXALT
Attorney General

By: 
GEORGE H. TAYLOR
Senior Deputy Attorney General
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Cc: Doug Thornley, Senior Assistant District Attorney
James Fewins, Chairman