

Public Records Task Force Presentation

Operational Risks, Legal Gaps, and Strategic Recommendations

Presented by:
Pat Cabrera, Chief Deputy City Clerk
City of Las Vegas
on behalf of the
Nevada Municipal Clerks' Association



Why This Matters



**Public Records
Law *has not* Kept
Pace with Digital
Reality**



**Volume,
Complexity, and
Risk are Increasing**



**Inconsistency
Across
Jurisdictions is
Growing**



**Sustainable and
Defensible
Transparency
should be the Goal**

Redaction Burden

Issue

Manual, Labor-
Intensive Review

Impact

Delays, Cost, Legal
Exposure

Recommendation

Define Cost Recovery,
Standardize
Workflows, Adopt
Tools



Broad & Overbroad Requests



Issue

Vague or Expansive Scope
Across Multi-Departments;
Significant Effort Required to
Identify, Locate & Scope
Responsive Requests



Impact

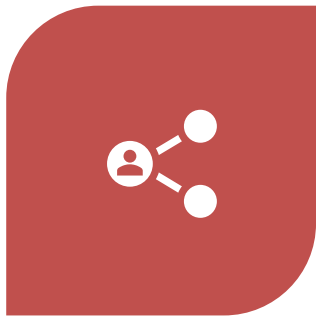
Staff Time Consumed before
Records are Even
Gathered/Reviewed;
Resource Strain; Delays in
Responding



Recommendation

Require Reasonable Request
Refinement/Clarification;
Allow Defined Scoping
Phase; Establish
Expectations for What's
Reasonable; Encourage
Proactive Disclosure

Sensitive Information Risk



Issue

Public and Confidential
Data Intermingled



Impact

Disclosure Risk and
Liability



Recommendation

Standard Redaction
Rules, Layered Review,
Training

Vexatious Requestors



Issue

Repetitive or Disruptive
Requests



Impact

Diverts Staff from
Legitimate Requests



Recommendation

Define Behavior, Allow
Controls, Escalation
Process

Litigants Bypassing Discovery

Issue

PRRs Used Outside Court Process

Impact

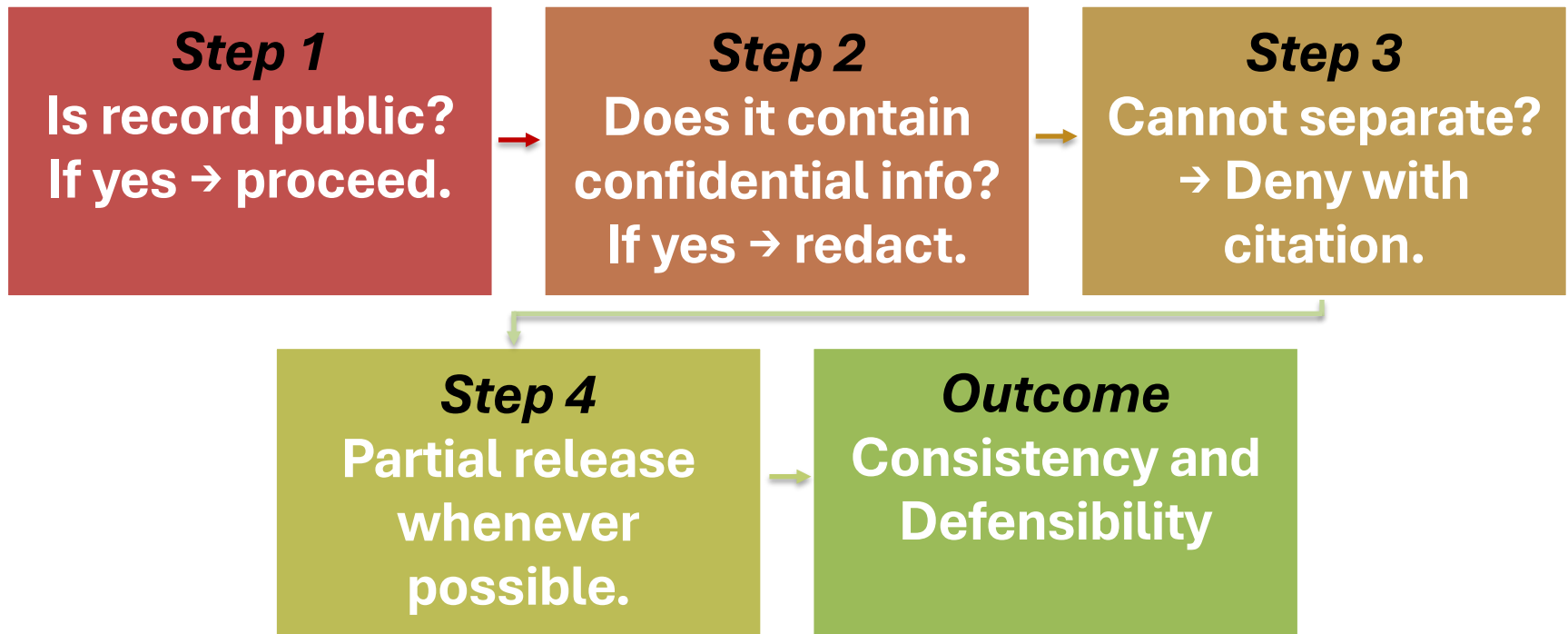
Undermines Fairness and Legal Process

Recommendation

**Clarify Boundaries, Coordinate with Legal, Statutory
Guidance**



Decision Framework: Release vs. Redact vs. Deny



Fee Structure Challenges

Issue

Inconsistent Fees Statewide

Impact

Inequity and Confusion

Recommendation

Statewide Parameters, Caps, Transparency



Payment Gaps

Issue
**Manual
Processes**

Impact
**Delays and
Inefficiency**

Recommendation
**Digital Payment
Integration**



Response Timeline Reality

Issue

5-day Requirement vs. Complex Workflows

Impact

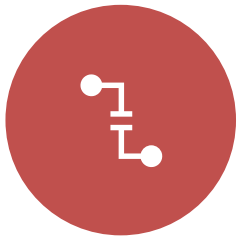
Apparent Non-Compliance

Recommendation

Define Timeline Expectations During Processing



Statewide Governance Opportunity



Current
Fragmented
Approach



Future
Standardized
Processes and
Tools



Task Force Role
Define
Framework and
Provide Guidance



Outcome
Efficiency,
Consistency,
Transparency

Task Force – Recommended Actions

Immediate

Define Cost, Timelines, Decision Framework

Structural

Standardize Fees and Appeals

Operational

Modernize Systems & Training

Ownership

Task Force, State & Local Agencies



What Happens If We Do Nothing



**Increased
Litigation**



**Growing
Inconsistency
Across
Jurisdictions**



**Higher Costs
and Slower
Response Times**



**Erosion of
Public Trust**

Closing

Transparency Must Be Sustainable

Clarity Reduces Risk

Consistency Builds Trust

Modernization Is Necessary



Thank You!

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