

Shurtleff Law Firm, PC

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May 2, 2017

Draper City Mayor
Draper City Council

Re: Inappropriate Public Allegations of Misconduct by Councilmember Michele Weeks

Dear Mayor Walker and Councilmembers:

I represent Draper City Councilmember Michele Weeks. I appreciate the opportunity to briefly address the Council. It has been brought to my attention that there have been times in the past when the Mayor and certain members of the City Council have used public meetings, including City Council Meetings, to accuse my client, Councilmember Weeks, of unethical and unlawful activity related to her office as a member of the Draper City Council. Such allegations made in a public forum and part of an official meeting, carry with them the imprimatur of confirmed truth or validity, and might mislead Draper City residents and constituents into believing that there is some legitimate, fully investigated and adjudicated unlawful or unethical behavior on the part of your fellow Councilmember. Based upon my understanding and review of past allegations it is my opinion that those accusations were false.

Past unsupported public allegations, and inappropriate public reprimands include, but are not limited to,

(1) the false allegation of the misuse of public funds by Councilmember Weeks for her use of a city employee (even though based upon an ADA request, and with permission from Draper City Manager) to help with proof reading letters to residents, and some of her “What’s Draper Up To?” Facebook posts to educate the public about city events and actions being considered by the City Council; and

(2) the false allegation that Councilmember Weeks violated Utah Code Section 20A-11-1203 when she mentioned on her “What’s Draper Up To?” Facebook page, a letter she wrote to the citizens of Draper entitled “Council Corner: Letter from Councilmember Michele Weeks.”

As you know, central to our American Justice system, is the absolute right to be considered innocent until proven guilty or liable of any alleged misconduct. I request on behalf of

Councilmember Weeks, that each of you respect that right and refrain from using a public meeting to lodge any such allegations or claims. If you have a reasonable belief that Councilmember Weeks, or anyone else for that matter, may have violated any Draper City laws or ordinances or Utah State laws or rules of ethics, we ask that you afford her all the Constitutional right of due process and refer any such concerns or allegations to the proper authorities for investigation.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Shurtleff
Shurtleff Law Firm