

Peter,

I find myself, inexplicably, at an impasse with you regarding the support I need to work effectively as a Councilperson. To date, you have failed, in my opinion, to respond adequately to any of my repeated requests. I believe one of your functions is to see to it appropriate support is provided to council members. I want this communication to clearly state my concerns and unmet expectations.

1. I have asked that email sent to [cok@kauai.gov](mailto:cok@kauai.gov) be forwarded to my computer as email. You have refused.

I do not need or desire a printed copy on paper. This is after all email sent to an address intended for all council members. Electronic transmission allows me to store, sort and organize content into folders. More importantly it allows quick response to the public by using the reply or reply to all functions inherent in email programs. It also allows me to access and respond to communication securely over the internet from my home and office computer and thus increase the timeliness and responsiveness to the public. It eliminates the need for your time or staff time to make hard copies and distribute to my inbox. Finally it significantly reduces the use of office paper which saves county funds and is environmentally responsible.

The reasons you have given for not complying with this request do not pass even a simple logic test. You have stated that not all correspondence sent to [cok@kauai.gov](mailto:cok@kauai.gov) is intended for all councilpersons. I think it is clear that the address is intended for all councilpersons. However if you feel the need to “screen” this communication (which I feel is unwarranted and unnecessary) you are clearly doing so already. Forwarding this communication to my county email will not cause any more effort or staff time than printing and distributing a hard copy.

2. I have been asked to be supplied electronic files (PDF) of council and committee meeting minutes that are public documents. You have refused.

Currently you produce one hardcopy printed on two sides which is placed in a binder in the Council Services office. As you are aware these are often lengthy documents. Having electronic copies will allow me to work more efficiently by being able to access the information readily when at a location other than our offices break room. Electronic documents can be searched to quickly find needed content. Excerpts can be copied to avoid retyping etc. I can think of no credible reason this request is not being honored. There is clearly no significant increased burden placed on our staff, on the contrary it is likely to save time. You and I both know that these data files are being created now and there is no technical reason they cannot be routinely made available to council persons (i.e. placement in shared folders).

In current practice we receive paper memos in our inbox informing us that minutes are ready to review prior to approval at the next scheduled meeting. Why would this not be sent in an email with the draft minutes attached for review? This is standard business practice that increases efficiency, saves time and resources and is environmentally sound.

3. See attached memo sent of the Council Chair and subsequently sent to all council members. On this issue there has been some progress, however there is no consistency of practice and no policy. In my opinion information sent and received regarding committee and council business is not being distributed equitably.

I am still dismayed that after all these months these simple and fundamental requests are unmet and I renew my expectation that the situation be rectified without further delay.

Sincerely,

Tim

cc: Council Chair