

**BRISTOL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING OF TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023  
MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

By: Edward Dudko

Time: 6:00

Place: Police Complex  
131 North Main Street  
Second Floor  
Meeting Room #2

MEMBERS	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
REGULAR MEMBERS	Ed Dudko, Chairman	X	
	Jeff Crook	X	
STAFF	Attorney Jeffrey R. Steeg, Asst. Corp. Counsel	X	
	Noelle Bates, Recording Secretary	X	

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:**

1. Approval of Minutes – 04/18/2023

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of April 18, 2023.

BY: Dudko

Seconded: Crook

For: Dudko and Crook.

Against: None.

Abstained: None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

## 1. Status of Anonymous Complaints

Attorney Steeg discussed Freedom of Information requests that are coming into the Building Department. If a neighbor complains about a property owner and the City goes out and gives a ticket for a code enforcement violation, the owner is sending an FOI request wanting to know who complained on them.

The Committee discussed whether to make these complaints anonymous and have the person give their name that is complaining. They discussed the “right to know” who complained versus the security risk in may cause.

**MOTION:** The Committee decided that the complainant’s names should be anonymous and to refer to City Council.

## 2. Discussion of “Oath Keepers”

Attorney Steeg discussed some new Freedom of Information requests that are coming in from people who come into City Hall who are video recording employees. If someone addresses the person, they state they have a constitutional right to be in a municipal building and record people, claiming that it is their “constitutional right”. The most recent request was that of a person asking for personnel records from certain officers of the Police Department.

Attorney Steeg also brought up another request he received from a Commercial vendor. They were making a request for all City employees first and last name, email address, title/position and primary department. They get these requests a lot and the reason they do this is so that they can create a database to sell to a third party for marketing.

The Committee had some concerns over this. It was stated that 6 City employees that have had their identities stolen since April, 2023. The concern is that this request is not for the purposes of government transparency, but rather it is being used as a marketing tool for the benefit of the requester. They feel government employees are more likely to have their identity stolen then individuals who do not work for a Municipal, State of Federal agency. This was not the intention of the Statutes when they were written. It was recommended that the Corporation Counsel contact Tom Hennick at the Freedom of Information Commission and our state legislatures for discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 6:24 P.M.

By: Dudko

Seconded: Crook

For: Dudko and Crook.

Against: None.

Abstained: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Noelle Bates  
Recording Secretary