

# Fwd: [External] Fw: CONFIDENTIAL: OUR Center

Inbo:



**Brian Bagley**

Nov 15, 2019, 4:26 PM (19 hours ago)

to me

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Julia Rush <[rush1476@live.com](mailto:rush1476@live.com)>  
Date: 11/12/19 5:11 PM (GMT-07:00)  
To: Brian Bagley <[Brian.Bagley@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:Brian.Bagley@longmontcolorado.gov)>, "[marc@ourcenter.org](mailto:marc@ourcenter.org)" <[marc@ourcenter.org](mailto:marc@ourcenter.org)>  
Subject: [External] Fw: CONFIDENTIAL: OUR Center

Dear Mayor Bagley,

I'm attaching an email stream between Polly Christensen and myself from October 24, 2019. I'm concerned about the apparent lack of transparency, and a potential conflict of interest, in the meetings referenced in these emails. I also feel that there was a deliberate reference to Ms. Christensen's involvement in our funding requests to the City of Longmont, in a paragraph before her request that we reverse our position on navigation services with Boulder County. That feels like inappropriate political pressure, despite her assertion in her second email that she was acting as a private citizen.

These emails followed a phone conversation that occurred around noon on the same day. Councilwomen Joan Peck called me to request that I oppose the OUR Center board's decision to submit an RFP to Boulder County. This was before that decision was final in our organization, and before it was made public. Ms. Peck was agitated and somewhat angry, and appeared to be repeating information from a third party speaking in the background of the phone call. She introduced herself as a member of City Council. She stated that she was meeting with HOPE, on a monthly basis with two other council members, to address navigation, and she told me that she wanted OUR Center to 'stay out of it'. I asked her to send me a letter with her concerns, but I did not engage in a conversation with her beyond that.

I want to state for the record that we do not want to create unnecessary tension between HOPE and the OUR Center. I recognize that HOPE is another part of the solution to Longmont's family poverty and homelessness issues. We want the council to honor their commitment to transparency, appropriate meeting rules, and a fair playing field for all of Longmont's social safety-net organizations. It does not serve this community to set up a system whereby charity organizations need to engage in secret meetings with City Council members to advocate on their behalf for funding and position. I hope you can help us navigate this sticky situation. If you have any concerns or questions about the information I've included here, please don't hesitate to give me a call. 720-205-5361.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

- Julia Rush, OUR Center Board President

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**From:** Polly Christensen <[pollyan@indra.com](mailto:pollyan@indra.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 24, 2019 4:57 PM  
**To:** Julia Rush <[rush1476@live.com](mailto:rush1476@live.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: CONFIDENTIAL: OUR Center

Julia,

Thank you for your time. Yes, Joan and I have the same concerns. Because Joan is running for office, she does not think it useful for her to send you additional correspondence.

As private citizens, both Joan, Marcia Martin, I meet with HOPE monthly to try and find solutions for homelessness. That is why I am corresponding with you using my private email.

Polly Christensen

On 10/24/19 1:51 PM, Julia Rush wrote:

Dear Ms. Christensen,

Thank you for your letter. We will take your concerns into consideration.  
May I assume that this was directed from Joan Peck as well, pursuant to our phone conversation? If not, let me know and I will reach out to her again.

- Julia Rush

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**From:** Polly Christensen <[pollyan@indra.com](mailto:pollyan@indra.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2019 4:55 PM  
**To:** [rush1476@live.com](mailto:rush1476@live.com) <[rush1476@live.com](mailto:rush1476@live.com)>  
**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL: OUR Center

Julie,

Please pass this comment on to Marc and the Board. And thank you for your service on this board.

Our Center Board,

I recently heard that the OUR Center is being politically pressured to reverse its decision of this summer and apply to the RFP for Longmont homelessness navigation services in competition with HOPE.

For the last six years I have served on City Council, Boulder County Consortium of Cities, and Housing and Human Services Advisory Board. I am quite familiar with the OUR Center's good service to the city of Longmont over many years. I was surprised by the decision many months ago of the OUR Center Board to withdraw from navigation services, but respect your decision to return to focusing on family services. We have all accepted that decision, knowing that HOPE would continue the fine job they have done with also providing navigation. The OUR Center's decision was announced throughout the county and has been a conversation at Boulder County Consortium and City Council meetings over many months now. It was also part of the HHSAB OUR Center application and interview, which we are in the process of deliberating upon.

For the Board to change its decision now because of political pressure will strain the OUR Center's credibility on many fronts. It would seem wiser to continue on the path your board chose many months ago and not appear to be in a state of indecision.

Respectfully,

Pauline Christensen

Longmont City Council Mayor Pro Tem



**Brian Bagley**

Nov 15, 2019, 4:26 PM (19 hours ago)

to me

----- Original message -----

From: Tim Waters <[Tim.Waters@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:Tim.Waters@longmontcolorado.gov)>  
Date: 11/13/19 10:50 AM (GMT-07:00)  
To: Brian Bagley <[Brian.Bagley@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:Brian.Bagley@longmontcolorado.gov)>  
Subject: RE: [External] Fw: CONFIDENTAL: OUR Center

Good morning Brian,

The email string forwarded to you from Julia Rush is serious and wrong. Being neither an attorney nor an expert in the ethics of elected officials, I have only a layman's understanding of legal and ethical lines crossed by two Longmont City Council members. From my naïve and uninformed layman's view of what is right vs wrong, ethical vs unethical, legal vs illegal, the exchange between Council members Christensen, Peck, and OUR Center board member(s) appears to violate Colorado's sunshine law, parameters for the use of personal email accounts to conduct City of Longmont related business, confuses roles and responsibilities of these Council members as elected officials with their interests as private citizens, misrepresents a position of the City Council, and directly interferes with, corrupting, the City of Longmont's procurement process.

As troubling and disappointing as it is to me to contemplate the consequences of exposing this behavior, I don't believe those of us with knowledge of this behavior have an ethical option but to expose it. Ideally, when confronted with this scenario, the two Council members involved will disclose their actions, apologize to the public, other Council members, City of Longmont staff, and OUR Center board and staff members. If Council members Christensen and Peck decline to disclose this scenario, then those of us with knowledge of this situation owe it to the community to do so.

I am prepared do fulfill my ethical obligation to the residents of Longmont and to City staff members to bring attention to, and resolution of, these breeches of ethical and legal behavior. Prior to doing so, however, I will appreciate guidance from legal counsel on my layman's view of the situation and any legal or ethical guidelines within which I need to regulate my behavior.

Tim

Tim Waters  
City Council  
Ward 1

**From:** Brian Bagley <[Brian.Bagley@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:Brian.Bagley@longmontcolorado.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 10:08 AM  
**To:** Tim Waters <[Tim.Waters@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:Tim.Waters@longmontcolorado.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: [External] Fw: CONFIDENTAL: OUR Center

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