



Meeting Agenda
Ethics Commission

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

12:00 PM

Board Room

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes
June 15, 2023 Ethics Commission Meeting

NEW BUSINESS

2. Consideration Of The Merits Of Ethics Complaints Filed Against Alderman Gabrielle Hanson

Sponsors:

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Anyone needing accommodations due to disabilities please contact the ADA Coordinator at 615-791-3277 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.



Meeting Minutes

Ethics Committee

Thursday, June 15, 2023

5:00 PM

Board Room

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting started at 05:00 PM

Board Members Present: Jerry Sharber, Jim Martin, Vona Wilson, Juanita Patton

Board Members Absent:

Staff Present: Shauna Billingsley, Angie Johnson, Tabitha Langley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes**
May 17, 2023 12:00 p.m. Ethics Commission Meeting

Sponsors:

A motion was made by Jerry Sharber, seconded by Juanita Patton to approve the minutes. The motion passed 4-0. Jerry Sharber mentioned that Chair Jim Martin did not have a vote on item #4. The City Recorder's office informed the Commission that Chair Martin did not participate in the roll call vote on this item.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Juanita Patton recused herself due to being on the African American Heritage Foundation Board. The Ethics Commission will move forward with three members.

The Ethics Commission set June 27, 2023 at 12:00 PM as a pre-hearing date to determine the merits of the ethics complaints against Alderman Gabrielle Hanson.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Jerry Sharber, seconded by Vona Wilson to Adjourn the Meeting. The motion passed 4-0.

Jim Martin, Chair

Minutes prepared by Cayce Anderson, Deputy City Recorder, City Recorder's Office June 20, 2023 9:08 AM



File #: 21-04824

DATE: June 16, 2023

TO: Ethics Commission

SUBJECT:

Consideration Of The Merits Of Ethics Complaints Filed Against Alderman Gabrielle Hanson

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Franklin Ethics Commission concerning the Ethics Complaints filed against Alderman Gabrielle Hanson relative to an email sent by Alderman Hanson.

BACKGROUND/STAFF COMMENTS:

Pursuant to the Ethics Commission's Amended Bylaws and Procedures dated May 17, 2023, the Ethics Commission shall hold an Initial Determination Hearing within thirty (30) days after the filing of an Ethics Complaint to determine whether the Ethics Complaint alleges facts sufficient to constitute an ethical claim.

The seven (7) Ethics Complaints being considered during the June 27, 2023 Initial Determination Hearing were filed against Alderman Hanson as the result of her correspondence to Douglas E. Kreulen, President and CEO of the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority, and the BNA Board of Commissioners regarding their support and/or funding of the Franklin Justice and Equity Coalition.

Angie Johnson

From: Emily Jenkins <jenkinsemilyp@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 9:00 PM
To: Admin Recorder
Subject: Ethics Complaint- Gabrielle Hanson

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

ATTENTION COF staff: This email originated from outside the City of Franklin. Please use discretion when clicking on attachments & links from unknown senders or suspicious emails.

City of Franklin Ethics Commission,

I would like to register a formal ethics complaint against Gabrielle Hanson for sending the correspondence attached below to the BNA Airport Board, under color of her position as an elected official of the City of Franklin. This correspondence is problematic for reasons that could be the basis of a civil action, including but not limited to tortious interference with contract, extortion and defamation. As far as the ethics commission is concerned, I believe there are multiple violations of the ethics policy in the municipal code that require her removal from office.

1. The ethics policy states:

Except as provided in this section, **no officials or employees, either for themselves or for their immediate family, or for any other person, may knowingly solicit, receive benefit from, accept or agree to accept any gratuity, gift, honoraria, loan, favor, promise or any thing of value for themselves, any other person or any member of the immediate family of such official. In addition, it shall also be a violation of this ethics code for any gift as defined in this chapter to be received by any such person as specified in this section if:**

(a) It tends to influence the official or employee in the discharge of official duties or gives a reasonable basis for the impression of improper influence over the discharge of official duties;

Hanson's letter is a direct solicitation of funds for the AAHS, and Ms. Hanson has voted multiple times in favor of the AAHS. She has also had private meetings with the head of the AAHS and has made promise to secure funds for their organization. Additionally, she attempted to block permitting for the FJEC's Juneteenth event in favor of the event being hosted by the AAHS. All of these actions constitute a violation of the ethics policy.

2. The ethics policy further states:

Officials or employees may not use or attempt to use their position to secure any privilege or exemption for themselves or others that is not authorized by the charter, general law, or ordinance or policy of the municipality.

Ms. Hanson sent this letter and specifically stated that she was demanding a donation "as an elected official" and signed it with her official title of alderman. This attempt to use her status as an elected official to secure a donation for the AAHS is a clear violation of the ethics policy.

3. Finally, the ethics policy states:

Officials or employees may not use or authorize the use of municipal time, facilities, equipment or supplies for private gain or advantage to any private person or entity, except as authorized by legitimate contract or lease that is determined by the governing body to be in the best interests of the municipality.

Ms. Hanson sent the letter from her City provided email address, using her official title in order to wrongfully extort funds for the AAHS, which is a violation of the ethics policy.

For the foregoing reasons, I am requesting that the Ethics Commission take prompt corrective action against Ms. Hanson and remove her from office, before she further damages the reputation of the City and its' community nonprofits by engaging in extortion, defamation and interference under color of City authority. While I do not know to what extent the AAHS was aware of or involved with Ms. Hanson's actions, I further request that any member of the Ethics Commission with a conflict of interest due to their involvement in the AAHS recuse themselves from consideration of this matter.

I appreciate your consideration of my complaint.

Emily P. Jenkins
215 Franklin Road, Franklin TN 37064

Email from Alderman Hanson:

Dear Mr. Kreulen and Board of BNA Airport:

Over the course of the weekend, I have had over 20 Franklin residents reach out to me with concern over BNA paying thousands of dollars in taxpayer money to support what is equivalent to Franklin's local BLM chapter, Franklin Justice and Equity Coalition. It is incomprehensible to think that an airport in Nashville would want to support an organization, in one of America's most revered small town's, that believes in defunding the police, reparations and other radical social justice platforms. Please see the link below that show your support dollars and approval of their agenda.

https://us01.z.antigena.com//UQSwpNnj644BKEw-OHq3c3UJk2u5j_ap6~Szg33G7u4keo-vi~iNqvyN3vrQ2-fHxuvqGGO6FvzZzHfmbpc9R3_ONXObi5HXmEs4Rmlqpnj6L9EokyJt2onIkM_qhJgA5YPhabfRyloXlzi6DGbFSJ

Perhaps you aren't aware that this organization only came about during the heat of BLM rioting across America, as they say, in response to George Floyd, Breanna Taylor and others. Perhaps you aren't aware of the division they caused in our community last year when they asked the city to back them and take Juneteenth away from the African American Heritage Society, who had been our Juneteenth stalwart for

decades. The African American Heritage Society has represented the achievements and successes, along with accurate black history in our community for decades. They have preserved the legendary McLemore House and provide annual scholarships to black youth in our community. Yet, they were targeted by the City of Franklin and FJEC and were asked for tens of thousands of dollars to move forward with Juneteenth BLM style or face not having Juneteenth at all. But because of many citizens in Franklin who became involved, AAHS was able to have their own Juneteenth without FJEC.

To put it mildly, our citizens are outraged and angry. I have to agree, I don't want my tax dollars or fees off of plane tickets going to radical agenda's either. I am floored that your board would approve of allocating money in this way. These citizens are prepared to post publicly and link this support to each and every board member, along with their business interests so that the public will know that the board of BNA is financially supporting, and in agreement with, radical social justice agenda's in towns where they literally should have no voice.

Is it the mission of BNA to support African American organizations? Is it the mission of BNA to support Juneteenth? Is it the mission of BNA to support radical agenda's that are dividing our country? That is the question our citizens would like answered.

As an elected official I am respectfully requesting that you either withdraw the financial support and public endorsement of FJEC, or write a check to the African American Heritage Society and allow them to advertise you as a sponsor, providing the same financial level of funding that you did to the Franklin Justice and Equity Coalition. It appears that you want to support African American causes in Franklin, and, particularly, Juneteenth. If you are going to support one entity, you need to support ALL entities providing the Juneteenth experience in our community, particularly those who don't veer off of the course of accurate black history and seek provide an uplifting message of hope and inspiration.

I have copied Alma McLemore, the head of the African American Heritage Society on this email.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Hanson

City of Franklin

Alderman At-Large

615-946-4200

||||

Sarah Schilling

From: peggy@peggykingsbury.com
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 5:58 PM
To: Admin Recorder
Subject: Ethics Compliant/Alderman Hanson

ATTENTION COF staff: This email originated from outside the City of Franklin. Please use discretion when clicking on attachments & links from unknown senders or suspicious emails.

I am filing an ethics complaint against Alderman Gabrielle Hanson.

Alderman Hanson's correspondence to the BNA Board clearly violates the ethics code in three separate instances.

First, Sec.1-805 has been violated by Hanson's attempt to extort money from BNA. The section specifically reads "...may knowingly solicit, receive benefit from, accept or agree to accept any gratuity, gift, honoraria, loan, favor or promise or any thing of value for themselves, any other person or any member of the immediate family of such official."

Alderman Hanson also violated Sec. 1-108 which states in paragraph (2) Officials or employees may not use or attempt to use their position to secure any privilege or exemption for themselves or others that is not authorized by the charter, general law, or ordinance or policy of the municipality.

Hanson violated this section by making her demand as an official officer of the City of Franklin. This "shake down" of BNA was done without authorization of the city.

Lastly, Hanson used her City provided email and title as she attempted to gain a donation for a private entity. This is in violation of Sec. 1-807 (2).

Please take swift action against Alderman Hanson.

Peggy Kingsbury

220 Winter Hill Rd.
Franklin, TN 37069
931-993-1162

Angie Johnson

From: Kate Osher <katelyonosher@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 3:53 PM
To: Admin Recorder
Subject: Gabrielle Hanson

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

ATTENTION COF staff: This email originated from outside the City of Franklin. Please use discretion when clicking on attachments & links from unknown senders or suspicious emails.

Dear City Recorder:

This shall serve as a formal complaint against Alderman Gabrielle Hanson, who is once again using her position for her own benefit and creating unnecessary drama for the city.

Section 1-801, et seq, of the code can and does apply, as she misused city email and sought a donation to a private entity, and did it under claiming authority as an elected official.

Per the Williamson Herald, "As an elected official," Hanson's email continues, "I am respectfully requesting that you either withdraw the financial support and public endorsement of FJEC, or write a check to the African American Heritage Society and allow them to advertise you as a sponsor, providing the same financial level of funding that you did to the Franklin Justice and Equity Coalition."

It is worth noting that the article goes on to state the following: "After AAHS President Alma McLemore found out about Hanson's email, she wrote a statement to BNA 'First, allow me to apologize on behalf of the African American Heritage Society for the nature and tone of the email ... from Alderman Hanson,' she wrote. 'We had been notified by Ms. Hanson that she was going to make a huge financial ask for AAHS based on your commitment to FJEC — but she did not disclose the full intentions of her outreach. Nor did she share her correspondence in advance of it being sent.'"

Alderman Hanson continues to be a loose cannon, and her behavior cannot be excused. She is a liability to the City. She refuses to ever take responsibility for her behavior or lies. Our City and residents deserve so much better.

I hope that you will consider this complaint.

Sincerely,

Kate Lyon Osher
109 Bromley Park Lane
Franklin, TN 37069

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Kate Lyon Osher
323-828-8151
www.katelyonosher.com

Angie Johnson

From: Damon Rogers <damonarogers@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 3:01 PM
To: Admin Recorder; recorder@franklintn.com
Subject: Re: Gabrielle Hanson

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

ATTENTION COF staff: This email originated from outside the City of Franklin. Please use discretion when clicking on attachments & links from unknown senders or suspicious emails.

On Fri, Jun 9, 2023 at 10:48 AM Damon Rogers <damonarogers@gmail.com> wrote:

Like Dolly Parton sings, here we go again!

Gabrielle Hanson has violated at least 3 ethics codes as I read her correspondence to BNA BOARD. They are:

Sec.1-805

Sec.1-807 (2)

Sec.1-108

I urge you to take appropriate action against Alderman Gabrielle Hanson. She is a liability to the community I was born and raised!

Damon Akin Rogers

431 Boyd Mill Ave, Franklin, TN 37064

615-554-2042

6th Generation Native Williamson County

Angie Johnson

From: janet@shouse.com
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 2:05 PM
To: Admin Recorder
Subject: Fwd: Ethics concerns regarding Alderman Gabrielle Hanson
Attachments: Gabrielle Hanson BNA letter.png

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

ATTENTION COF staff: This email originated from outside the City of Franklin. Please use discretion when clicking on attachments & links from unknown senders or suspicious emails.

Hello,

I am writing because I am concerned that actions by Alderman Gabrielle Hanson seem to have violated Franklin's ethics code for the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

I recently received the attached email, which appears to have been written by Alderman Hanson. The letter, as I read it, is demanding money from the BNA board for the African American Heritage Society, which the alderman apparently prefers over the Franklin Justice and Equity Coalition. This demand would violate the ethics code, would it not?

Alderman Hanson appears to be making this demand as an elected city official of Franklin. I believe this also violates the ethics code.

Although the attached file doesn't make it clear, I am assuming that Alderman Hanson used her official city email account to send this demand to the BNA board. Would this not also be a violation of the ethics code?

Alderman Hanson has been sowing division in our city, which makes me very sad.

I hope that this ethics complaint and swift action against Alderman Hanson will encourage her to take a more thoughtful approach to how she chooses to try to govern the city of Franklin.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janet Shouse
409 Crofton Park Lane
Franklin, TN 37069
615-202-5259

Dear Mr. Kreulen and Board of BNA Airport:

Over the course of the weekend, I have had over 20 Franklin residents reach out to me with concern over BNA paying thousands of dollars in taxpayer money to support what is equivalent to Franklin's local BLM chapter, Franklin Justice and Equity Coalition. It is incomprehensible to think that an airport in Nashville would want to support an organization, in one of America's most revered small town's, that believes in defunding the police, reparations and other radical social justice platforms. Please see the link below that show your support dollars and approval of their agenda.

https://us01.z.antigena.com/l/UQSwpNnj644BKEw-OHq3c3UJk2u5j_ap6~Szg33G7u4keo-vi~iNqvyN3vrQ2-fHxuvqGGO6FvzZzHfmbJpc9R3_ONXObi5HXmEs4RmtIqpnj6L9EokyJt2onIkM_qhJgA5YPhabfRyloXlzi6DGBFSJ

a8dcfdee.png

Perhaps you aren't aware that this organization only came about during the heat of BLM rioting across America, as they say, in response to George Floyd, Breanna Taylor and others. Perhaps you aren't aware of the division they caused in our community last year when they asked the city to back them and take Juneteenth away from the African American Heritage Society, who had been our Juneteenth stalwart for decades. The African American Heritage Society has represented the achievements and successes, along with accurate black history in our community for decades. They have preserved the legendary McLemore House and provide annual scholarships to black youth in our community. Yet, they were targeted by the City of Franklin and FJEC and were asked for tens of thousands of dollars to move forward with Juneteenth BLM style or face not having Juneteenth at all. But because of many citizens in Franklin who became involved, AAHS was able to have their own Juneteenth without FJEC.

To put it mildly, our citizens are outraged and angry. I have to agree, I don't want my tax dollars or fees off of plane tickets going to radical agenda's either. I am floored that your board would approve of allocating money in this way. These citizens are prepared to post publicly and link this support to each and every board member, along with their business interests so that the

member, along with their business interests so that the public will know that the board of BNA is financially supporting, and in agreement with, radical social justice agenda's in towns where they literally should have no voice.

Is it the mission of BNA to support African American organizations? Is it the mission of BNA to support Juneteenth? Is it the mission of BNA to support radical agenda's that are dividing our country? That is the question our citizens would like answered.

As an elected official I am respectfully requesting that you either withdraw the financial support and public endorsement of FJEC, or write a check to the African American Heritage Society and allow them to advertise you as a sponsor, providing the same financial level of funding that you did to the Franklin Justice and Equity Coalition. It appears that you want to support African American causes in Franklin, and, particularly, Juneteenth. If you are going to support one entity, you need to support ALL entities providing the Juneteenth experience in our community, particularly those who don't veer off of the course of accurate black history and seek provide an uplifting message of hope and inspiration.

I have copied Alma McLemore, the head of the African American Heritage Society on this email.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Hanson

City of Franklin

Alderman At-Large

[615-946-4200](tel:615-946-4200)

Angie Johnson

From: Rod Berger <berger.rod@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 11, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Admin Recorder
Cc: Gabrielle Hanson; Ken Moore; Clyde Barnhill; Alderman Potts; Brandy Blanton; bev@aldermanburger.com; Patrick Baggett; Matt Brown; Shauna Billingsley; Lisa Mooring
Subject: Re: Call to remove Gabrielle Hanson as Franklin Alderman
Attachments: June 11 BOMA Official Ethics Complaint.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

ATTENTION COF staff: *This email originated from outside the City of Franklin. Please use discretion when clicking on attachments & links from unknown senders or suspicious emails.*

Dear Franklin Civic Leaders,

I have attached a [formal ethics complaint](#) against Alderman Hanson. I have included the appropriate email 'recorder' address in this thread. I know that I am not the only citizen of Franklin to file a complaint so I am hopeful that those entrusted to lead our city are able to collaborate with local citizens to ward off hateful speech, ilinformed and public proclamations, and overall weaponization of public office. I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration as you collectively review local media coverage and individual and formal complaints.

Regards,
Rod Berger
615-720-6611

On Fri, Apr 21, 2023 at 12:42 PM Rod Berger <berger.rod@gmail.com> wrote:

Franklin Leaders and members of the local and national media,

I am sure that I am not the first Franklin citizen calling for Alderman Hanson's removal. The link below and the 9-minute audio clip of Hanson discussing the tragedy at Covenant are horrible, inaccurate, and a terrible representation of Franklin and TN. I call on the media on this thread to seek official comment from the mayor of Franklin and fellow alderman and inquire about the next steps to remove Hanson from her post. I would also encourage the media to look into Hanson's bigotry (Franklin Pride Permit issue and posting 'what ifs') along with her cozy affiliation with Mom's For Liberty.

This is an embarrassment to our city, the families that call Franklin home, and the businesses that choose to work in our community. Sadly the world is watching our city and state, and the reviews are downright pathetic. We need to be better!

<https://twitter.com/TheTNHoller/status/1649425095075438594?s=20>

Regards,
Rod



June 11, 2023

Dear BOMA,

Please regard this correspondence as a formal ethics complaint against Gabrielle Hanson. Previous attempts to censure, expel, and/or publicly acknowledge the damage Alderman Hanson is waging against the city of Franklin has fallen on the deaf ears of BOMA and associated legal representatives. The most recent and inflammatory abuse of her public office not only proved her lack of due diligence but, more importantly, shed light on Hanson's abuse of public office.

The last time I reached out to BOMA, I was told that Alderman Hanson does not speak for BOMA. That claim cannot be used this time – Alderman Hanson went on record utilizing her title with the city of Franklin to incite a cross-county argument without consent from BOMA, BNA, and multiple non-profits. She spewed nonsensical propaganda intimating fraudulent tax practices by BNA in addition to false claims of giving and requests from non-profits without their consultation and/or endorsement.

I want to highlight an observation – this is the second time that I have been contacted by city officials asking for assistance in filing a complaint against Alderman Hanson. This tells me that the current BOMA roster of officials feels, at some level, unsafe or not protected to raise considerable concerns among city leaders. It also intimates a lack of power to adequately represent the citizens of Franklin in a decisive manner that condemns radical and civic stupidity, sadly marking our city as deeply ignorant and replete of a community of inclusiveness.

The current correspondence from Alderman Hanson is problematic for reasons that could be the basis of a civil action, including but not limited to tortious interference. I believe there are multiple violations of the ethics policy in the municipal code that require her removal from office.

1. *Except as provided in this section, no officials or employees, either for themselves or for their immediate family, or for any other person, may knowingly solicit, receive benefit from, accept or agree to accept any gratuity, gift, honoraria, loan, favor, promise or anything of value for themselves, any other person or any member of the immediate family of such official. In addition, it shall also be a violation of this ethics code for any gift as defined in this chapter to be received by any such person as specified in this section if: (a) It tends to influence the official or employee in the discharge of official duties or gives a reasonable basis for the impression of improper influence over the discharge of official duties.* Alderman Hanson's letter is a direct solicitation of funds for the AAHS. Hanson has voted multiple times in favor of the AAHS. It is public knowledge that Hanson has also had private meetings with the head of the AAHS and has made promises to secure funds for their organization. She also attempted to block permitting for the FJEC's Juneteenth event in favor of the event being hosted by the AAHS. These actions constitute a violation of the ethics policy.

2. *Officials or employees may not use or attempt to use their position to secure any privilege or exemption for themselves or others that is not authorized by the charter, general law, or ordinance or policy of the municipality.* Alderman Hanson sent this letter and specifically stated that she was demanding a donation “as an elected official” and signed it with her official title of alderman. This attempt to use her status as an elected official to secure a donation for the AAHS is a clear violation of the ethics policy for the city of Franklin.
3. *Officials or employees may not use or authorize the use of municipal time, facilities, equipment, or supplies for private gain or advantage to any private person or entity, except as authorized by a legitimate contract or lease that is determined by the governing body to be in the best interests of the municipality.* Alderman Hanson sent the letter from her city-provided email address, using her official title, in order to wrongfully extort funds for the AAHS, which is a violation of the ethics policy. AAHS publicly said as much through the press in recent days.

I am requesting that the Ethics Commission take prompt corrective action against Alderman Hanson and remove her from office before she further damages the reputation of Franklin and its’ community non-profits by engaging in extortion, defamation, and interference under the guise of Franklin's authority.

I further request that any member of the Ethics Commission with a conflict of interest due to their involvement in the AAHS recuse themselves from consideration of this matter.

In closing, I lean on the professional shoulders of BOMA to collaborate with concerned citizens – not just deflect official complaints with vague efforts of disassociation with a rogue member of the board.

I appreciate your time, consideration, and contributions to our great city.

Regards,

Rod Berger
615-720-6611

CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

ETHICS COMPLAINT AGAINST AN ELECTED OFFICIAL

DATE: JUNE 14, 2023

SUBMITTED TO: RECORDER@FRANKLINTN.GOV, AND

VIA HAND DELIVERY TO:

CITY OF FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE
ATTN.: CITY RECORDER
109 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE 37064

COMPLAINANT: JOSEPH J. JENSEN
106 MISSION COURT, SUITE 903, 1ST FLOOR
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE 37067

P. O. BOX 682305
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE 37068-2305

TEL: 615-905-5777

E-MAIL: JOE@J3LAW.COM

SUBJECT OF COMPLAINT:

GABRIELLE HANSON

ETHICS COMPLAINT

1. The Complainant both resides in and maintains an office in Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee.
2. The subject of the complaint, Gabrielle Hanson ("Ms. Hanson" herein), is a member of the City of Franklin Board of Mayor and Alderman, and therefor is an "Official" as defined in City of Franklin Code Section 1-802.

ORIGINAL

3. City of Franklin Code Section 1-808(2) provides, in pertinent part:

(2) Officials or employees may not use or attempt to use their position to secure any privilege or exemption for themselves or others that is not authorized by the charter, general law, or ordinance or policy of the municipality. ...

4. On or about June 5, 2023, Ms. Hanson sent the following e-mail message to Mr.

Doug Kreulen, the CEO of the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority:

“Dear Mr. Kreulen and Board of BNA Airport:

“Over the course of the weekend, I have had over 20 Franklin residents reach out to me with concern over BNA paying thousands of dollars in taxpayer money to support what is equivalent to Franklin’s local BLM chapter, Franklin Justice and Equity Coalition. It is incomprehensible to think that an airport in Nashville would want to support an organization, in one of America’s most revered small town’s [sic], that believes in defunding the police, reparations and other radical social justice platforms. Please see ([this link](#)) that show your support dollars and approval of their agenda.

“Perhaps you aren’t aware that this organization only came about during the heat of BLM rioting across America, as they say, in response to George Floyd, Breanna Taylor and others. Perhaps you aren’t aware of the division they caused in our community last year when they asked the city to back them and take Juneteenth away from the African American Heritage Society, who had been our Juneteenth stalwart for decades. The African American Heritage Society has represented the achievements and successes, along with accurate black history in our community for decades. They have preserved the legendary McLemore House and provide annual scholarships to black youth in our community. Yet, they were targeted by the City of Franklin and FJEC and were asked for tens of thousands of dollars to move forward with Juneteenth BLM style or face not having Juneteenth at all. But because of many citizens in Franklin who became involved, AAHS was able to have their own Juneteenth without FJEC.

“To put it mildly, our citizens are outraged and angry. I have to agree, I don’t want my tax dollars or fees off of plane tickets going to radical agenda’s either. I am floored that your board would approve of allocating money in this way. These citizens are prepared to post publicly and link this support to each and every board member, along with their business interests so that the public will know that the board of BNA is financially supporting, and in agreement with, radical social justice agenda’s in towns where they literally should have no voice.

“Is it the mission of BNA to support African American organizations? Is it the mission of BNA to support Juneteenth? Is it the mission of BNA to support radical agenda’s that are dividing our country? That is the question our citizens would like answered.

“As an elected official I am respectfully requesting that you either withdraw the financial support and public endorsement of FJEC, or write a check to the African American Heritage Society and allow them to advertise you as a sponsor, providing the same financial

level of funding that you did to the Franklin Justice and Equity Coalition. It appears that you want to support African American causes in Franklin, and, particularly, Juneteenth. If you are going to support one entity, you need to support ALL entities providing the Juneteenth experience in our community, particularly those who don't veer off of the course of accurate black history and seek provide an uplifting message of hope and inspiration.

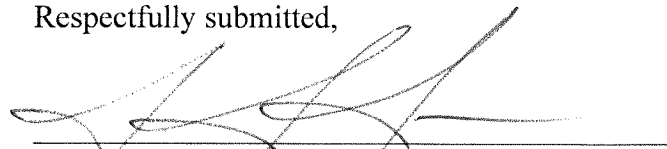
"I have copied Alma McLemore, the head of the African American Heritage Society on this email."

5. Ms. Hanson is, and in her e-mail identifies herself as an Official. Ms. Hanson's e-mail uses or attempts to use her position as an Official to secure a privilege or exemption for others – whether it be that "BNA" withdraw its support of one non-profit organization which she appears to disfavor, or that BNA provide its support to a different non-profit organization. Nowhere within the e-mail message is it indicated that what Ms. Hanson is requesting has been authorized by the charter, general law, or ordinance of policy of the City of Franklin.

6. The content of Ms. Hanson's e-mail message fits squarely within the prohibition of, and therefore the sending of that e-mail message is a violation of City of Franklin Code Section 1-808(2).

7. Complainant requests that the City of Franklin Ethics Commission convene pursuant to City of Franklin Code Section 1-812, for the purpose of determination of this Complaint, and upon doing so issue punishment as it believes to be appropriate under City of Franklin Code Section 1-813(1)

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph J. Jensen
106 Mission Court, Suite 903, 1st Floor
Franklin, Tennessee 37067
P. O. Box 682305
Franklin, Tennessee 37068-2305
Tel: 615-905-5777
E-mail: joe@j3law.com