

Public Access Counselor Pratt,

I am writing to formally request that your office review the actions of Danville City Council and Mayor Rickey Williams, regarding the City Council meetings held on February 16, March 2, and March 16 of 2021. I believe the Mayor and Council have violated multiple provisions of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

At all three meetings, the Danville City Council appears to be meeting entirely by utilizing video conferencing tools. The Open Meetings Act allows for this type of meeting, but such a "virtual" meeting also comes with a number of requirements, all of which have been in effect for about the past nine months.

1) At all three meetings, it is not apparent that the head of the public body has declared a state of disaster which would require a virtual meeting. The OMA requires that "the head of the public body as defined in subsection (e) of Section 2 of the Freedom of Information Act determines that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under this Act is not practical or prudent because of a disaster".

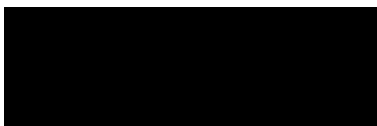
2) At the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, there does not appear to be any member of the public body physically present at the City Building. The OMA requires that "at least one member of the body, chief legal counsel, or chief administrative officer is physically present at the regular meeting location".

3) At all three meetings, Mayor Williams, on numerous occasions, instructed the Council to take votes by having the entire Council voice "ayes" and "nays" at the same time, rather than by taking roll call votes. Such votes included motions to approve minutes, approve agendas, approve treasurer's report, and returning to open session from closed session. The OMA requires that "all votes are conducted by roll call, so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded." During some of the City's voice votes, it appears as though only a small portion of the attending Council members cast any vote at all and/or the majority of the votes are inaudible giving the appearance the many members have not cast a vote.

Based on my review of the named meetings, I allege the items listed above as violations of the Open Meetings Act, and I would appreciate a review and determination by your office.

I thank you for your careful review of this matter.

Regards,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Christopher Hansen.

Christopher Hansen, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021