



MEMORANDUM

TO: Francis Acosta, City Council President
FROM: Vaughn D. Spencer, Mayor
DATE: May 2, 2014
SUBJECT: Reply to Memo's of April 25 and April 30

Beginning with paragraph three, this letter was drafted prior to my receipt of your April 30 letter. The tone and content of the April 30 letter was discouraging. You state the goal of the meeting as a chance for the parties to, "express their concerns and positions". In the next paragraph however, you go on and forcefully state your positions on the core issues and then declare that they are non-negotiable. If I'm reading and interpreting the letter correctly, it's hard to imagine what might be accomplished by meeting. Your positions are crystal clear and non-negotiable.

Nevertheless, since the tone and content of your April 25 letter is more temperate, what follows is my reply to your letter of April 25.

I am encouraged by your willingness to meet, however; I hope you would agree that the terms and conditions under which the meeting is held are as important as the agenda. I also wish to point out that the original proposals for a tri-partite meeting were made by me in memoranda dated January 13, April 8, April 22 and April 28. There were no replies to those memoranda except from Councilmen Daubert and Marmarou, both of whom agreed to serve on the negotiating committee proposed in my April 8 memo.

With the above in mind, I respectfully offer the following for your consideration:

1. I propose the number of representatives from each party be agreed upon in advance as follows; two (2) from RAWA, four (4) from the Administration and four (4) from Council. I think it proper for two of the council seats to be assigned to Councilmen Daubert and Marmarou. However, I will defer to their wishes. The fourth seat, not included in my earlier offers, would be held by the City Clerk.
2. I propose that the meeting be held in the late afternoon of May 13, 14 or 15.
3. I propose the location of the meeting be neutral and sufficient to accommodate private caucuses in side rooms. I propose the Fire Training Center.
4. I propose that each party submit a draft agenda in advance of the meeting and that the placement of items on the final agenda be agreed upon in advance (subject to change as may be agreed at the table.)



5. I propose that a mutually agreed upon public statement be issued immediately after the meeting. In the event the parties agree at the table to schedule subsequent meetings, I propose that no party issue any public comment in the interim without providing 24 hours advance written notice to the other parties.
6. Lastly, I propose the meeting be recorded and held for transcription, the cost of which would be paid for jointly or by the requesting party.

These proposals were prepared by Administration. Under separate cover, I am asking the RAWA Board to consider and reply to these same proposals.

The above is meant as a proposal and not a demand. I would be pleased to talk informally and in person with you and a colleague regarding any aspects of this. If not, I'll look forward to your written reply to my proposal.

All parties should be aware that, while the scheduling process goes forward, there are events and activities planned by outside groups that the Administration has been invited to attend and participate in. The Administration also is going ahead with its scheduled Town Meeting on May 7. Sponsoring or participation in these events and activities should not be misinterpreted as bad faith intentions by the Administration relative to the negotiations.

I look forward to your timely response.



Vaughn D. Spencer, Mayor

Cc: City Council Members
RAWA Board Members
Charles Younger, City Solicitor
Ralph Johnson, Acting Public Works Director
Larry Murin, Special Assistant to the Mayor
Matthew Bembnick, Director of Administrative Services