



Office of Mayor-Elect Lenny Curry

Mayor Elect Lenny Curry
Blight Transition Subcommittee Meeting
June 11, 2015

Jacksonville University, Davis College of Business, Public Policy Institute Room 174, 2800 University
Boulevard, Jacksonville FL 32211

IN ATTENDANCE:

The Honorable E Denise Lee, Chairman
Ms. Rena Coughlin, Co-Chair
Mr. Ivan Rodriguez, member
Mr. Chris Hagan, member
Ms. Ali Korman Shelton, member
Mr. Alex Coley, member
The Honorable Suzanne Jenkins, member
Mr. Will Torres, member
Ms. Jackie Perry, member
Mr. Tripp Gulliford, member
Mr. Jason Teal, OGC representative
Ms. Kimberly Scott, SME
Mr. Jeff Foster, SME
Susie Wiles, Policy Director
Marlene Russell, Staff

Guest/Visitors:

Laura Stagner
Caleena Shirley

ABSENT:

Mr. Paul Astleford, member

The meeting came to order at 11:00 a.m., the Honorable Denise Lee opened the meeting and asked everyone to briefly introduce themselves, starting with co-chair Ms. Rena Coughlin. All the attendees introduced themselves.

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The Honorable Dennis Lee expressed her gratitude for her appointment to the transition team. She noted the co-chair, Ms. Rena Coughlin, will be guiding the subcommittee in their role. She noted the City employees who were in attendance as the subject matter experts; to provide assistance as needed to the subcommittee.

The Honorable Denise Lee welcomed everyone. She discussed the history of the development of the City's Ad Hoc Committee two years ago. She noted the agenda for the meeting. She noted the objective of Fight Blight-Reveal Jacksonville's Beauty is to assist in the quality of life for the City of Jacksonville and its citizens by keeping neighborhoods clean, free of debris, free of failing structures (residential as well as commercial) that often house crime and drug activities and an opportunity to sensitize the community to the importance of building safe and clean communities to live in that foster an equality of life for all people.

The Subcommittee has been tasked to come up with a scope of work. The subcommittee has been charged with the tasks listed:

1. Evaluate the Fight Blight initiative's effectiveness – is it sufficiently funded, does it appropriately focus, does it have necessary tools.
2. Reestablish specific metrics by public and private service providers so success can be clearly measured.
3. Identify additional alternative resources for this important work.
4. Identify additional private partners who can be brought to the aid of the effort.

The Honorable Denise Lee stated, first, the body needs to review the existing Ad Hoc Committee and its work. This review would give everyone, who is unfamiliar with Blight, an overview of where the committee is and the direction it took towards Blight in the City. This review would help in the upcoming discussions and the presentation on July 17th, 2015.

The Honorable Denise Lee summarized and restated the four tasks the subcommittee was charged with and listed their objectives. She noted she will be identifying resources used by existing programs; for example the tire buyback program – a private entity assisting with the fight blight initiative, and if those programs have been successful and if more resources are needed to be directed to those programs.

The Honorable Denise Lee reviewed the timeframe for the subcommittee to have a completed scope of work by July 2nd, 2015 with a submitted report to the Mayor-Elect's Transition Team by July 17th, 2015. She listed the deliverables for the subcommittee, in three components:

1) Land blight; to include mowing, right-of-way, vacant properties (structures/no structures), city's tree canopy and a coordinated plan with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Note: The Honorable Denise Lee noted that Public Works was tasked by ordinance when creating the new Mowing Division to come up with a comprehensive plan that was inclusive to a coordinated effort with FDOT.

2) Housing blight; abandoned houses, foreclosed properties, to include enforcing laws that address liens, assess fines and those that are severely delinquent.

3) Human blight/neighborhood component of blight; when people stand on street corners, breaking into homes, committing violence against the police, create social ill; all those actions take away quality of life of neighborhoods. The Honorable Denise Lee stated to combat Neighborhood blight, the City partnered with Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO). She would like to bring in JSO to make a presentation on what they have done in the area of blight thus far, role that they (JSO) has played and will continue to play towards combating blight, to identify which neighborhoods are without neighborhood organizations, and recommending ways to organize these neighborhoods. The Honorable Denise Lee noted the need to identify neighborhoods with high crime, work with JSO to provide tools to assist in decreasing the criminal element by using cameras, increased lighting and more police presence.

The Honorable Denise Lee noted an additional deliverable would be to work with the Duval County School Board (DSCB). There is currently a liaison between the DCSB and the Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee wanted to identify the highest crime areas and blight within 1500 feet radius of schools.

- Ali Korman Shelton arrived

A final deliverable: To identify businesses that allows loitering and enforcing ordinances that deal with loitering in front of businesses, as this is a major problem with blight. The Honorable Denise Lee stated this problem is being tackled currently. She would like the recommendation through JSO to physically ask businesses to join and partner with the City in the fight blight campaign.

The Honorable Denise Lee stated deliverables will definitely include using City agencies that are responsible for certain components of Fight Blight; Planning Department (zoning), Public Works (Solid Waste - illegal dumping), and Mowing/Landscaping Division (mowing/cleaning cited properties for code enforcement).

The Honorable Denise Lee would like to show where all the illegal dumping is occurring throughout the City. She would like a layover map of all the illegal dumping noting the blight areas and show the correlation between the two issues. The Honorable Denise Lee requested that Jeff Foster provide the mapping and present it to the committee at a future meeting.

The Honorable Denise Lee stated the subcommittee needs to set a timetable of exactly what they would like to complete.

Handout #1 (Legislation as a result of Ad Hoc Blight Committee and Stand Up for your Neighborhood Blight Committee spreadsheet) passed out to attendees. Identify if there is any law or ordinance on the books, once identified – is the law/ordinance still applicable? If not, update the law/ordinance. Next meeting: a list of all ordinances that have been updated in the past two years will be provided.

Handout #2 (List of Blight Committee Accomplishments) passed out to attendees.

The Sunshine and Public Record Review was provided by Mr. Jason Teal.

Handout #3 (Florida's Government in Sunshine and Public Records Laws) Print out of presentation by Mr. Jason Teal.

A detailed brief overview of the sunshine law and public record review handling process as the subcommittee is considered a sunshine body and must follow all the existing laws.

The meeting opened to discussion stage. The subcommittee spoke of the new Blight campaign: Jax Can. The co-chair, Rena Coughlin, noted the status of the Mayor-Elect's Transition Team and the eight subcommittees that are now in place. Ms. Rena Coughlin noted the date of July 17th, 2015 for the completion and submission of the subcommittee's report. The format and content is the purview of each subcommittee.

The Honorable Denise Lee noted that Robert Campbell, City Auditors' Office, has helped in the past. She would like him to be part of the Blight Committee.

The Honorable Denise Lee asked each attendee to voice their concerns, desired direction and key issues concerning Blight.

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- Mr. Alex Coley is concerned with code enforcement issues and the broken window rule.
 - Ms. Ali Korman Shelton would like those areas in Jacksonville that are struggling more than others; to be focused on by the new administration.
 - The Honorable Suzanne Jenkins noted there have been some tried and true programs/efforts in the past that have worked. She would like those programs identified and focused on.
 - Mr. Tripp Gulliford noted that the City does not present itself well. Our City image is as a shabby exterior. The City is focused on the big picture, while losing sight of the small things. The palm trees and medians are not maintained. He mentioned the Dupont Fund. The City needs to research and see if it can be used.
 - -Mr. Alex Coley departed (12:00 pm)
 - Mr. Will Torres would like the exploration of more private school partnerships. The City is missing opportunities for private/public partnerships with the diverse group of private schools within the county. His organization, Step Up, has a complete list of all the private schools. He believes this is going to continue to grow in the coming years due to the state tax credits/vouchers and concerned parents/guardians seeking alternative school options.

- Mr. Chris Hagan spoke about the need to focus on mowing the right-of-way areas and medians, and keeping trees trimmed. He spoke of the need to see results and make sure those programs implemented are as effective as they should be.
- Mr. Ivan Rodriguez spoke about how Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) did a study of bus stops, their usage/ridership and how it ties to the blight and nuisance issues.
- Ms. Jackie Perry wants to look into how to help people start a neighborhood group and how to help attract businesses, which will bring customers to the areas.

The Honorable Denise Lee stated there will be a presentation from the Planning department about how businesses do not want to come to communities/neighborhoods that are crime ridden. It was identified that the areas that have the highest crime areas correlate to the areas without organized neighborhood groups.

The subcommittee summarized they need to set short, medium and long term obtainable and realistic goals that can be achieved by this body within the time limits. They need to look for private partnerships. The use of the Blight/630-City APP was identified and how it is helping with notification to City agencies about the different blight issues throughout the City.

No public comments.

Ivan Rodriguez to be excused next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.



Office of Mayor-Elect Lenny Curry

AGENDA

Date: June 11, 2015

Time: 11:00 a.m.

















Committee: Blight, Transition Subcommittee Meeting

Attendees: The Honorable Denise Lee (Chair), Rena Coughlin, Mr. Ivan Rodriguez, Ms. Chris Hagan, Ms. Ali Korman Shelton, Mr. Alex Coley, Mr. Paul Astleford, Honorable Suzanne Jenkins, Mr. Will Torres, Ms. Jackie Perry, Mr. Tripp Gulliford, Kimberly Scott, Jeff Foster

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|------|---|--------------------------|
| I. | Welcome and Introductions | The Honorable Denise Lee |
| II. | Sunshine and Public Records Review | Jason Teal |
| III. | Review of work to date for Mayor-elect's Transition | Rena Coughlin |
| III. | Review of Subcommittee Work | The Honorable Denise Lee |
| | A. Timeframe | |
| | B. Scope of Work | |
| | C. Deliverables | |
| | D. Scheduling | |
| IV. | Open Discussion | Committee |

Blight Sub-Committee

June 11, 2015

Name		Signature
The Honorable E Denise Lee	Chair	
Mr. Ivan Rodriguez	Member	
Mr. Chris Hagan	Member	
Ms. Ali Korman Shelton	Member	
Mr. Alex Coley	Member ✓	
Mr. Paul Astleford	Member	Absent
The Honorable Suzanne Jenkins	Member	
Mr. Will Torres	Member	
Ms. Jackie Perry	Member	
Mr. Tripp Gulliford	Member	
Mr. Jason Teal	OGC Representative	
Ms. Kimberly Scott	SME	
Mr. Jeff Foster	SME	
Ms. Rena Coughlin	Transition Team	
Guests / Visitors:		
Laura Stagner	HCDP	
CALEDIA SHIPLEY	HCDP	
Alex Coley	Hallmark	

Legislation as a result of Ad Hoc Blight Committee and Stand Up for your Neighborhood Blight Committee

Legislation # / Description	Committee	Status	Assigned Attorney
2014-752-E: Appropriates \$814,000 in carry over for Municipal Code Compliance and Mowing and Landscape Maintenance division	Ad Hoc Blight	Amended & Enacted 1/13/2015	M. Sidman
2014-724: Certificate of Use legislation	Stand Up for your Neighborhood	Approved by Council on 12/9/14	P. Johnston
2014-427: Amends Chapter 518 regarding the demolition of non-historic buildings.	Ad Hoc Blight	Approved by Council on 1/27/15	C. Shaw
2014-307: Amending Chapter 656 to require a statement regarding how Public Safety & Municipal Services vehicles will access property.	Ad Hoc Blight	Approved by Council on 6/24/14	M. Sidman
2014-232: Tire buy-back appropriation of \$50,000.	Ad Hoc Blight	Approved by Council on 3/25/14	M. Sidman
2014-123: Tire buy-back appropriation \$128,502 for the tire buy-back.	Ad Hoc Blight	Approved by Council on 2/25/14	M. Sidman
2014-214-A Resolution confirming Emmett D. McDaniel as chief of Mowing and Landscape Maintenance Division	Ad Hoc Blight	Adopted 4/22/2014	J. McCain Jr.
2014-42-E: Amends ordinance 2013-683-E to create a Mowing and Landscape Division replacing funding source	Ad Hoc Blight	Enacted 2/25/2014	J. McCain Jr.
2014-41-E: Appropriation of \$53,000 for tree maintenance	Ad Hoc Blight	Enacted 2/25/2014	J. McCain Jr.
2013-683-E Creation of Mowing and Landscape Division	Ad Hoc Blight	Enacted 11/26/2013	M. Sidman
2015-100 Car Wash Legislation	Ad Hoc Blight	Passed 4-14-2015	C. Shaw
Vacant Land Registry 2015-340 (aka Mortgage Foreclosure Registry)	Ad Hoc Blight	Approved by Council on 6/9/2015	P. Johnston
PENDING			
2014-553: Amends 747.101 to modify snipe sign fines.	Ad Hoc Blight	Pending in Finance & TEU; Apvd by Rules 6-1	M. Sidman

Legislation as a result of Ad Hoc Blight Committee and Stand Up for your Neighborhood Blight Committee

Legislation # / Description	Committee	Status	Assigned Attorney
Rezoning Safar Property	Stand Up for your Neighborhood	Draft Stages	P. Johnston
Amending Chapter 260 (Disposal of Waste Tires) to regulate secondary tire resale.	Ad Hoc Blight	Draft Stages	M. Sidman
Legislation to authorize the uniform collection of nuisance liens on the non-ad valorem tax roll pursuant to Section 197.3652, F.S.		Current ongoing discussions with the Tax Collector's Office, the Property Appraiser, CM Crescimbeni & Regulatory Compliance Dept.	C. Shaw
2014-548 Provide funding for Low-income clients of Jacksonville Legal Aid to help avoid foreclosure.	Ad Hoc Blight	In Committees	James McCain, Jr.
2015-377 Junk Vehicle Bill to ban outdoor storage of abandoned cars and that license tags be clearly visible on covered vehicles.	Ad Hoc Blight	In Committees	Cherry Shaw
2015-327 Prohibits the placement of clothing collection bins.	Ad Hoc Blight	In Committees (LUZ)	Paige Johnston

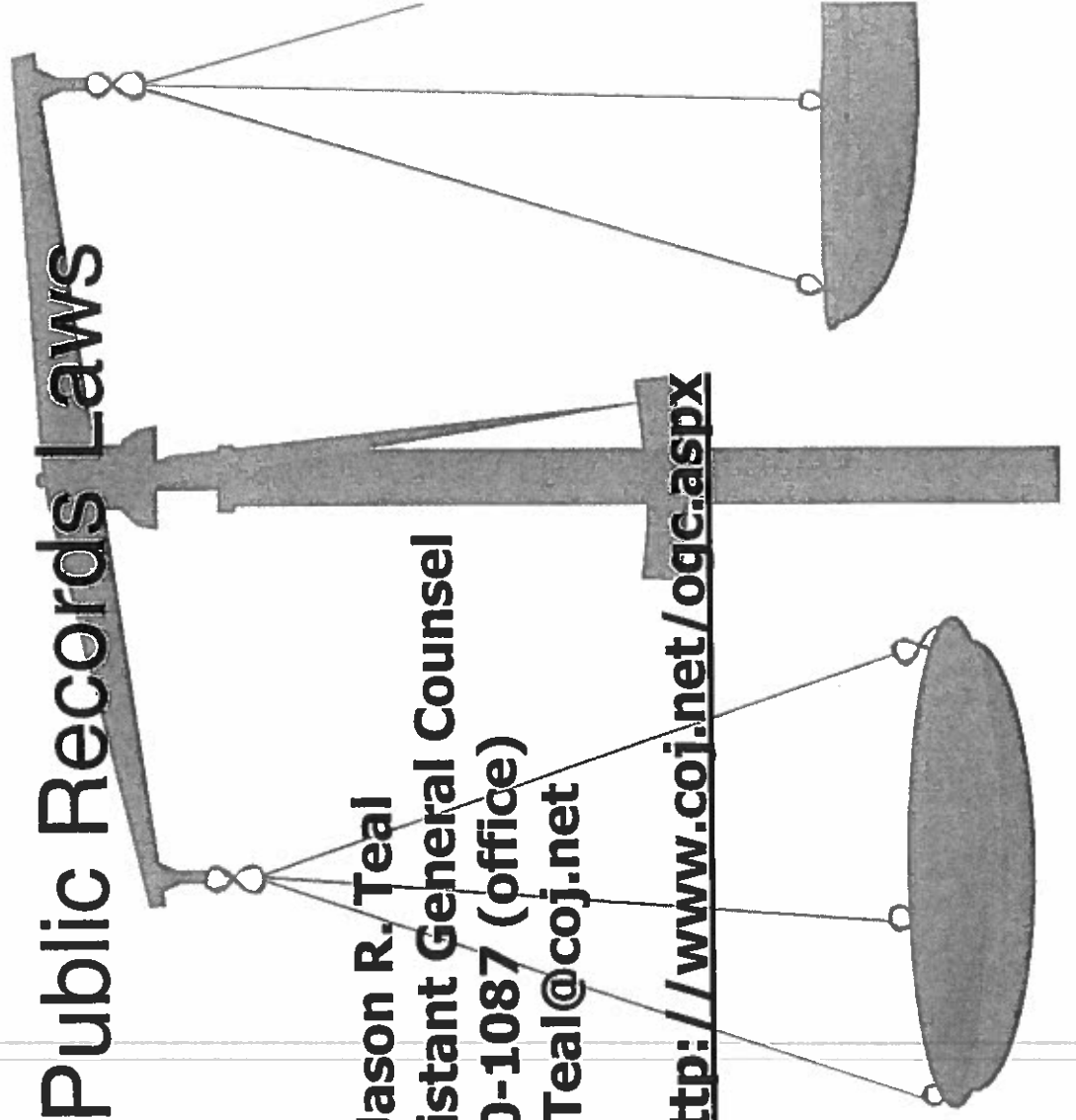
Blight Accomplishments

- Created the Mowing and Landscape Division
- Two Tire and Snipe Sign Buy back events
 - April 5, 2014
 - March 28, 2015
- Robocall effort to “educate” offenders.
- Working with JSO and Duval County Public Schools developed many maps to determine blight trouble areas.
- Created PSAs to advertise blight projects
- Developed a Blight App so blighted areas can be reported directly by using a smart phone.
- JTA purchased and installed 115 additional trash cans for bus stops.
- JTA moved nuisance bus stops
- JTA donated advertising to wrap a bus
- JTA provided a bus for a tour of blighted areas of the city
- Created a Blight mascot, Jax Can
- Created kiosks to publicize the Blight effort to use at public events.
- Involved the CDCs and found some that owed money to the city that has since been paid.
- Former Neighborhoods division created a master list of Neighborhood organizations.
- Created legislation to regulate mop and bucket car washes.
- Created legislation about the demolition of non-historic buildings
- Created legislation to allow for access for collection vehicles to gather trash and debris.
- Revised legislation to create a more vital Mortgage Foreclosure Registry, which adds renewal fees. This in turn creates a funding mechanism for Blight projects projected to raise more than \$3 million per year.

Florida's Government in the Sunshine and Public Records Laws

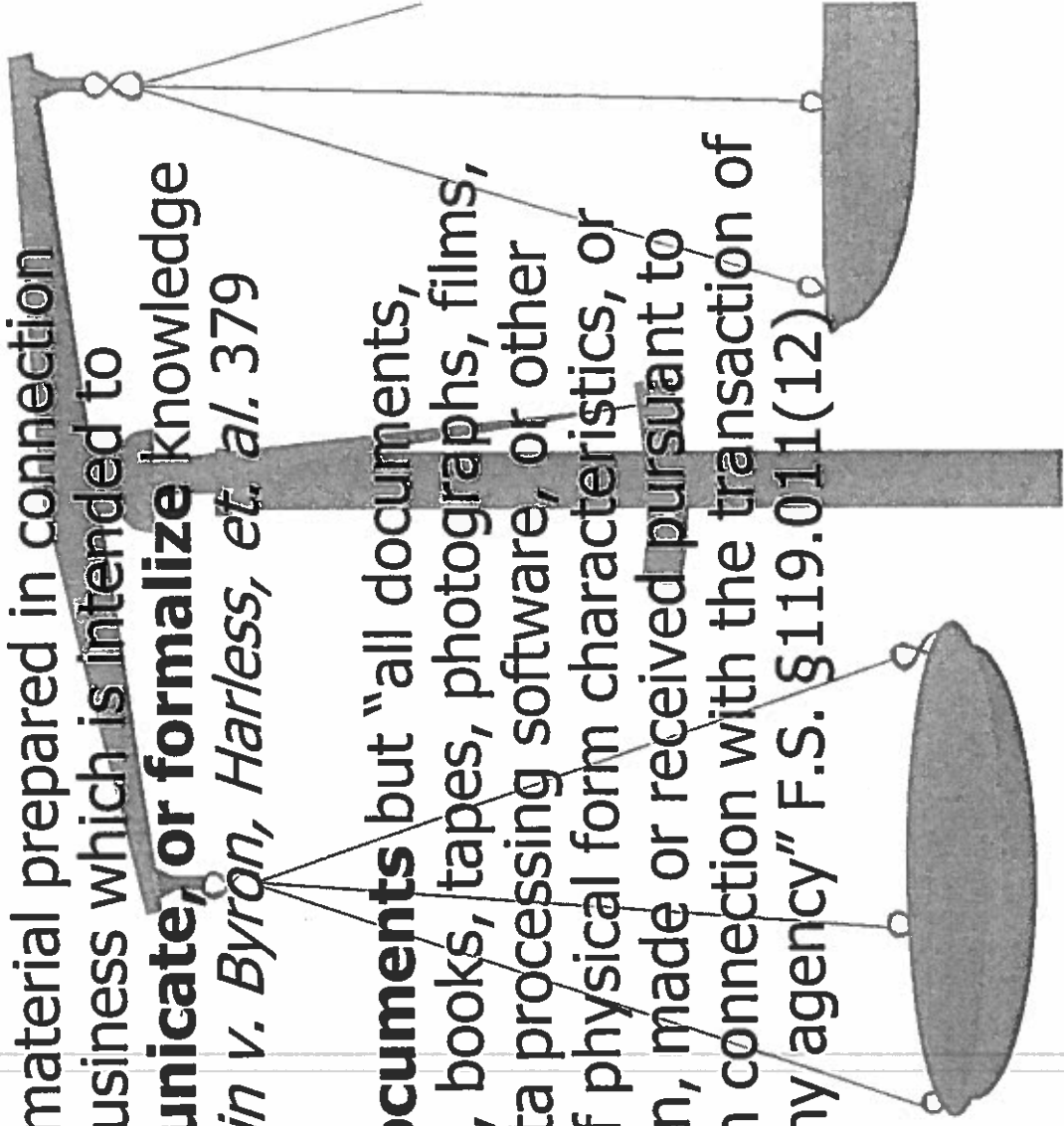
Jason R. Teal
Senior Assistant General Counsel
630-1087 (office)
JTeal@coj.net

OGC Website: <http://www.coj.net/ogc.aspx>



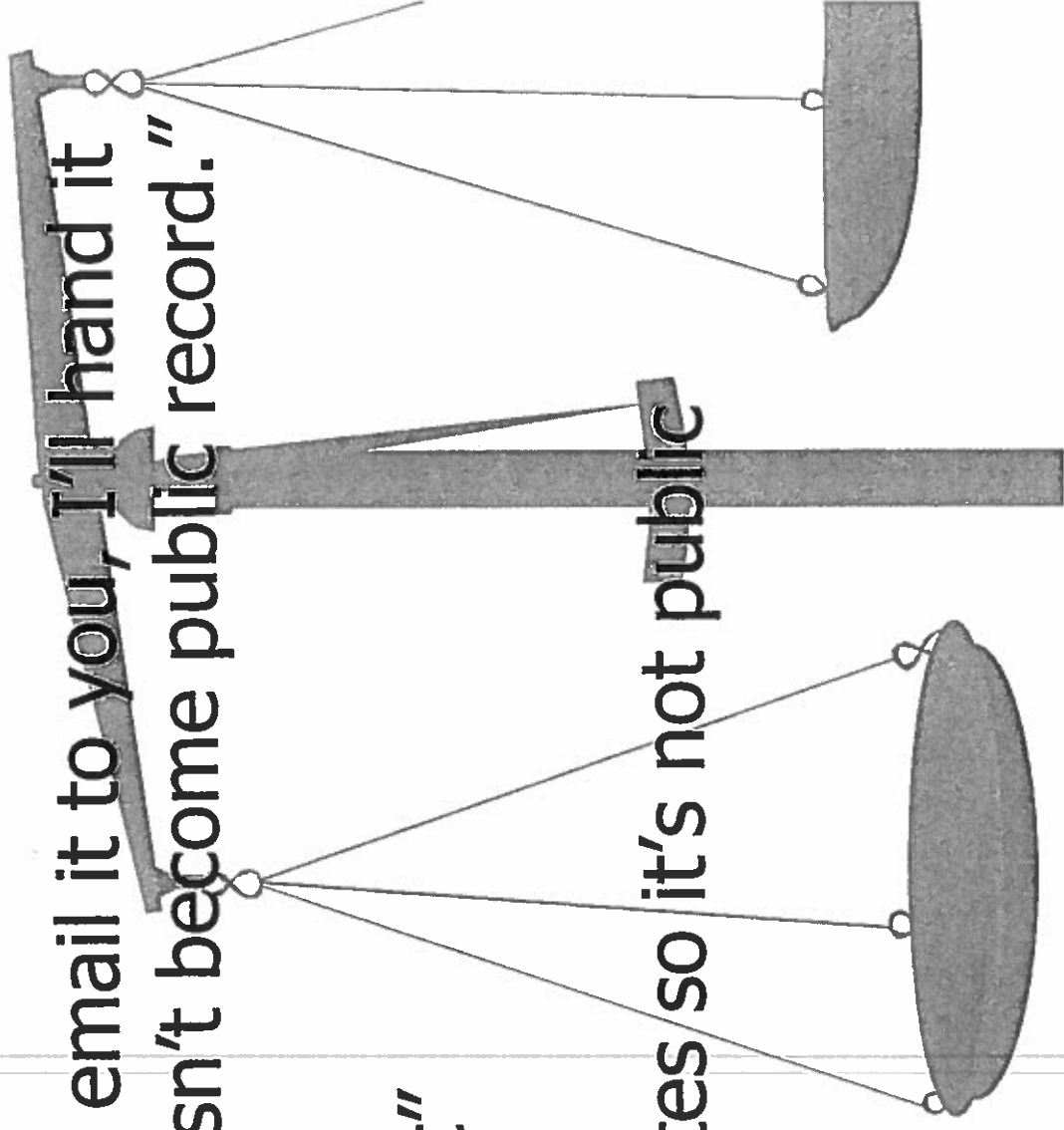
What is a “Public Record?”

- “Public record is any material prepared in connection with official agency business which is intended to **perpetuate, communicate, or formalize** knowledge of some type.” *Shevin v. Byron, Harless, et. al.* 379 So.2d 633 (Fl. 1980)
- **Not just written documents** but “all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other material regardless of physical form characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency” F.S. §119.011(12)

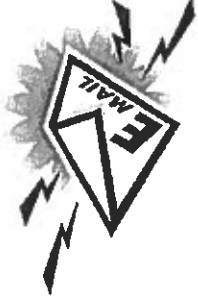


Erroneous Things We Often Hear Regarding Public Records

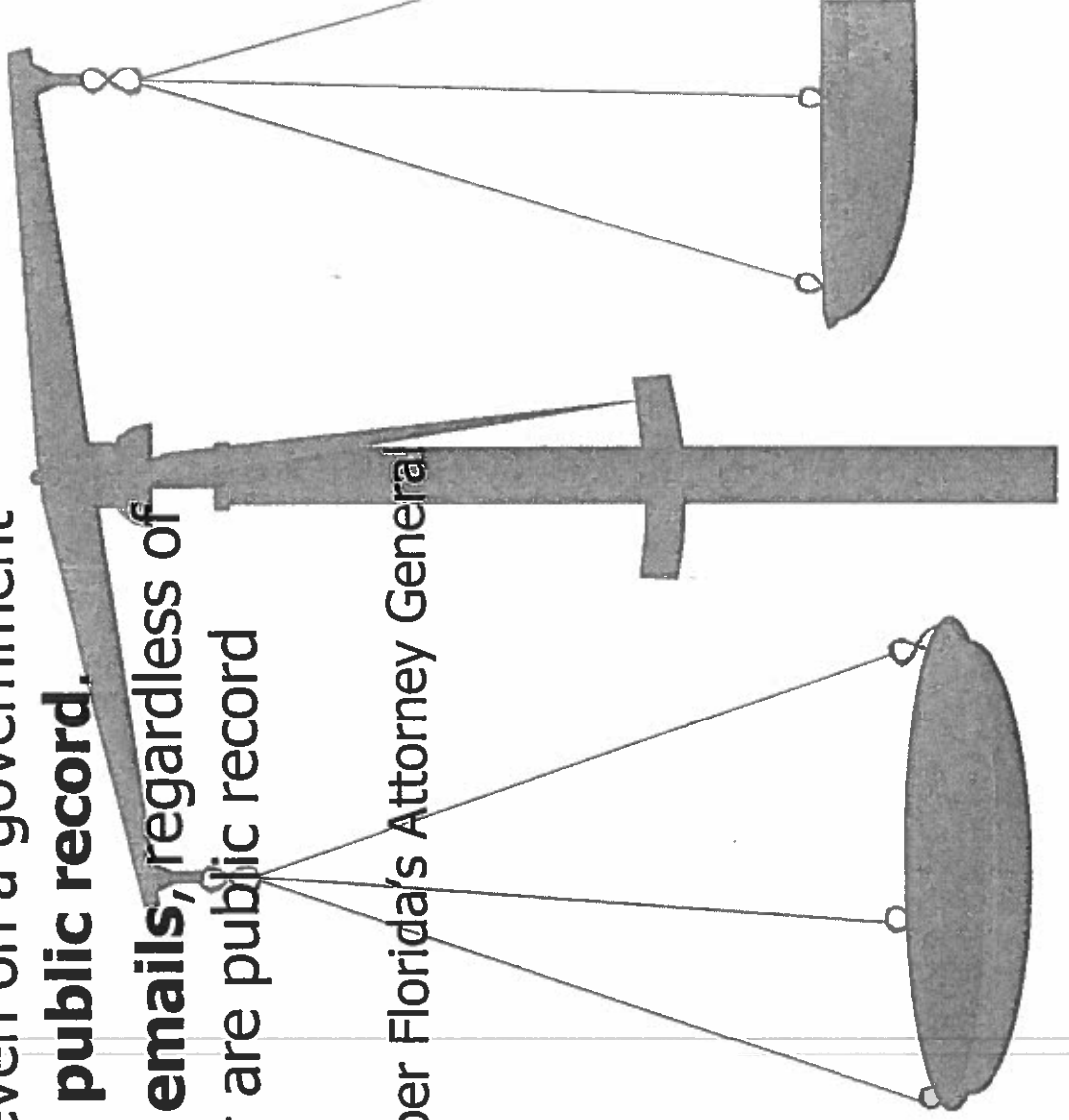
- "I don't want to email it to you, I'll hand it to you so it doesn't become public record."
- "It's just a Draft"
- "It's just my notes so it's not public record"



Email



- **Personal email**, even on a government computer, is **not a public record**.
- **Official business emails**, regardless of computer or server are public record
- **Text** messaging
 - Same Rules apply per Florida's Attorney General

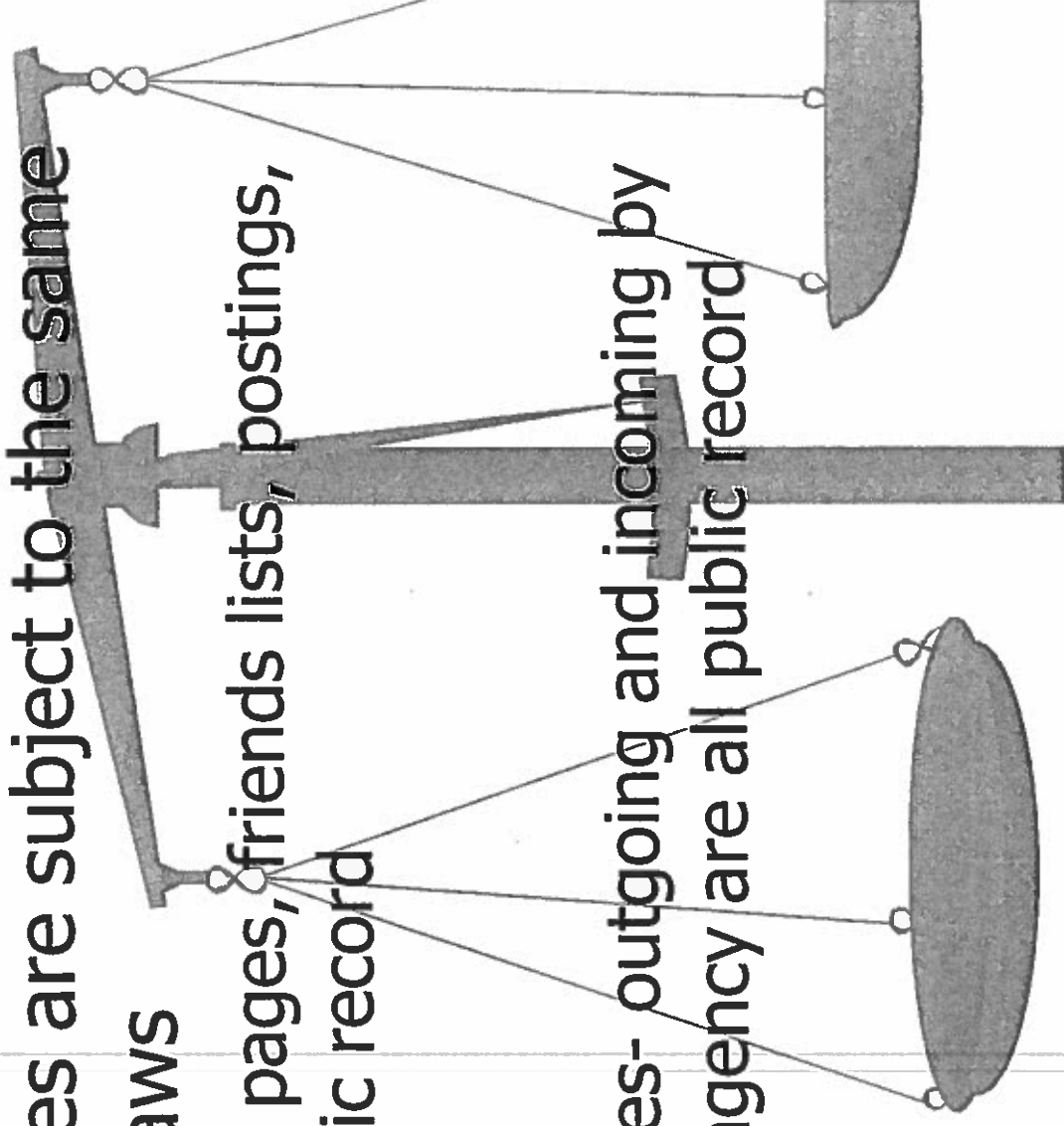




Social Media

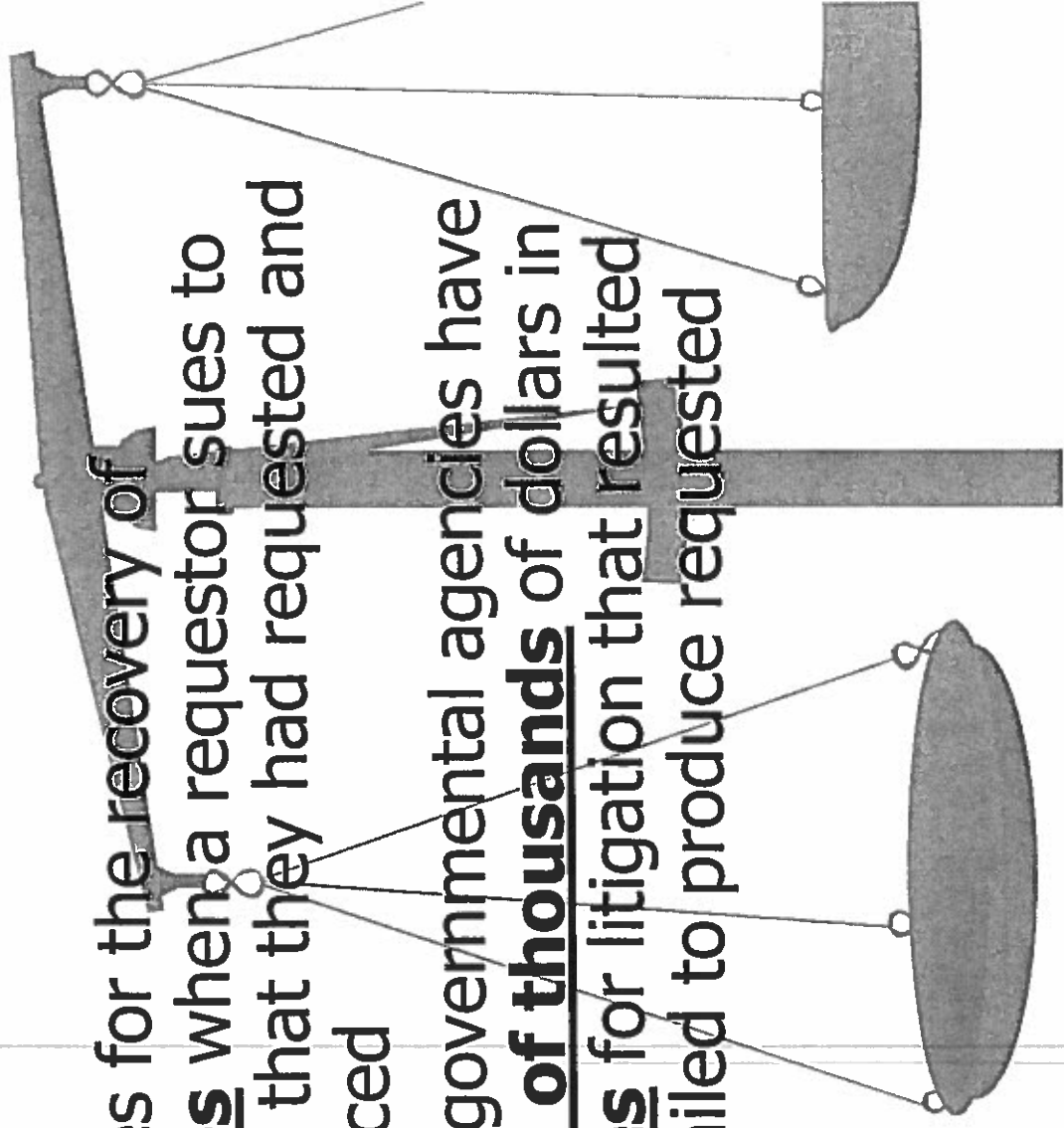


- Social media sites are subject to the same public records laws
 - City's Facebook pages, friends lists, postings, etc. are all public record
 - (AGO 09-19)
 - Twitter messages- outgoing and incoming by a government agency are all public record



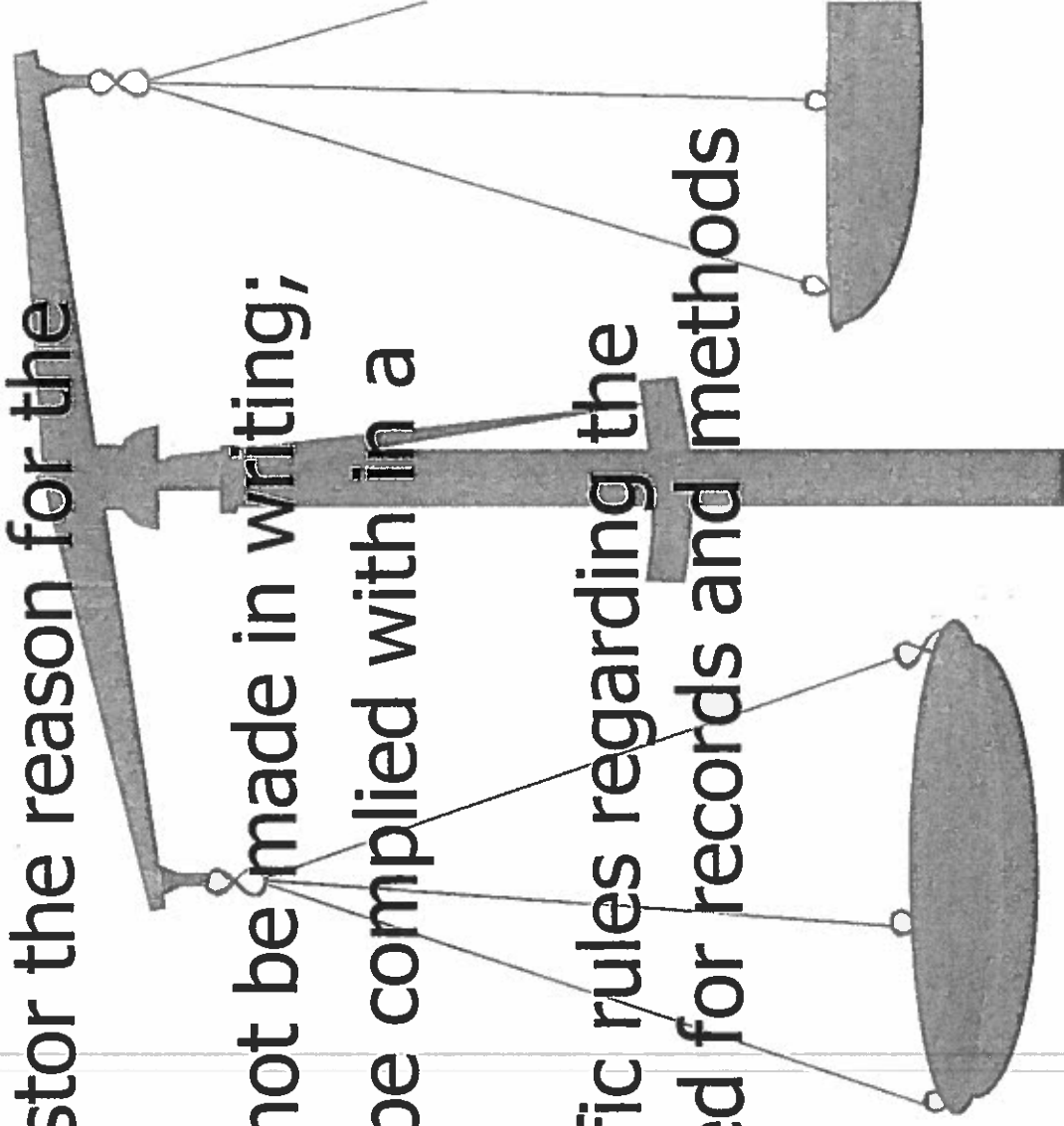
Consequences of Violations of the Public Records Law

- 1. **Civil Penalty:**
 - Fla. law provides for the recovery of attorney's fees when a requestor sues to recover records that they had requested and were not produced
 - State and local governmental agencies have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in attorney's fees for litigation that resulted because they failed to produce requested records.



Final Points on Public Records

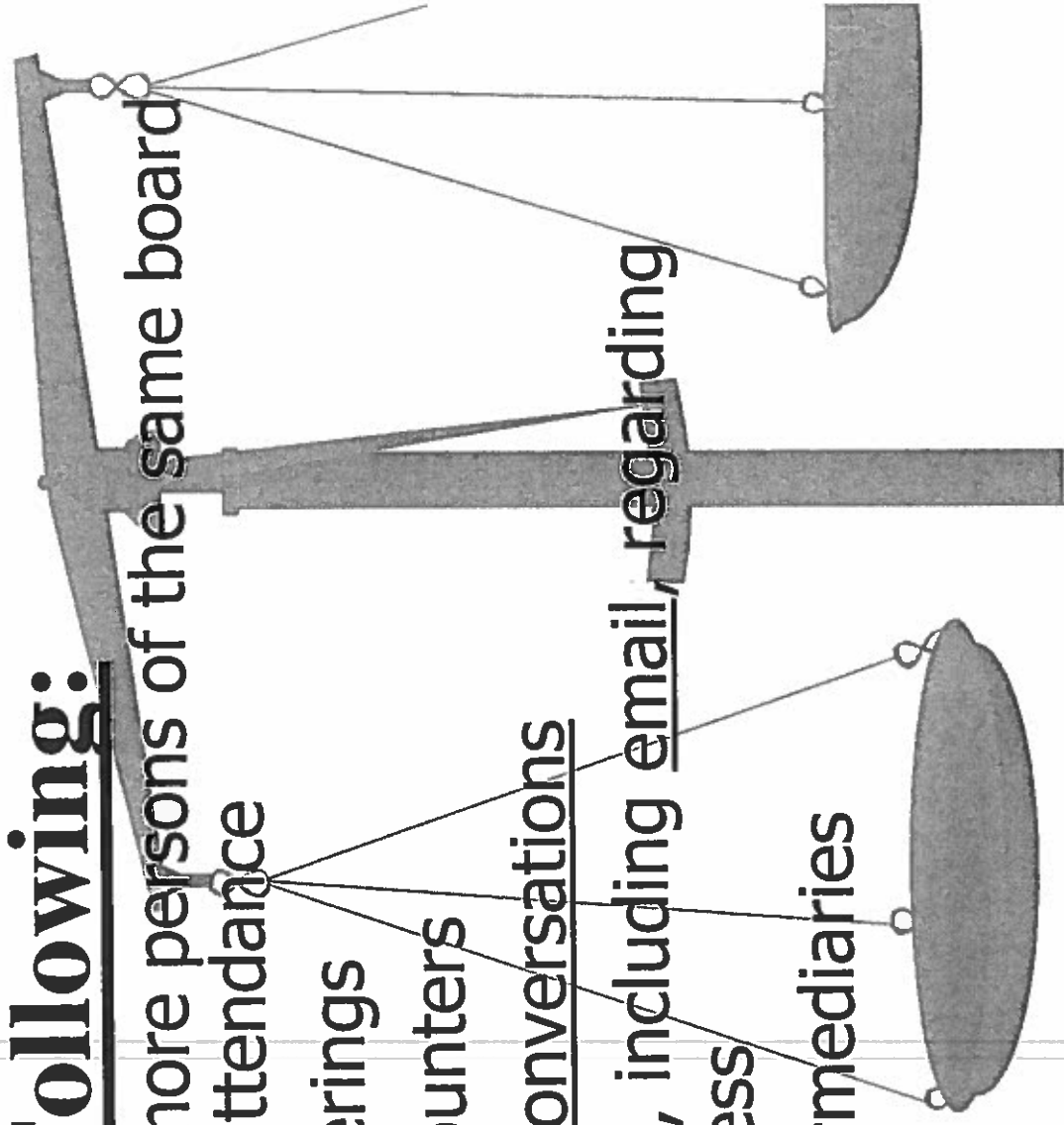
- Can't ask requestor the reason for the request;
- Requests need not be made in writing;
- Requests must be complied with in a timely fashion;
- There are specific rules regarding the amounts charged for records and methods of production.



Where Open Meeting Law is Applicable it Applies to the

Following:

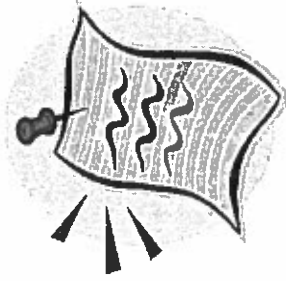
- ☆ Any two or more persons of the same board or entity in attendance
- ☆ Casual gatherings
- ☆ Chance encounters
- ☆ Telephone Conversations
- ☆ Correspondence, including email, regarding public business
- ☆ Third party intermediaries



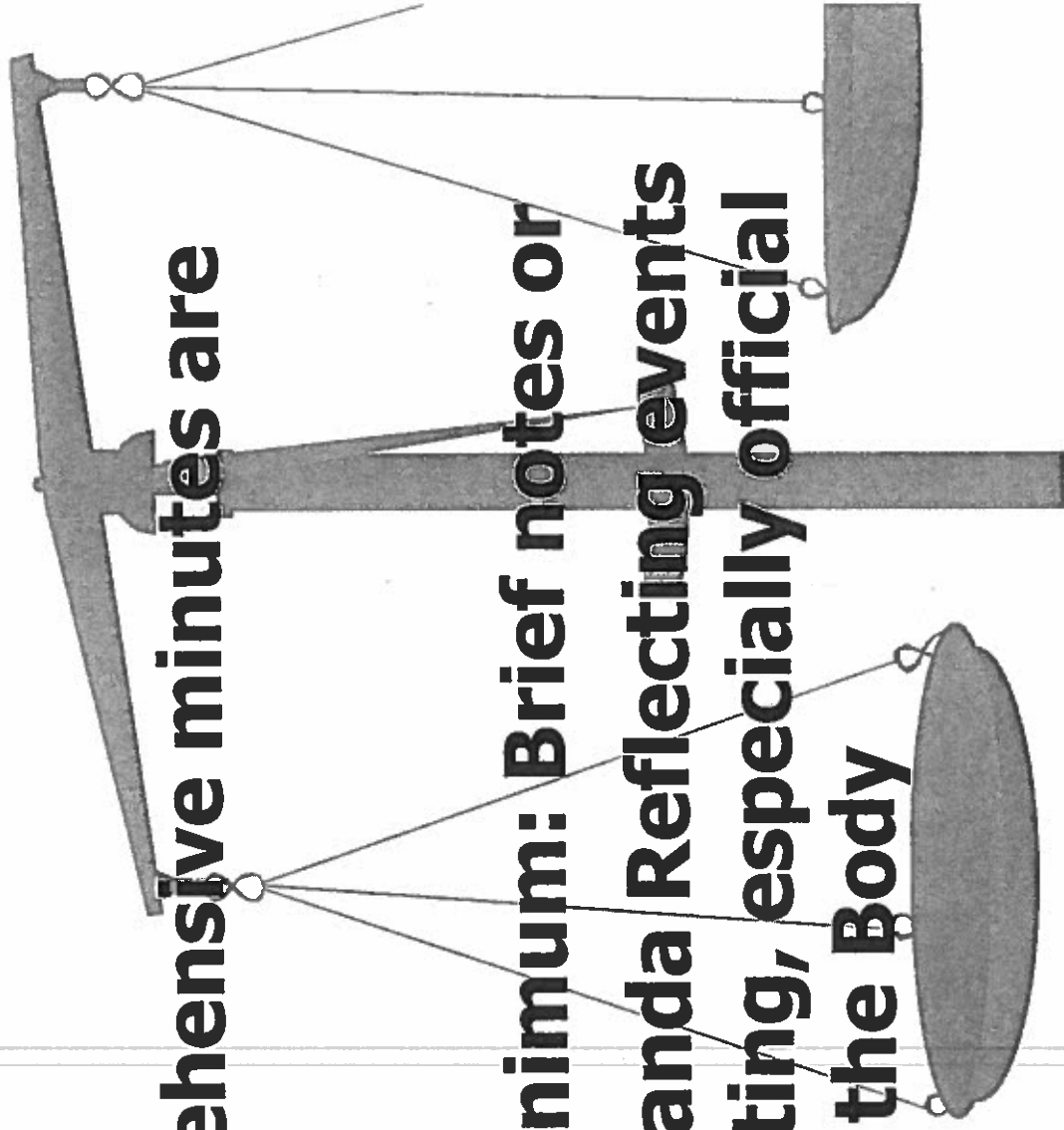
What are Legal Minutes



Comprehensive minutes are good



At a minimum: Brief notes or Memoranda Reflecting events of meeting, especially official acts of the Body



Miscellaneous

- Office of General Counsel represents all aspects of Consolidated Government, giving our office a unique understanding of the procedures, operations and needs of our clients
- We are here to assist you in the transition and to provide for a successful mayoral transition and term
- Questions?

