

**From:** [Coleman, Chris](#)  
**To:** [Amber Lewis](#)  
**Cc:** [Karin Ford](#); [Tim Wilson](#); [Kristin Hanks-Bents](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Iowa Council on Homelessness re zoning changes under consideration  
**Date:** Saturday, August 24, 2019 3:44:39 PM

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Karin and all...

I continue to be dismayed at the letter you send to the City of Des Moines.

I welcome a meeting at the soonest possible time:

- My Sunday, tomorrow, is open for a meeting after church in the morning.
- Monday I could meet between 5:30pm and 10pm
- Tuesday I could meet between 5:30 and 7pm
- Wednesday I could meet between 11:30 and 5.

There are many, many issues related to the zoning ordinance. As I take personal offense to the allegation you made on behalf of the whole Commission and IFA: "We believe aspects of the proposed zoning policies will result in more homelessness in Des Moines."

I would appreciate very specific information and data as to what is your basis for the offensive claim. I would appreciate only hearing information from the Commissioners.

Chris

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**From:** Amber Lewis [mailto:Amber.Lewis@IowaFinance.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 20, 2019 4:38 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Chris <CColeman@DMGOV.ORG>  
**Cc:** Karin Ford <Karin.Ford@idph.iowa.gov>; Tim Wilson <tim@homeforwardiowa.org>; Kristin Hanks-Bents <Kristin.Hanks-Bents@IowaFinance.com>; Gray, William S. <BillGray@dmgov.org>; Gatto, Joe P. <JoeGatto@dmgov.org>; Mandelbaum, Josh T. <JoshMandelbaum@dmgov.org>; Boesen, Connie S. <ConnieBoesen@dmgov.org>; Westergaard, Linda C. <LCWestergaard@DMGOV.ORG>; Cownie, Frank <FCownie@DMGOV.ORG>; Rauh, Diane I. <DIRauh@dmgov.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Iowa Council on Homelessness re zoning changes under consideration

Councilmember Coleman,

The Chair of the Iowa Council on Homelessness, Karin Ford, forwarded your email below. According to Iowa Code Section 16.2D, the Iowa Finance Authority provides "staff assistance and administrative support to the council." This includes taking meeting minutes and responding to public records requests. Accordingly, attached are draft minutes of the applicable meeting, and below are responses to your questions:

- 1) The meeting in question was of the Executive Committee of the council, on 8/16/2019.
- 2) Attendees of this meeting are listed in the attached draft minutes.
- 3) Committee members attending the meeting were in support of the letter, and the vote that

followed was unanimous. Please see section VII(a) of the draft minutes.

- 4) There was no one present that spoke on behalf of the proposed zoning code.
- 5) There is no audio or video recording of the meeting.

Sincerely,  
Amber Lewis



Amber Lewis

HOMELESS PROGRAMS MANAGER | 515.725.2209



**From:** Ford, Karin <[karin.ford@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:karin.ford@idph.iowa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 20, 2019 8:32 AM  
**To:** Tim Wilson <[tim@homeforwardiowa.org](mailto:tim@homeforwardiowa.org)>; Amber Lewis <[Amber.Lewis@lowaFinance.com](mailto:Amber.Lewis@lowaFinance.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter from Iowa Council on Homelessness re zoning changes under consideration

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Coleman, Chris** <[CColeman@dmgov.org](mailto:CColeman@dmgov.org)>  
Date: Mon, Aug 19, 2019, 6:26 PM  
Subject: Re: Letter from Iowa Council on Homelessness re zoning changes under consideration  
To: Tim Wilson <[tim@homeforwardiowa.org](mailto:tim@homeforwardiowa.org)>  
Cc: Gray, William S. <[BillGray@dmgov.org](mailto:BillGray@dmgov.org)>, Gatto, Joe P. <[JoeGatto@dmgov.org](mailto:JoeGatto@dmgov.org)>, Mandelbaum, Josh T. <[JoshMandelbaum@dmgov.org](mailto:JoshMandelbaum@dmgov.org)>, Boesen, Connie S. <[ConnieBoesen@dmgov.org](mailto:ConnieBoesen@dmgov.org)>, Westergaard, Linda C. <[LCWestergaard@dmgov.org](mailto:LCWestergaard@dmgov.org)>, Cownie, Frank <[FCownie@dmgov.org](mailto:FCownie@dmgov.org)>, Rauh, Diane I. <[DIRauh@dmgov.org](mailto:DIRauh@dmgov.org)>

Tim and Karin. It's hard for me to express my dismay with your letter. You've made accusations and assertions that no one has made to me in writing or in verbal comments. I find many of your

comments absolutely baseless. As a former member of the Iowa Commission on homelessness, I am personally offended at your accusation that we are knowingly considering Policies regarding our zoning that would increase homelessness. As the city, our commitment to homelessness rivals any community in America. The financial investment we've made in beds in shelters is something I'm personally very proud of. It's allowed us to have a stable point in time count over the last several years. We have great local agencies, But various city departments are on the front lines every day in ensuring our residents are safe, healthy, and have shelter if they desire cell. In fact I'd venture to guess that many members of the commissions board are from towns who depend upon city supported agencies to serve homeless from their communities as well.

So instead of trying to find the words, let me ask for some information. First, at what meeting did the commission vote on this language, who was in attendance, and who voted yes or no? As a public body I would like to know that right away. Second, I'd like to know who spoke on behalf of the zoning code that's been proposed for the Moines? Third I would like any audio or video tape of the meeting that exist, and the minutes.

It's clear to me that someone has provided the commission with tremendously false information.

I would welcome a meeting at anytime to explain my position on this. For the record I do not support the staff recommendation. I think the standards that the staff recommended and the consultant recommended are too high and provide a disservice to some of our neighborhoods who need reinvestment. But I do see a strong need for high standards for projects that wish to get out of the public scrutiny at the planning and zoning commission and at the city Council.

I'm a very proud lowan, but I'm embarrassed for our state government right now that you've made the accusations you have made. I'm certain you sense the Frustration I feel. Please let me know if I can have those documents that I requested later today or in the morning? I'm happy to work with the governors office or the attorney general to obtain such documents.

Chris Coleman  
City Council  
Chair, Central Iowa Homelessness Coordinating Council

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2019, at 4:42 PM, Tim Wilson <[tim@homeforwardiowa.org](mailto:tim@homeforwardiowa.org)> wrote:

Mayor Cownie and Des Moines City Council members:

Please see attached letter. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Tim Wilson  
Secretary, Iowa Council on Homelessness

<ICH Letter to Des Moines City Council.pdf>

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