



City of Battle Ground

City Hall • Executive Department

109 SW 1st Street, Suite 221 • Battle Ground, WA • (360) 342-5000 • www.cityofbg.org

August 3, 2020

Jennifer Hamilton
2210 W. Main St #107-348
Battle Ground, WA 98604

Re: Response to Complaint filed against Council member Brian Munson

Dear Mrs. Hamilton,

This letter responds to your complaint filed against Battle Ground City Council Member Brian Munson on June 2, 2020. The City Council takes all complaints seriously, and part of our delay in responding was due to the need to investigate the complaint and evaluate the concerns raised in your letter with the entire City Council pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(f). After evaluating the complaint, the City Council chose to send you this letter of apology on behalf of CM Munson.

We recognize it would be better to have received a personal apology from CM Munson. However, we cannot force anyone to apologize, nor would an empty apology be productive. What we can do though is express our sincere apology and concern regarding this matter, and assure you that we find his conduct unacceptable.

While there is frequently two sides to every story, we note that no one is disputing that the interaction occurred, or what was said by CM Munson, or the manner in which he confronted you. For this reason, we believe that CM Munson's behavior fell far below what is expected of a council member when dealing with any citizen, but especially considering the involvement with someone that was volunteering her time. CM Munson's hostile behavior is unacceptable and we collectively apologize for his actions.

The City Council recognizes and greatly appreciates volunteers such as yourself that play an integral role in helping the City maintain its parks for the citizens to enjoy. We appreciate that you previously adopted the Cedar Trails Park and worked directly with the City to help oversee the maintenance of the park. Your efforts over the past years have helped to ensure that the park is properly maintained. We are saddened that your negative interaction with CM Munson has caused you to withdraw your involvement with the City and Cedar Trails Park.

We want you to know that we will not tolerate any retaliation by CM Munson. We hope that you will continue your service on the City's Parks and Community Engagement Advisory Board. We assure you that your service is valuable and you bring a positive and needed perspective to this Committee.

Should the need arise, please know that we are here to assist you or any other citizen. We value each and every resident that has chosen to call Battle Ground home, and we hope that you do not judge the City or its leadership based upon your negative interaction with one council member.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor Adrian E. Cortes,
On behalf of the Battle Ground City Council