

OFFICE OF THE ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF ARIZONA

July 31, 2023

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL & EMAIL

KRIS MAYES

Cochise County Board of Supervisors 1415 Melody Lane Building G Bisbee, Arizona 85603 board@cochise.az.gov

Re: Alleged Open Meeting Law violations by Cochise County Board of Supervisors Investigation Nos. OML2022-0073, OML2023-0051, OML2023-0058

Dear Board Members:

As you know, my Office has received numerous complaints regarding alleged violations of the Open Meeting Law by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors. Although our investigation into these complaints remains ongoing, the evidence reviewed to date strongly suggests that certain Board members have violated the Open Meeting Law on several occasions dating back more than a year. Troublingly, despite these pending investigations, my Office has continued to receive complaints of additional and ongoing violations.

A majority of the complaints we have received involve the conduct of Supervisor Tom Crosby. We are seriously concerned about Supervisor Crosby's apparent disregard for the Open Meeting Law. The evidence submitted to our Office thus far indicates that Supervisor Crosby has ignored repeated warnings by legal counsel and taken little, if any, action to ensure his conduct comports with Arizona law.

Please consider this letter formal notice that continued disregard for the Open Meeting Law will be considered further evidence of knowing violations intended to deprive the public of information, and that I will pursue all penalties authorized by law for such misconduct, up to and including "remov[al of] the public officer from office" if appropriate. See A.R.S. § 38-431.07(A).

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We will be in touch soon regarding the specific investigations referenced above.

Sincerely,

Kris Mayes, Arizona Attorney General

cc: Brian McIntyre
Cochise County Attorney's Office
P.O. Drawer CA
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
BMcintyre@cochise.az.gov