

From: [Adam Benefield](#)
To: [Charles West](#); [Brad Bullock](#)
Cc: [Adam Benefield](#)
Subject: Formal Notice of Claim and Demand for Corrective Action — Charter §11.07; Agenda Item X.4 (Dec. 4, 2025)
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 7:40:05 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-ji4thgt1.png](#)

Mr. West and Mr. Bullock,

This email is an advance copy of my formal Notice of Claim under City Charter §11.07 and the City's applicable notice-of-claim provisions arising from the City Council's action on December 4, 2025, during the Regular City Council Meeting held at 3:30 PM at City Hall (Agenda Item X.4), which reconsidered Resolution No. 25-2174 and removed me as Council Liaison to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

A duly certified Notice of Claim will be served by certified mail (return receipt requested) upon the Mayor and each City Council Member, and delivered to the City Manager and City Secretary, consistent with the City's notice-of-claim requirements.

Claimant Information:

Adam C. Benefield

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Residence history (prior six months):

[REDACTED]

I recognize the Council's general discretion to assign or reassign liaison roles. My claim is not about the existence of that discretion. My claim is about how that discretion was exercised on the dais on December 4, 2025 in connection with Agenda Item X.4; specifically, in a manner that functioned as a stigmatizing disciplinary proceeding:

- The reassignment was carried out in a manner that functioned as a public disciplinary proceeding; stigmatizing and punitive in effect, without advance notice of allegations and without a meaningful opportunity to respond before the Council acted.
- During the discussion, Council Members made stigmatizing character accusations from the dais (including statements that I was a "bully" and similar remarks), and when I attempted to address and correct the accusations in real time, a motion was called and passed to limit debate, preventing me from correcting the record before the Council acted.

- If Council Members believed I committed misconduct warranting public condemnation, the City has an established framework for addressing allegations of ethics violations through a sworn complaint process with structured procedures and an opportunity for the accused public servant to respond and be represented by counsel. Instead, allegations were aired and the Council proceeded to act immediately in the same context, creating reputational harm and an appearance of “for-cause” punishment without the safeguards that accompany an actual ethics process.

This conduct raises serious procedural and governance concerns, including due process concerns under the United States Constitution and Texas law, and it exposes the City to liability for damages, attorneys’ fees, and equitable relief.

The City officials involved include the Mayor (as presiding officer), Council Members participating in the discussion and vote on Item X.4, and any City officers or employees who drafted, advised on, coordinated, or communicated regarding the reconsideration of Resolution No. 25-2174 or my removal as liaison.

Known participants include Mayor Shane Saum; Council Members Hall, Wilson-Chavarria, Owen, Van Ness, and Prince; and City staff including Charles West, Brad Bullock, and Robin Smith.

Potential witnesses and evidence include:

- The official meeting video/audio recording of the December 4, 2025 City Council meeting and all backups/archives.
- The meeting minutes and any contemporaneous notes taken by the City Secretary or staff.
- Any persons present during the discussion and vote on Agenda Item X.4, including Council Members, City staff, and members of the public who observed the proceedings.
- Public commentary and social-media posts made in response to the December 4, 2025 proceedings and the allegations aired from the dais.

Witnesses known at this time include:

- [REDACTED] — [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] — [REDACTED]
- Robert Owen — [REDACTED]
- Chief Franco — 5803 Thunderbird Street, Lago Vista, TX 78645

Additional members of the community sitting in attendance observed the proceedings; identities and addresses are currently unknown and will be supplemented as identified.

The harms include reputational injury and related damages, as well as the need for equitable relief to cure the procedural deficiencies and public stigmatization that occurred in connection with Item X.4. The nature and apparent extent of the damages include, among other things, harm to my standing and credibility in the community as an elected official, ongoing reputational harm fueled by public commentary and social-media posts following the meeting, and related personal and professional impacts.

To resolve this matter without litigation, I demand that the City identify and implement an acceptable corrective solution within thirty (30) days of this notice. At a minimum, the corrective action must address and cure (a) the procedural deficiencies and (b) the public stigmatization that occurred in connection with Item X.4.

Settlement / damages demand (for purposes of the City's notice provisions)
\$250,000.00 inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, together with the corrective action described above.

If the City does not implement an acceptable corrective solution within thirty (30) days, I will instruct counsel to proceed with all available legal remedies, including filing suit and seeking monetary damages, attorneys' fees, and appropriate injunctive and declaratory relief.

In addition, to the extent the conduct described above constitutes a violation of the City Charter, the City's Ethics Policy, or other applicable City rules or standards, I will pursue all available Charter- and policy-based remedies to the fullest extent permitted by law.

If you request it, I am willing to meet and confer within the next 30 days in an effort to resolve this matter without litigation.

Please treat this as a litigation hold. Preserve all potentially relevant records, including emails, texts, messaging-app communications, drafts, notes, agendas, packets, recordings, and any other materials relating to Agenda Item X.4, the reconsideration of Resolution No. 25-2174, and communications regarding my liaison role or the decision to remove me, whether stored on City systems or personal devices.

Nothing herein is a waiver of any rights, claims, defenses, or remedies.

Respectfully,

City of Lago Vista

M) 

www.lagovistatexas.org

5803 Thunderbird

Lago Vista, TX 78645



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