



Meredith Leighty
Mayor
11701 Community Center Drive
P: 303.918.1568
mleighty@northglenn.org
www.northglenn.org

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Colorado State Senate
Senate President Steve Fenberg
200 E. Colfax, Room 346
Denver, CO 80203

Dear President Fenberg,

Please let this correspondence serve as a formal complaint against Senator Faith Winter filed on behalf of the City of Northglenn City Council for violating Rule 41, specifically 41(a.5), of the Colorado Senate Rules (the "Rules"). This complaint is being filed pursuant to Rule 43, which requires the signed, written complaint be filed with the Senate President.

Background and Facts

On April 3, 2024, the City Council held a special community meeting (the "Meeting") to discuss the siting of a Mental Health Transitional Living Facility (the "MHTL Facility") in the City.

As has been well documented in the media, Senator Winter appeared at the community meeting that was attended by between 300 and 400 community members, as well as the entire Northglenn City Council and other state and local elected officials, and Senator Winter appeared disoriented at best at the Meeting. Throughout the public comment period, for which [video is available](#), she appeared at various times, disinterested, annoyed, and combative, to the point where others had to intervene to cool tensions. In one notable example, she simply refused to answer one of my direct questions. She also appeared to have glassy eyes, slurred speech, and some individuals smelled alcohol on her breath. After the meeting, multiple news sources indicated she was unable to drive herself home, and that she intended to enter rehab for alcohol addiction. Marianne Goodland, *Colorado Senator Faith Winter to seek treatment for alcohol use, checking in to rehab*, COLORADO POLITICS (Apr. 4, 2024).

Senator Winter is the Senate representative for the vast majority of the City. While the City is sensitive to the disease of alcoholism, there is simply no excuse for showing up to a community meeting under the influence of alcohol. From the City Council's perspective, this is at a minimum a dereliction of her legislative duties under Rule 41(a.5) as set forth below.

Charge

Rule 41(a.5) states the following on Senate standards for legislative ethics and official conduct:

Legislative office is a trust to be performed with **integrity in the public interest**. A member is to **be respectful of the confidence placed in that member** by the other members of the Senate and **by the people of the state of Colorado**. **A**

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member shall respect and comply with the law and shall **perform his or her legislative duties at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity** and independence of the Senate and of the General Assembly. **By personal example** and by admonition to colleagues whose behavior may threaten the honor and integrity of the lawmaking body, **the member shall watchfully guard the responsibilities of the public office and the responsibilities and duties placed on the member by the Senate.** To this end, **each member shall be accountable to the Senate** for violations of the Rules of the Senate, the Joint Rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Constitution of the state of Colorado, or any provision of the code of ethics set forth in article 18 of title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes.

Colorado Senate Rule 41(a.5) (emphasis added).

As outlined in the background and facts, and evidenced by video record of the entire meeting, the City Council of the City of Northglenn alleges the following based on her conduct at the April 3, 2024 community meeting:

- Senator Winter has failed to uphold her office with integrity in the public interest;
- Senator Winter was disrespectful to her constituents and the people of the State of Colorado, as well as to herself;
- Senator Winter lost confidence from the public, most damagingly from her own constituents that elected her to office; and
- Senator Winter has failed to watchfully guard the responsibilities of the public office and the responsibilities and duties placed on her as a member of the Senate.

This charge is filed by the City Council because the City still believes she must, as all members of the General Assembly must, be held accountable for her behavior and conduct. Accordingly, the City respectfully requests you convene a Senate Committee on Ethics pursuant to Rule 43 to address this matter.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Meredith Leighty
Mayor