

**From:** [Kelli Richardson](#)  
**To:** [Council](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] ICE  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 4, 2026 1:01:14 AM

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Dear Mayor Nelson and City Council members,

Let me start by thanking you all for having our city of Billings and her citizens' best interests in mind as you address the many important issues facing her today.

I am contacting you re: how our city's law enforcement departments should respond to ICE, if and when they are assigned to investigate and send home any illegal immigrants that are in our city. If we want our city to be a safe one where we can walk downtown at night, where our children can ride their bikes with friends, where a young woman can jog alone, and where public schools are able to focus on scholastics more than how to administer Narcan to a friend overdosing on fentanyl and other opioids, then we must follow the laws of our nation. I'm not talking about new laws, simply the ones that have been on the books for decades.

Last night, I read about an illegal immigrant, Kenneth Moreno Guzman, who was arrested in Georgia. He allegedly raped (sodomized) an 11 year old girl at knife point and forced her 10 year old sister to watch. You all know I could go on and on with stories about Laken Riley, Kate Steinle, and Jocelyn Nungaray, a 12 yr old girl who was raped by 2 Venezuelan illegal immigrants. They bound her arms behind her body, stripped her then abused her for 2 hours before strangling her and dumping her lifeless body in a bayou.

Justice for them, and the countless other victims not mentioned, demands that we follow the laws of our land. Justice demands we place empathy for "these victims" and their families. Justice demands that we honor the millions of immigrants who filed papers, passed interviews, medical exams, and inspections, paid fees and then WAITED the years it took to come here legally. Justice demands that we support ICE in Billings with what law enforcement they need to safely carryout their mission.

Thank you, truly, for your time.

Most respectfully,

Kelli Richardson  
Billings, MT  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force](#)  
**To:** [Leslie Cooke](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force - meeting minutes 1-21-2026  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 4, 2026 4:18:22 PM

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## Rimrock Neighborhood Task Force

### Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026 - 7:00pm**

**Mayflower Church Meeting Room**

**Board members in attendance:** Leslie Cooke - Chair, Simon Harper - Vice Chair, Kevin Moser, Holly Schwarm - Secretary, David Schwarm

There were 32 people in attendance.

Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting minutes from November were approved.

#### **Law Enforcement Update - Sgt. Glenn Gunther BPD**

Sgt. Gunther discussed the recent email sent out regarding task force reports. He noted that the most current report is the December report and that the January report won't be available until July. He said that he has spoken to the gentleman who creates the reports, and that a much more up to date and user-friendly report system is in the works. Sgt. Gunther also talked about the swastikas that had been painted on the Mayflower building. The detective in charge said the case is still under investigation and he was unable to speak in depth about the case. However, he is certain it was the work of a single individual.

**Old Business** - Leslie spoke about the Rimrock Corridor Safety Committee. At the meeting last week, the group discussed what safety issues on Rimrock Road need to be the priority. It was determined that it is pedestrian crossings. This committee will continue to work with the city for the transportation corridor plan.

**2026 Q&A Panel** - Panel Members: Mike Nelson - Mayor, Andrew Lindley - Ward 4 City Council, Mark Nicholson - Ward 1 City Council, Mike Waters - Yellowstone County Commissioner District 3, and Mike Boyett - City Council Member Ward 5 and

Vice Mayor

## **1. Upcoming Mill Levy voting in November**

There are 2 mill levies expected to be on the ballot this year - one is for an expansion on the jail the other is for school district 2. The panel members spoke about the jail levy. Due to the overwhelming number of inmates, the jail needs to be expanded. They are trying to educate the community on the issue. It was mentioned that law enforcement and judicial officials are having to make difficult decisions due to the overcrowding. The jail's occupancy is 430. On Monday there were 660 inmates.

## **2. How can we find funds to hire new law enforcement?**

The bottom line is taxes. Billings property taxes don't go to help pay for emergency services, so the money has to come from somewhere else. When citizens are asked "hey can we raise your taxes to pay for more police" the answer is a resounding "NO". At a certain point something is going to have to give. It was mentioned that as much as Montanan's don't want sales tax, that money would go a long way to help get more law enforcement on the streets as well as fund other needed items.

## **3. Was Stagecoach Trail put on hold?**

The answer is no. The trail is still going to be built. It is still in the planning phase. Stagecoach Trail is being funded mostly by grants with a smaller portion coming from the city. There were a few other trails that were put on the back burner for the time being so that the city can focus more on safe routes to school.

## **4. Increase in disruptive airport noise.**

The FAA does have laws on airport noise, things like limited flight paths and only using certain runways for preflight engine checks. That being said, Billings and the surrounding area are growing which means more flights and that equals more noise. Plus, we are one of the top 150 airports in the nation for freight, big planes equal more noise and the National Guard Helicopter Program will add a potential 6 Apache helicopters to the noise. Airport officials have been contacted as well as FAA officials in Washington DC.

## **5. Sewer infrastructure updates.**

The city is working on replacing all the old lead sewer pipes. It is a slow and expensive job. They are working to replace pipes every year, but other pipes break

and that becomes priority.

## **6. When will the new water plant on Hesper open up?**

It will be a year or two before the lakes are finished, but the new plant will be up and running this year. At that time they will shut down the old plant and make necessary repairs and upgrades - it needs to keep running.

## **7. What do you think is going really well with the city right now?**

Andrew Lindley- 1. The city is continuing to develop and grow. 2. The city council is working really well together.

Mayor Nelson - Public safety. Crime statistics are going down, and the citizens of Billings seem to have a lot of pride in their community.

Mark Nicholson - Agrees with how well the city council is working together and is excited for the final report of the Energy and Conservation Commission. Which will help the city by recommending ways to save money on energy.

Mike Waters - All the live entertainment like the rodeos, comedy shows and concerts, and the upcoming air show.

Mike Boyett - New gymnasium and hockey rinks being built at Amend Park they will bring entertainment as well as revenue into Billings.

Panel Discussion was closed.

## **New Business**

Mike Yakawich - MT State Senator for the 24th District, was in attendance and spoke briefly on what is going on at the state level. Mentioning he is partnering with Billings and the City Council to keep lines of communication open.

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Holly Schwarm, RNTF Board Secretary

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Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force  
[www.ci.billings.mt.us/index.aspx?NID=1730](http://www.ci.billings.mt.us/index.aspx?NID=1730)

**From:** [Lindley, Andrew](#)  
**To:** [.MayorAndCouncil](#); [Kukulski, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** Technology Advisory Commission - Feedback  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 4, 2026 7:26:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Technology Advisory Commission Revised.pdf](#)  
[Outlook-A picture.png](#)

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Hi everyone,

I wanted to share an updated draft of my proposed Technology Advisory Commission following some helpful early feedback.

This version tightens the language around scope, clarifies that the commission is strictly advisory to City Council, and further emphasizes its time-limited, non-operational nature. The intent is to create a focused, low-cost way for Council to benefit from local expertise while fully respecting staff authority and existing priorities.

I believe that work from any board or commission should be very clear and focused which was my intent here.

I'd appreciate any additional feedback or questions you may have before I bring this forward formally. Please feel free to reply all or reach out directly with any questions.

Thanks for taking a look,



**Andrew Lindley**  
Councilmember - Ward 4  
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**COUNCIL INITIATIVE PROPOSAL FORM**

City Code Sec. 2-214(14)

**COUNCIL MEMBER PROPOSING INITIATIVE:** Andrew Lindley – Ward 4

**SHORT NAME OF INITIATIVE:** Technology Advisory Commission

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE OR STAFF ACTION**

This initiative proposes the creation of a Technology Advisory Commission as a temporary, two-year advisory body to provide expert, non-binding guidance to City Council within five defined focus areas: (1) establishing a citywide technology and cybersecurity baseline, (2) improving resident-facing digital services, (3) developing a responsible framework for the use of artificial intelligence and data, (4) strengthening technology governance and decision-making, and (5) identifying opportunities to leverage local technology talent and partnerships.

The Commission shall consist of five to seven technology professionals appointed by the Mayor to serve one two-year term. The Commission shall not expand its scope beyond these focus areas without direction from City Council and shall automatically sunset at the conclusion of its two-year term unless reauthorized by City Council.

No later than 90 days prior to the end of its term, the Commission shall submit a final written report to City Council summarizing its work, outcomes achieved relative to the defined focus areas, and recommendations for future technology priorities within those same areas. The report shall also include a recommendation regarding continuation, modification, or sunset of the Commission. City Council may, by resolution, reauthorize the Commission for an additional term.

**CITY STAFF OR DEPARTMENT DIRECTED TO TAKE ACTION**

City Council directs the City Administrator to ensure that the City's Information Technology Director and relevant technology personnel collaborate with the Technology Advisory Commission by providing reasonable access to information, participating in meetings as appropriate, and offering subject matter expertise when reasonably available.

The Commission's role is strictly consultative to City Council. The Commission may receive information from City staff and engage in dialogue during meetings for context and understanding, but it shall not direct staff work, interfere with operational decisions, or substitute for staff expertise or authority.

**ESTIMATE OF APPROXIMATE STAFF TIME REQUIRED**

Staff support is expected to require limited, periodic involvement rather than ongoing operational support. Primary involvement from the Information Technology Director or designee is estimated at approximately 2–4 hours per month, assuming quarterly or bi-monthly Commission meetings. Additional staff engagement will be minimal and on an as-needed basis.

**APPROXIMATE TIMELINE FOR STAFF ACTION**

Following Council approval, initial coordination is expected within 60–90 days, including designation of a staff liaison and scheduling of the first meeting. Written interim updates shall be provided to City Council at least every six months during the Commission's two-year term.

**COSTS OTHER THAN STAFF TIME**

The Commission is expected to operate with minimal to no direct costs beyond staff time. Members will serve on a volunteer basis without compensation. Any recommendations requiring new or unbudgeted expenditures would require separate Council approval.

**PRIORITY RELATIVE TO EXISTING INITIATIVES**

The Technology Advisory Commission is intended to support and complement existing City initiatives

and shall not supersede or delay approved priorities. Its work is advisory to City Council and integrated with existing workflows where feasible.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Commission is intended to help position Billings for the future by bringing local expertise into transparent, responsible technology decision-making. Its time-limited structure, defined scope, and built-in accountability ensure adaptability while maintaining public trust.