

From: [Tasheena Duran](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Failure to Respond, Exercise Oversight, and Address Forensic Evidence Decisions in a Police-Involved Shooting
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:24:04 PM



Dear Members of the Billings City Council,

I am writing with deep sadness and concern regarding the City Council's failure to respond to my repeated communications or to exercise meaningful oversight in a police-involved shooting—an area where transparency and accountability should be at their highest.

I have contacted the City Council multiple times requesting limited, specific information. To date, I have received no response to those communications. I am aware that my emails were circulated and discussed internally among City officials, yet no acknowledgment or substantive response has been provided to me.

The absence of any direct response is troubling on its own. It is especially concerning given the seriousness of a police-involved use of deadly force and the City's responsibility to ensure public confidence in how such incidents are investigated and reviewed.

My requests have been narrow and reasonable:

- 1) the release of GPS data associated with law enforcement vehicles involved in the incident, and
- 2) the written policies governing how evidence—particularly forensic evidence—is collected, tested, submitted, preserved, and protected from loss or destruction by the Billings Police Department and the involved city and county attorneys.

With respect to forensic evidence, I have been informed that fingerprint and DNA testing were not conducted. However, no explanation has been provided for why this testing was not performed, nor has any policy been produced that would justify or govern such a decision. It has also not been clarified whether the decision not to conduct fingerprint or DNA testing was made pursuant to a written policy, supervisory direction, prosecutorial guidance, or individual officer discretion.

In a police-involved shooting, decisions regarding whether to conduct basic forensic testing are significant. Without a stated rationale, governing policy, or identification of decision-making authority, the absence of testing raises serious and reasonable concerns about the completeness and integrity of the investigation.

I am saddened that I must write this letter at all. In a case involving police use of deadly force, I expected the City Council to insist on transparency and to uphold its responsibility to ensure that law enforcement agencies and city attorneys operate under clear, enforceable evidence-handling and forensic decision-making standards. Silence and inaction under these circumstances reasonably call into question whether those responsibilities are being fulfilled.

What has made this situation even more painful is that the City's refusal to respond or require disclosure has placed additional financial burden, delay, and emotional strain on our family.

Rather than resolving these concerns through straightforward transparency, we are left pursuing answers through increasingly difficult and costly means—hardship that could have been avoided.

Oversight is not optional. When the City Council declines to act, or declines even to respond, it allows accountability to erode and shifts the consequences of that inaction onto the people most directly affected. Continued withholding of information also raises legitimate concerns about whether evidence has been properly preserved and whether investigative decisions were made consistently, appropriately, and in accordance with established standards.

I respectfully urge the City Council to fulfill its duty by responding to these requests and requiring the release of the requested GPS data and at minimum publicly producing the policies that govern forensic evidence handling, testing decisions, and preservation. The public deserves assurance that, in cases involving police use of deadly force, investigative decisions are transparent, standardized, and subject to meaningful oversight.

This is not about politics. It is about accountability, transparency, and the integrity of the systems the City of Billings is responsible for overseeing—especially when a life has been lost.

Sincerely,
Tasheena Duran

From: [n.o](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] law enforcement (cont.)
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 2:51:54 PM



Mayor, council:
(continuation of the email previously sent re: the Colonial)

Also, why is it in the news that No Trespassing Signs were put up and that violators would go to (be arrested/go to jail). But if a private resident is forced to put up a No Trespassing sign on their property due to vandalism, BPD PROTECTS the known perpetrators??

From: [n.o](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] law enforcement
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 2:42:40 PM



Mayor, council:

Please explain why it is okay for BPD & the Sheriff's Dept. to work together re: the Colonial evictions (in the city limits) and the chase & shooting of a suspect on Friday night south of town but if BPD FAILS to do its' duty under oath to serve a private citizen (living in BOTH the city of Billings and Yellowstone County) the Sheriff's Dept. says they can do nothing and a citizen can ONLY get law enforcement help from BPD in the city limits.

From: [Chyrel Garding](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: [Jeffrey Keller](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Invitation to Support Rimrock's An Evening Empowered Gala
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:47:44 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-email H.no](#)
[GALA Sponsorships.pdf](#)
[An Evening Empowered Flyer.png](#)



Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of Rimrock to invite your support for **An Evening Empowered**, Rimrock's first annual red-carpet gala taking place on **March 6, 2026, at The Paper Mill**.

This event will premiere *The Empowered Program* documentary—hosted by Meg Ryan—which highlights recovery, resilience, and access to behavioral health care in Montana. Following the event, the documentary will air nationally, elevating awareness of substance use treatment, stigma reduction, and the importance of compassionate, community-based care in Montana.

As you know, Rimrock serves as a critical safety-net provider for individuals and families impacted by addiction and mental illness in our community. Each year, we serve nearly 3,000 individuals across our full continuum of care—often regardless of their ability to pay. Events like An Evening Empowered help sustain this work while strengthening community understanding and engagement around behavioral health.

We respectfully invite you to consider supporting this event in one of the following ways:

- **Individual ticket or table purchase** to attend and engage in the conversation around recovery and community health
- **Corporate or organizational sponsorship**, if applicable
- **Sharing the event with colleagues, community partners, or networks** who may be interested in attending or sponsoring

Your presence and support send a powerful message about the importance of recovery, public health, and collaborative solutions for our city.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your commitment to the well-being of our community. I would be happy to provide additional details or answer any questions.

With appreciation,

Chyrel Garding

Manager of Business Development and Community Outreach

cgarding@rimrock.org

Cell: (406) 598-4088

When a community invests in recovery, lives change—and cities thrive.

Upcoming out of office dates:

4/6 through 4/8/2026



CONFIDENTIALITY OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PATIENT RECORDS

Section 2.32, Prohibition on Re-disclosure of Confidential Information

This notice accompanies a disclosure of information concerning a client in alcohol/drug treatment, made to you with the consent of such client.

This information has been disclosed to you from records protected by Federal confidentiality rules (42 CFR Part 2). The Federal rules prohibit you from making any further disclosure of this information unless further disclosure is expressly permitted by the written consent of the person to whom it pertains or as otherwise permitted by 42 CFR part 2. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this purpose. The Federal rules restrict any use of the information to criminally investigate or prosecute any alcohol or drug abuse patient.

If you have received this information in error, please delete it and advise the sender of the error either by email or phone at 406-248-3175.

AN EVENING EMPOWERED

Where Stories of Strength Take the Spotlight

Red Carpet Gala & Premiere Screening of *The Empowered Program*

Hosted by Meg Ryan

💡 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

🔑 PRESENTING SPONSOR — \$5,000

Only 4 Available

- “Presented by [Sponsor Name]” on all gala materials
 - Premium logo placement on red carpet step-and-repeat
 - Full-page ad in the event program + placement in sponsor reel
 - 8 VIP red carpet tickets with premier table placement
 - Access to red carpet paparazzi photo reels with 4 free photos of your choice
 - Recognition on Rimrock website, social media, and press release
 - **Exclusive Premier Gift:** A luxury, limited-edition commemorative gift curated specifically for top-tier sponsors
-

💡 SPOTLIGHT SPONSOR — \$3,500

- Logo featured on event signage, and social media
 - Half-page ad in the event program
 - 8 gala tickets with priority seating
 - Podium recognition during the program
 - Recognition in sponsor reel and Rimrock newsletter
 - **Spotlight Gift:** A premium gala-night gift selected to honor our mid-level sponsors
-

FEATURE SPONSOR — \$2,000

- Logo included in the event program and sponsor reel
 - 8 gala tickets
 - Recognition on Rimrock's website and social media
 - **Feature Gift:** A custom event-themed appreciation gift provided to all Feature Sponsors
-

EVENT DETAILS

Date: March 6, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: The Paper Mill, Billings

Attire: Cocktail Attire | Red Carpet Arrival

Chyrel Garding 406.598.4088



AN EVENING EMPOWERED

WHERE STORIES OF STRENGTH TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT

A RED CARPET GALA
THE PAPER MILL
3/6/2026



SERIES PREMIERE
FEATURING RIMROCK

RIMROCK



From: [Boyett, Mike](#)
To: [.MayorAndCouncil](#)
Subject: Initiative
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:47:43 PM
Attachments: [Council Initiative Proposal Form on Word.docx](#)

Sorry about the first email. Hard to open the file.

I have attached the initiative again but through a Word Document instead.

You should be able to open it now.

Mike Boyett

COUNCIL INITIATIVE PROPOSAL FORM

COUNCIL MEMBER PROPOSING INITIATIVE: MIKE BOYETT

SHORT NAME OF INITIATIVE: In coordination with the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for the three TIFs that expire on June 30, 2026, I propose issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to consolidate the administration of the TIFs.

Currently, the City pays a combined total of approximately \$665,855 for TIF administration. By consolidating services and utilizing a single consultant/liaison rather than three separate consultants, our goal would be to reduce this overall cost while maintaining effective administration and oversight.

For consideration:

Option 1:

Engage one consultant to administer all three TIFs.

TERMS OF MOTION PROPOSING LEGISLATIVE OR STAFF ACTION: (Please be as specific as possible. Indicate if action is to be divided into steps or phases. Use separate sheet if needed

Start with a work session to:

- ☐ Discuss each TIF's requests for a different amount of funding each year
- ☐ Clarify the scope of work for each TIF and whether there are meaningful differences
- ☐ Evaluate whether TIF administration could be consolidated under one person rather than three
- ☐ Consider locating the new consultant's office in City Hall to reduce office-related expenses, and increase efficiency given TIFs regularly coordinate with both Finance and Planning
- ☐ Identification of potential cost savings and operational efficiencies moving forward including the need for a full-time or part time consultant.

CITY STAFF OR DEPARTMENT POTENTIALLY IMPACTED BY INITIATIVE: Planning, Finance _____

HAS COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATED WITH CITY ADMINISTRATOR ABOUT THE INITIATIVE?

YES ☒ NO ☐

ESTIMATE OF APPROXIMATE STAFF AND COUNCIL TIME REQUIRED: 50 hours

APPROXIMATE TIMELINE FOR STAFF/DEPARTMENT ACTION:

3 MONTHS

COSTS OTHER THAN STAFF TIME, IF ANY: _____

From: [Kukulski, Chris](#)
To: [.MayorAndCouncil](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] NWE Streetlights-Southside Neighborhood
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 6:06:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

FYI – streetlight update from NWE

	Chris A. Kukulski City Administrator kukulskic@billingsmt.gov
billingsmt.gov	P.O. Box 1178 Billings, MT 59103 P 406.657.8222 C 406.581-7026

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From: Boyett, Mike <boyettm@billingsmt.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:30 AM
To: Nelson, Mike <NelsonM@billingsmt.gov>; Kukulski, Chris <kukulskic@billingsmt.gov>; Iffland, Kevin <ifflandk@billingsmt.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] NWE Streetlights-Southside Neighborhood

I received this from Northwestern Energy.
Mike

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Skovgaard, Shaye" <Shaye.Skovgaard@northwestern.com>
Date: February 6, 2026 at 2:33:32 PM MST
To: "Boyett, Mike" <boyettm@billingsmt.gov>
Cc: "Schwend, Molly" <Molly.Schwend@northwestern.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NWE Streetlights-Southside Neighborhood



Hi Mike,

Per our conversation Wednesday via phone, I wanted to send you an update regarding recent streetlight concerns raised in the southside neighborhood. Thank you for sharing this information at City Council, should it be brought up again, and informing your council members that the issue is being addressed.

On January 21, 2026, a resident, Paul Clark, submitted a service request for a streetlight outage. That specific light was repaired promptly on January 23. I followed up directly with Paul by phone and email on January 28 to confirm the repair and to discuss broader lighting concerns in the surrounding neighborhood.

At that time, I explained that NorthWestern Energy crews were actively working through a larger set of streetlight outages in the area. Within the past two weeks, our crews have completed repairs on multiple blocks, including:

1. 5th Avenue South from South 27th Street to approximately South 32nd Street
2. 6th Avenue South from South 27th Street to approximately South 31st Street

We have made significant progress addressing the outages; however, a portion of the remaining lights are impacted by a supply issue involving a specific light head type used in this neighborhood. Our operations team continues to work through this challenge and is prioritizing repairs as materials become available.

We understand the importance of streetlighting for safety and quality of life, and we remain committed to resolving the remaining outages as quickly as possible. I will continue to coordinate with our operations team and provide updates as progress continues.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Shaye Skovgaard

Community Relations Specialist

1944 Monad Road | Billings, MT 59101

Office: (406) 655-6433 | Internal Ext: 76433

Email: shaye.skovgaard@northwestern.com



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