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VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mansfield Committee Members,

This letter is to request the repeal of Ordinance 2018-02.

The Ordinance, as written, is unlawful because it has a chilling effect on the public's common law right to video-record open public meetings. Ordinance 2018-02 not only restricts recording, the use of phones, photography, talking, texting, and the public's conduct, but requires a 1-hour advance notice of a resident's intent to video-record an Open Public Meeting. Such restrictions go far beyond the reasonable restrictions needed to preserve the orderly conduct of a meeting and safeguard public facilities. *Tarus v. Borough of Pine Hill*, 189 N.J. 497, 500 (2007).

Moreover, §151-4 of Ordinance 2018-02 includes a maximum penalty of \$2,000 and-or imprisonment for 90 days. These penalties are not only draconian but run afoul legal precedent. Reporting the transactions of a public governing body should never be penalized, particularly in a democracy, where truth is often said to be supreme. *Tarus* at 508 (quoting *Sudol v. Borough of N. Arlington*, 137 N.J. Super. 149, 154 (Ch.Div.1975)).

I strongly urge you to preserve the public's common law right to video-record open public meetings by repealing Ordinance 2018-02.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,

William N. Sosis, Esq.

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