

CLARIFICATION MEMO TO PUBLIC COMMENT



For City Council Meetings held on March 5, 2025

1. The definition of news media and if the City Council have the right to define news media.

The Public Meetings Law itself does not define “representatives of the news media” for the purposes of who may attend executive session under ORS 192.660(4). The Attorney General’s office has issued several opinions, including AG Opinion No. 8291, dated April 18, 2016, and the [Attorney General’s Public Record and Meetings Manual \(2024\)](#) which advise local governments on how to interpret the phrase. The City’s News Media Policy, adopted February 19, 2025, implements the Attorney General’s guidance.

2. Why did another Councilor and not the Councilor assigned to police bring forward the police chief position?

Any City Councilor or the Mayor may direct an item to be placed on a City Council agenda ([Council Operating Rules and Procedures, Section III, #12, Order of Business, page 4](#)). In this instance, Councilor Gundersen requested the topic be added to the agenda.

3. Is the law firm that represents the City of St. Helens the same law firm that represents the St. Helens School District?

Jordan Ramis, through its attorneys, represents the City of St. Helens in its standing as a public agency. Jordan Ramis does not represent the St. Helens School District or any of its individual board members.