

## MEMORANDUM

Date: February 14, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Helens

Cc: City Administrator, John Walsh

From: Ashley Wigod, City Attorney

Re: Application for Media Representative to Attend Executive Sessions  
Media Entity: Oregonian/Oregonlive  
Representatives: Maxine Bernstein

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The purpose of this memorandum is to review the applications of Maxine Bernstein, as a representative of the Oregonian, to be “representative of the news media” for the purposes of attending executive sessions in accordance with ORS 192.660(4).

Per the City’s News Media Attendance Policy and the Attorney General guidance, an individual is a “representative of the news media” if they have a **formal affiliation with an institutional news media entity** through employment, by contract, or some other authorization with the institutional news media entity.

Here is a review and evaluation of the application:

1. The applicant has a formal affiliation with an institutional news media entity through employment, by contract, or some other authorization with the institutional news media entity. Ms. Bernstein has provided:
  - A link to Oregonlive.com that provides:
    - Maxine Bernstein has been a staff writer with The Oregonian since 1998, and covers federal court, Measure 114, crime and law enforcement.  
Email: [mbernstein@oregonian.com](mailto:mbernstein@oregonian.com)
  - A copy of a recently published news articles showing her name as a member of the news gathering staff of the news media organization, plus proof of her identity;

**LEGAL RECOMMENDATION:** Based on the above, the applicant has demonstrated that she is formally affiliated with an institutional news media entity. Therefore, it is recommended that Ms. Bernstein’s application as a representative of the news media for the purposes of attending executive session, be granted.