

**BRRAG****Belmont Resident and Ratepayer Action Group Inc.***“To provide an effective voice for the people of Belmont”*

4 June 2020

CEO  
City of Belmont  
Belmont WA 6104

Dear Mr Christie

As a result of the closure of the City of Belmont due to COVID 19, council shut down meetings to the public. This resulted in a new rule being made up, for the receiving of questions for Public Question Time. The requirement was that questions be submitted by noon the business day before.

The current Standing Orders have no such time requirements other than prior to a meeting. No motion was ever voted upon to make the “new” time frame.

Mr Garrett the Director of Corporate and Governance was the person who advised us that our questions were late and would be taken as correspondence. We do not believe Mr Garrett was able to make such a decision. The Mayor is the person according to the Standing Orders that has some discretion. Furthermore Mr Garrett's decision to exclude Ms Gee's questions from Public Question Time on 26 May for being seven minutes late was not only unreasonable but unless authorised by the Mayor was not in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Member's of our organisation including Janet Gee and myself believe we were unfairly treated by the City of Belmont by not taking our questions for the April meeting. It is beginning to appear that the City is targeting our organisation and its members. Previous correspondence with the Mayor on the subject has not resulted in any answers. We do not think an email stating “Dear Brrag Members, thank you for your response, I disagree” answers anything. Further to that our email asking the Mayor what he disagrees with has gone unanswered.

We are now asking for a satisfactory response from you. We specifically want to know the following:

- Why and who was responsible for changing the time frame for receiving questions for Public Question Time?
- Why the time frame was inconsistent with our current Standing Orders?
- Why a motion was not submitted to be voted upon with regards to changing the Standing Orders for this emergency?
- Who made the decision not to accept Ms Gee's questions due to being seven minutes late?
- Why are known members of our organisation, being targeted by the Administration and the Mayor? There is an ongoing lack of responses to our correspondence in addition to an obvious hostility towards me personally, which has been noted by a number of people.
- When will council meetings be re-opened to the public in accordance with the directive from Mr Templeman?

We will await your response.

Please be advised this letter and any response will be made available to the residents of Belmont on the BRRAG website .

Kindest regards

Lisa Hollands  
President BRRAG