

CITY OF HILLSDALE — CITY COUNCIL

COVER LETTER (EXHIBIT A): Request for Receipt into Record and Council Action on Proposed Resolution

From:	Lance Lashaway, Vice Chair — Hillsdale Conservatives
To:	City Clerk; City Manager; City Attorney; Members of City Council
Date:	January 20, 2026
Re:	Public Exhibits and Proposed Resolution — Request for Mayor's Resignation; Risk Mitigation; Record Preservation; Independent Review

I am submitting this cover letter as **Exhibit A** in support of the proposed resolution previously provided for Council consideration. This submission is intended to (1) document the request, (2) identify publicly posted exhibits, and (3) urge immediate, lawful steps that reduce City liability and preserve public trust.

Key point: I am not asking Council to adjudicate disputed facts during public comment. I am asking Council to take the limited steps that responsible governance requires when serious allegations involve the City's chief executive officer: **receive the materials into the record, preserve relevant records, and obtain independent legal review.**

Public Exhibits Submitted (Links)

Exhibit A-1 (Video Exhibit): <https://www.facebook.com/reel/896985006006285>

Exhibit A-2 (Article / Context): <https://hillsdalecountyreview.substack.com/p/week-in-review-spyin-scott>

These exhibits are publicly available links. If Council or legal counsel requires the original file(s) for review, I am prepared to provide them in the manner requested.

Nature of the Allegations and Why They Matter to City Liability

Based on publicly posted material and related reports, the undersigned alleges the following risk areas warrant immediate Council attention:

- The Video Exhibit appears to depict the Mayor following or monitoring City board members and/or Hillsdale residents in a way that the undersigned alleges constitutes harassment and/or stalking behavior.
- The undersigned alleges that board and commission membership has been disrupted through removals or non-reappointments of respected community members, followed by installation of non-residents and/or activists aligned with the Mayor's agenda.
- The undersigned further alleges that certain appointees have publicly made statements that can reasonably be understood as hostile toward the welfare of children, which raises heightened public concern and reputational exposure for the City.

Even if the City ultimately disputes these allegations, the City's exposure often turns on whether officials responded reasonably once on notice. A documented process and preservation steps are the City's first line of protection.

Why This Needs Prompt, Documented Action (Comparison to Minnesota's Current Accountability Disputes)

Recent events in Minnesota illustrate how quickly allegations about executive conduct can become litigation, investigations, and major public expense. Current reporting indicates that the U.S. Department of Justice is reportedly investigating Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey over alleged efforts to impede federal immigration agents. That controversy has unfolded alongside widespread protests and ongoing litigation over federal agents' tactics in Minnesota. This Minnesota situation is separate from Hillsdale and is not offered as proof of local facts; it is offered to highlight a governance lesson: **when allegations touch senior officials, delay and informality increase institutional risk.**

Relevant City Procedures and Legal Authorities Supporting the Request

1) Council procedure and agenda control. Hillsdale's Council Rules of Procedure require that agenda requests submitted by noon on the Wednesday preceding a regular meeting be placed on the agenda; they also require the City Manager to disclose to Council any requested items not placed on the agenda, along with the reason. Items submitted after the deadline "shall not be considered" at the next regular meeting absent majority consent of council members present. The same rules limit public comment to five minutes and state that Council members shall not respond during public comment unless permitted by the presiding officer. The rules further provide that no Council action occurs without a motion and a second, and that any council member (including the Mayor) may make or second a main motion, with most actions decided by simple majority unless otherwise required by law.

2) Record preservation and public transparency. Michigan's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) declares a public policy of full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and defines "public records." Michigan's Open Meetings Act requires public bodies to conduct decisions in open meetings with notice and minutes. Michigan law also governs local record retention and penalties for unauthorized removal, mutilation, or destruction of public records; the Michigan Municipal League summarizes these requirements and cites the relevant statutes. These authorities support immediate preservation steps when the City is on notice of potential disputes.

3) Harassment / stalking risk. Michigan materials summarizing stalking law identify stalking as criminally punishable conduct and reference MCL 750.411h. The City should treat any credible allegation of stalking/harassment by a senior official as a high-liability issue requiring neutral review, not informal handling.

4) Remedies and accountability. Resignation is voluntary, but the Michigan Election Law provides a mechanism for gubernatorial removal of city officers upon sufficient evidence of specified grounds (MCL 168.327). Council's immediate role is to create a documented process, preserve records, obtain independent counsel, and determine what lawful options are available based on the facts.

Requested Council Actions

- **Receive and log** the proposed resolution and exhibits into the public record.

- **Direct preservation** of potentially relevant City records (appointment communications, official messaging, and recordings) pending legal review.
- **Direct independent legal review** (and, if appropriate, outside counsel/investigation) due to the conflict and liability risk when allegations involve the Mayor.
- **Formally request the Mayor's resignation** as described in the proposed resolution, to mitigate exposure and restore public confidence while these matters are reviewed.
- **Schedule the matter** for Council action at a future meeting (or refer to a standing committee for prompt review and recommendation).

Thank you for receiving this submission. Because these allegations implicate executive conduct, public trust, and potential liability, I respectfully request that Council act promptly and transparently in accordance with the City's rules and Michigan law.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance Lashaway

Vice Chair — Hillsdale Conservatives

[phone] _____ | [email] _____

Authorities and References (for Council / Counsel)

The following publicly available sources and legal authorities support the procedural and legal citations referenced in this cover letter. This list is provided for convenience and does not replace legal counsel's independent review.

1. City of Hillsdale City Council Rules of Procedure (approved Aug. 5, 2019) — agenda submission deadline and late-item consent; public comment limits; motions and voting rules.

Link: [Open](#)

2. Michigan Election Law — removal of city officers by Governor (MCL 168.327).

Link: [Open](#)

3. Michigan Freedom of Information Act — Act 442 of 1976 (MCL 15.231 et seq.).

Link: [Open](#)

4. Michigan Open Meetings Act — Act 267 of 1976 (MCL 15.261 et seq.).

Link: [Open](#)

5. Michigan Municipal League — Records Retention: Local Government Public Records (summarizes record-retention requirements and cites MCL 750.491 and MCL 399.811(2), and FOIA definition of public record).

Link: [Open](#)

6. Michigan DHHS — Stalking brochure referencing MCL 750.411h (stalking) and penalties overview.

Link: [Open](#)

7. Hillsdale Boards/Commissions application packet (examples of boards appointed by Mayor subject to Council approval).

Link: [Open](#)

8. CBS News (Jan. 17, 2026) — DOJ reportedly investigating Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey over alleged conspiracy to impede immigration agents.

Link: [Open](#)

9. Reuters (Jan. 19, 2026) — appeal of federal judge limits on immigration agents' tactics toward Minnesota protesters; protests and litigation context after a fatal shooting.

Link: [Open](#)