



August 21, 2023

First Ward Council Member Indira Sheumaker  
2908 51st Street  
Des Moines, IA 50310

CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Indira:

You have not been in attendance at a City Council meeting since March 6, 2023. In that same period, you have not attended any of the meetings of the different Boards where you were assigned to represent the City's interests and those of the City Council. You have not been responding to communications from City staff or from other elected officials for approximately the same period of time.

We have heard from a number of your constituents who indicate that you are not returning their phone calls or emails, have not attended neighborhood meetings, and are non-responsive to demands for service from First Ward residents. No explanation for your failure to discharge the duties assigned by your elected seat has been offered. Five residents of your Ward have now filed a document with the City Clerk they've styled as a "Citizens Complaint" against you alleging "willful and habitual neglect, as well as refusal to perform the duties of the office \*\*\* in violation of Iowa Code 66.1A(1)."

In light of the circumstances laid out above, we are concerned for your well-being and concerned for the adequacy of First Ward representation in your ongoing and continual absence. Your Council colleagues and I need communication of your intentions regarding your office and the duties of the office at the earliest practicable moment, but in any event, no later than August 28, 2023. That communication can include any request of the Council that could be granted to help facilitate First Ward representation. If we have not heard from you by that time, we will presume you have abandoned the office and will proceed accordingly. If, on the other hand, you would prefer some other outcome leading to full and complete representation of the First Ward and its constituents, we need to respond to constituents' requests for action and are prepared to facilitate such an outcome with regard to First Ward representation.

On Behalf of the City of Des Moines City Council,

  
T.M. Franklin Cownie  
Mayor

cc: Members of the City Council  
City Clerk