

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
WASHINGTON COUNTY, IDAHO

True Pearce, Prosecuting Attorney

Sean M. Jorgensen, Chief Deputy Prosecutor

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May 23, 2025

Ron Jaeger
2787 Salubria Road
Cambridge, Idaho 83610

SENT VIA REGULAR AND CERTIFIED MAIL, AND VIA SHERIFF SERVICE

Dear Mr. Jaeger,

During the Board of County Commissioners meeting held on Monday, May 19, 2025, you introduced yourself as the Chairman of the Washington County Planning and Zoning Commission and proceeded to read legal interpretations of Idaho statutes and county code into the record. You presented a motion allegedly prepared by legal counsel and offered legal advice to the Board regarding statutory interpretation and county legal obligations.

Only licensed attorneys may provide legal advice under Idaho law. If you are not personally licensed to practice law in the State of Idaho, then offering legal opinions to the BOCC constitutes the unauthorized practice of law, which is a criminal offense under Idaho Code § 3-420.

Additionally, giving legal advice to County officials, particularly in an official capacity as P&Z Chairman, encroaches on the exclusive statutory duties of the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney under Idaho Code § 31-2604. Such conduct also raises serious concerns of usurpation of official duties, which may carry additional civil and legal consequences.

If you are indeed represented by legal counsel, please immediately provide the full name and Idaho State Bar number of the attorney who authored or assisted with the legal motion you presented, along with any written legal opinions you relied upon during the meeting. Failure to immediately provide this information will be taken as confirmation that no such attorney exists and that you were unlawfully engaging in the unauthorized practice of law. Should that be the case, I will be ethically obligated to refer this matter for criminal investigation and potential prosecution.

Further, because you were acting in your official capacity as P&Z Chairman—a public officer under Washington County Code—you are considered the custodian of records under the Idaho Public Records Act. Accordingly, this serves as a formal public records request pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-102. Please provide all emails, text messages, letters, written documents, notes, recordings, and records—whether written, electronic, or otherwise—between yourself and any other person, including but not limited to:

- Other Planning & Zoning Board members
- Any County Commissioner
- Any attorneys (named or unnamed)
- Members of the public

Regarding any of the following topics:

- Moratoriums or proposed moratoriums
- Interpretations of County code
- Hiring or consulting with an attorney on County business
- Preparation of the motion presented to the BOCC on May 19, 2025
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As required by law, you have three (3) working days from the date of this request to provide these records unless you claim an exemption under the Idaho Public Records Act, in which case you must cite the specific exemption relied upon in writing. Claims of attorney-client privilege will not be honored unless a licensed Idaho attorney was retained by the County and the communication remained confidential. Disclosure of such communications to third parties, including the BOCC or the public, constitutes waiver of privilege.

Send To:

Washington County Prosecutor's Office
343 E Main Street
Weiser, ID 83672
208-414-2034
tpearce@washingtoncountyid.gov

Please also note that you are now formally on notice regarding the statutory prohibitions against the unauthorized practice of law and the usurpation of official legal duties. Any claim of misunderstanding, mistake, or lack of knowledge will not be a valid defense for similar conduct in the future. Should you continue to offer legal advice, represent yourself as a source of legal authority, or act outside the scope of your official duties, you do so knowingly and at your own risk.

As the Prosecuting Attorney, I take my constitutional and statutory duty to serve as the legal advisor for Washington County and its officials very seriously. Legal advice must not be laundered through unofficial channels or presented to the Board by non-lawyers or unauthorized actors. This conduct misleads public officials, risks legal liability for the County, undermines the rule of law, is unethical, and is illegal.

Please govern yourself accordingly.

Regards,



True Pearce

Washington County Idaho Prosecuting Attorney
