

STATEMENT BEFORE THE SPRING CITY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS – OCTOBER 2025

Sonja Brown, Citizen of Greater Spring City

As stated, regarding the violations of my right to speak in a July 2025 Spring City Planning & Zoning Public Meeting, I accept the training exercise which was conducted recently by LUDMA officials of all city employees, as satisfaction of this unfortunate incident. I hope this will never happen to anyone else in our town or area. I understand that there are penalties which could be placed upon City Councilman Marty McCain for his role in it, Kristin Mortensen because of her role, and Mike West, for intentionally attempting to block me from speaking in a public hearing, but I do not wish for such steps to be taken.

I ask that my statement regarding the harassment be placed officially on the record.

Tonight, my main purpose in addressing The Spring City Board of Adjustments is to follow due process and make a record of the violation of my rights as a local citizen, and someone who has been appointed and served on an official Spring City committee. I realize that none of you seated here tonight....you Bishop Clark, or Ted, or Aaron Sorenson, or other members of this Board, have not been a part of any of these activities.

However, my counsel has asked that I make the following statement a part of the official record: May I proceed?

On August 8, 2025, I received a call from Spring City Police Chief Chad Huff informing me that he I had been under investigation by Spring City for “impersonating a city employee.”

I couldn’t have been more shocked by his call or confused.

Chief Huff explained to me that he had been directed by Councilman Ken Krogue to undertake an investigation of me based on some errant information he had personally obtained. Chief Huff was directed to request my emails from various private individuals, commercial companies, and government agencies to investigate whether I had somehow been “impersonating a Spring City employee.”

Chief Huff quickly reassured me that he found no wrongdoing on my part. I was grateful to hear this and questioned him about why I would be targeted this way.

He told me that members of the City Council had the impression I was misrepresenting myself when reaching out to local engineering firms and The Utah League of Cities and Towns.

I shared with Chief Huff that I had been asked by Planning & Zoning Commissioner Kay Van Buren to make a couple of calls to try and locate a civil engineering firm which might be able to assist The Planning & Zoning Commission in undertaking an appropriate General Plan for Spring City. Which is one of its mandated state authorities and responsibilities.

Kay Van Buren also encouraged me to locate funding sources, so that if The Planning Commission decided to launch such an effort.....there would be a possibility of funding in place.

Because Kay Van Buren and I had served for four months on the Spring City Growth Committee, he knew that I had researched General Plans and engineering and community planners.

I agreed. I made exactly two phone calls. One to Jones & DeMille Engineering in Richfield, where I was immediately connected with their Community Planning coordinator, and one follow up call to connect her with Kay Van Buren directly.

I also sent a handful of emails exploring how a city, or any city, applies for grants to underwrite General Plans. One went to The Utah League of Cities and Towns, but I never really received any help from them.

I explained this to Chief Huff, and he shared that he **knew** who I had contacted, because he requested my emails from each of the sources where I had been in contact.

I was, as any citizen would be, outraged to know that my reputation might be compromised by being the subject of a purported Spring City investigation....AND to have my contacts solicited for my email communications....as if I had committed a crime.

Chief Huff reassured me that no wrongdoing was revealed whatsoever and the investigation was closed. But he added, that “he must warn me.” And he said this twice, and it felt like he was under pressure and that someone was joining him secretly on the call. I was confused by what he was warning me about to this day.

Councilman Ken Krogue, I happen to know, has my telephone number in his phone and has called me personally on multiple occasions.

I asked the Chief why the City didn’t just phone me first to inquire why I might be looking for information about General Plans. I would have been very happy to explain my assignment from Kay Van Buren.

Councilman Ken Krogue chose not to make simple phone call. To instead escalate an investigation where THERE WAS NO CAUSE. When a government begins to investigate its citizens unlawfully....that's when you know something is going very wrong at City Hall.

I don't hold Chief Huff responsible. He was responding to his superiors. But I did request, which was my right, to receive the police report immediately.

Chief Huff promised he would comply. Police reports are required by law to be available in one business day.

I would wait THREE WEEKS for the report to come.

Chief Huff understood that it had been sent. But apparently for some reason it was not.

When I received it, it was clear to me that Ken Krogue and Randy Strate had been involved.

By Utah State Code, no municipal council member has the authority to unilaterally launch an investigation on his own. This means, multiple councilmen, or apparently the Mayor, was involved in this illegal attempt to harass and intimidate me.

Further.....as I read the police report, which I have here in my hand, it became clear to me that the investigation was launched only 6 days after I was asked to provide documents and an affidavit for the Friends of Historic Spring City lawsuit against the City.

This is sometimes referred to as, "witness tampering."

I submitted my affidavit on July 23, 2025 to attorney Melanie Cook, and had never been involved in the lawsuit whatsoever prior to that date. I still have not taken a role in the lawsuit against the City. Furthermore, just six days later on July 29th, Ken Krogue launched his "investigation."

On July 30th, 2025, the very next day.....I was intentionally blocked from speaking at the Spring City Public Hearing for Bryan Allen involving the expansion of the Light Commercial Zone of Main Street Spring City.

All of this was coordinated. All of this, to deliberately intimidate someone whose views did not necessarily match the agenda of the City, or initiating an investigation, or holding the Public Hearing.

This was a violation of my constitutional rights, Open Meeting laws, and LUDMA, the Utah Land Use laws which govern hearings and municipalities involved in zoning and other public issues.

I make this record this evening, because a sophisticated attorney like Mayor Anderson knows that things like this should never go on in a city, or a small town.

Mayor Anderson was a witness to my intimidation and remained silent. Never guided his councilmember or the members of his own city Planning & Zoning Commission to conduct themselves appropriately.

For me....this was very damaging. Attorney Lisa Baskin of Smith Hartvigsen and The Attorney General's Office have received my complaint and are pursuing it. For this purpose I make a record tonight.

I was appointed to the Board of Envision Utah by its funders, The Eccles family and the Beesley family. Envision Utah FUNDS The Utah League of Cities and Towns. To have my reputation casually abused this way by requesting my emails with absolutely no foundation.....is offensive and illegal.

I make a record of this event to compliment a complaint filed with The Utah Attorney General's Office, and the matter of defamation involving Councilman Ken Krogue is being coordinated by the municipal law firm of Smith Hartvigsen in Salt Lake City.

I hope no one, no woman particularly, will ever be treated like this again in Spring City.

Thank you.