

ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCLUDES SPEAKER AT A PUBLIC MEETING CANNOT BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THEIR HOME ADDRESS

The Illinois Attorney General has issued a binding opinion declaring the “custom and practice” of a Village Board of Trustees in requiring attendees at a public meeting to state their home address prior to speaking to be beyond the authority of a public body and a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

The Attorney General drew the following additional conclusions in rendering its decision:

- OMA authorizes public bodies to establish reasonable rules regarding such public comment.
- Public bodies are not authorized to impose conditions on public comment which are not part of their established and recorded rules.
- There can be no lawful justification for any rule that a speaker at a public meeting provide their home address prior to speaking.
- OMA provides that “any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials” at an open meeting.
- A person’s right to speak at an open meeting cannot be dependent on where he or she resides.

A full copy of the opinion of the Attorney General in this matter can be found at:

[Attorney General Opinion 14-009](#)

For more information about matters discussed in this issue, please feel free to contact Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd.



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