



TO: Mayor Shaun Sipma
Members of the City Council

FROM: Tom Barry

DATE: November 19, 2018

SUBJECT: OMBUDSMAN POSITION

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

A. The City Council discuss the ombudsman position and determine whether it wishes to create that position for the City of Minot.

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS

Tom Barry, City Manager	(701) 857-4750
Kelly Hendershot, City Attorney	(701) 857-4755

III. DESCRIPTION

The City Council planned to discuss the ombudsman position at the City Council Retreat, but time did not permit for the discussion.

An Ombudsman is a governmental official appointed to hear and investigate complaints made by private citizens against a governmental body.

Some cities appoint a member of the governing body as the ombudsman. The appointee typically serves for a specific period of time, investigates complaints or problems relating to City business, and reports to the full governing body at public meetings.

Other cities create independent offices to act in the ombudsman capacity. Those offices report directly to the governing body after receipt and review of citizen complaints.

IV. IMPACT:

There would be no fiscal impact for the creation of an ombudsman position if the City Council decided to appoint a member of the governing body as the ombudsman.

If, however, the City Council determined an independent ombudsman office should be created, there would be a fiscal impact and a complete analysis would need to be completed to determine costs.

V. ALTERNATIVES

The City Council could leave things as they currently are or consider other options.

VI. TIME CONSTRAINTS

There is no time constraint affiliated with this item.

VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

N/A