

# **EXHIBIT A**

**From:** [Craig Schlinkert](#)  
**To:** [Jonseck, Cyndee](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Formal Ethics Complaint – Violations by City Manager, Police Chief, and PHPD Supervisor  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025 5:33:18 PM

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**EMAIL ORIGIN EXTERNAL: Use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.**

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## Sections of Chapter 6 Allegedly Violated:

I allege the following sections of **Chapter 6 – Code of Ethics** of the Port Huron Code of Ordinances were violated:

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### 1. Section 6-2(a)(1):

*Public officials and employees shall not use their positions to secure privileges or exemptions for themselves or others.*

- Mr. Freed used his position to interfere with a FOIA request and obtained unwarranted control over a public process, later ordering or enabling my trespass, which **blocked access to city officials and public property**.
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### 2. Section 6-2(a)(4):

*Public officials and employees shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.*

- Mr. Freed made **false public statements** during the City Council meeting on July 14, claiming I had screamed, which was untrue and **misrepresented the nature of our interaction**.
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### 3. Section 6-2(a)(5):

*Public officials and employees shall not engage in conduct that violates their duty to the public.*

- Mr. Freed's **repeated intimidation during a FOIA-related encounter, questioning of my mental state**, and the **refusal by PHPD to accept a complaint** about his conduct violated the duty to treat citizens with fairness and professionalism.
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#### 4. Section 6-2(a)(6):

*Public officials and employees shall not engage in conduct that undermines public confidence in the integrity of the city government.*

- The combination of retaliation, mischaracterization, delayed complaint response, and a trespass order intended to **chill further interaction** with city government officials **erodes public trust**.
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## Conclusion

The conduct outlined above appears to violate multiple provisions of Chapter 6, including improper use of position, misrepresentation, and retaliatory or obstructive behavior toward a citizen engaged in lawful oversight.

I respectfully ask the Ethics Board to accept this complaint and investigate the matter according to procedures under **Section 6-10** of the Code of Ethics.

Sincerely,

**Craig R. Schlinkert**

2413 Stone St

Port Huron, MI 48060

August 6, 2025

On Wed, Aug 6, 2025, 11:09 AM Craig Schlinkert <[cschlinkert@icloud.com](mailto:cschlinkert@icloud.com)> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Craig Schlinkert <[cschlinkert@icloud.com](mailto:cschlinkert@icloud.com)>

**Date:** August 6, 2025 at 11:06:41 AM EDT

**To:** [jonseckc@porthuron.org](mailto:jonseckc@porthuron.org)

**Subject: Formal Ethics Complaint – Violations by City Manager, Police Chief, and PHPD Supervisor**

Dear City of Port Huron City Council,

Please accept this message and the information below as my formal complaint, submitted pursuant to **Section 2-406** of the **City of Port**

## Huron Code of Ordinances – Ethics Ordinance.

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### Complainant Information

**Full Legal Name:** Craig R. Schlinkert

**Current Mailing Address:** [2413 Stone St, Port Huron, MI 48060](#)

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### Accused Officials

1. **James Freed**, City Manager
  2. **Brian Kerrigan**, Chief of Police
  3. **Unidentified Supervisor**, Port Huron Police Department (on duty July 9, 2025, after 5:00 p.m.)
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### Dates of Alleged Violations

**July 8, 2025 – July 28, 2025**

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### Summary of Facts

On **July 8**, I reported multiple unsafe driving violations by city vehicles to **Mayor Anita Ashford**, who forwarded the matter to **City Manager James Freed**. On **July 9**, Mr. Freed emailed city staff regarding the issue.

That same day, I visited City Hall to request a copy of that email. While speaking with a clerk's assistant about FOIA procedures, Mr. Freed was contacted and arrived to question me directly. I repeatedly responded to his questioning by stating, "I want it." After continued badgering, I answered in a **disgusted tone**, saying, "I don't trust you, sir." I did not raise my voice or act disruptively. At that point, he gave me the requested document.

After 5:00 p.m. on July 9, I attempted to file a police report

regarding this interaction. A PHPD supervisor stated that they "don't take reports on the City Manager" and advised me to speak to the Chief of Police. I later scheduled a meeting with **Chief Brian Kerrigan** for the next day (**July 11**), but I received a call around 4:50 p.m. on **July 10** from a PHPD officer informing me that I had been trespassed from city property, effectively cancelling my appointment.

That same day (**July 9**), I had emailed both Mr. Freed and Mayor Ashford to state my intent to file a formal complaint. The **City Clerk was copied** on that message. Despite this, no formal response or guidance was received until **July 28, 2025**.

During a **July 14 City Council meeting**, Mr. Freed falsely stated I was screaming, failed to characterize how PHPD would be aware of Mr. Schlinkert, not mentioning it was the PHCM's failed parking ticket scheme that had earned my attention. He also began **questioning my mental state to city employees with in an email**, an effort to discredit my legitimate complaint and discourage accountability.

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## **Alleged Violations of City Ordinance**

I allege violations of the following sections of the Port Huron Ethics Ordinance (Article VIII, Chapter 2):

- **§ 2-401** – Declaration of Policy
  - **§ 2-403(a)(1)** – Use of Position for Unwarranted Privileges
  - **§ 2-403(a)(4)** – Improper Influence
  - **§ 2-403(a)(6)** – Conduct That Discredits Public Confidence
  - **§ 2-403(b)** – Retaliation or Use of Office to Harm
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## **Request for Review and Action**

I ask the City Council to review these actions and determine whether they constitute violations of the City's Code of Ethics. I am prepared to provide additional documentation, email records, and recordings if requested.

Sincerely,

**Craig R. Schlinkert**  
[2413 Stone St](#)  
[Port Huron, MI 48060](#)  
810-990-4683