

State of Texas
House of Representatives

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GARY L. WATKINS
DISTRICT 75

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November 7, 1991

The Honorable Dan Morales
Attorney General of Texas
P.O. Box 12548
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

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Joint Committee

Dear Dan:

Several times during this year, a majority of Dallas City Council members have signed letters which purport to express an opinion on a particular matter. These letters have not, however, been authorized by an official action of the council, i.e., a vote of the council.

One such letter is attached hereto. While an effort is made to characterize the nature of such correspondence as not an official action of the council ("Signed individually..."), the purpose of the letter is to present the contents of the letter as the position of a majority of the Dallas City Council on the subject matter.

I would like to request that the Attorney General provide a private letter opinion as to whether such "indirect" action by a majority of a city council is appropriate under the Open Meetings Act. I am making this request on behalf of Representative Tony Goolsby. The fact that the attached letter was not the first action taken to express the opinion of the council is of great concern to some of the citizens of Dallas, and a speedy response to this request would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Watkins

Gary Watkins
Chairman, Committee on Higher Education