

Today, the Board is considering expanding the scope of attorney Kieran Shanahan's representation of the Board. I find this troubling for many reasons, in particular how this relates to North Carolina's sunshine laws.

While he was a Raleigh City Councilman, Mr. Shanahan was sued for violating the Open Meetings laws. In the Supreme Court, his attorney's defense of Mr. Shanahan's actions was that "too much sunshine gives you cancer."

Really? Making decisions in public is like a cancer? Being transparent about decision-making is not a good thing? **I find this a cancerous attitude.**

I hope this contempt for public meetings is not reflective of Mr. Shanahan's beliefs today.

What, exactly, is the Board hiring Mr. Shanahan for? You haven't said. And how many separate law firms does this Board need? You already have the long-standing services of Ann Majestic and the Tharrington Smith law firm. You also hired Tom Farr, who found no fault with Tharrington Smith in his audit. Farr's advice was to hire an in-house attorney, not to hire *yet another* outside lawyer.

The simple fact is this Board has danced around open meetings laws time and time again. You have not acted in good faith on many occasions about public business—scheduling meetings on short notice, changing meeting times, cancelling committees, limiting access to the meetings you do hold, reducing opportunity for public comment, ...and, most troubling, meeting in private to discuss public business. This has not served you well—worse, it does not serve us, *the public*, well,the very public you were elected to serve.

There is a great deal of mistrust between this Board majority and many living in Wake County. You are responsible for the education of our children and for spending tax dollars on *education*, not spending *scarce* resources on third-string lawyers. You have a great responsibility. It's time you took it seriously.