

The Firehouse Lawyer

Volume 20, Number 3E

Be sure to visit firehouselawyer.com to get a glimpse of our various practice areas pertaining to public agencies, which include labor and employment law, public disclosure law, mergers and consolidations, financing methods, risk management, and many other practice areas!!!

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Inside this Issue: Seminars!!!

March 2022 Extra

EXTRA, EXTRA!!! Attend Our Virtual Training on (Mandatory) Open and Efficient Government

To our readers and all of your friends in government: We are pleased to announce that we will be putting on a *free* three-hour *virtual only* seminar that covers the Mandatory training many of you must receive under the Open Government Trainings Act (OGTA). The title of our seminar is "Open and Efficient Government: A Workshop." This training opportunity is being sponsored by the Pierce County Fire Commissioners Association. Our expenses have been covered, and therefore you may attend without cost.

This free workshop will take place on Saturday, April 9, (2022) from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (not including an extra hour for questions or addressing loose ends). Here is the link to this training opportunity, which shall take place via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89785597688?pwd=RlpRdis3cGpOMlVycDBMOEFvTnFYdz09>

Under the OGTA, members of a governing body (elected or appointed councilmembers/commissioners) must receive training on the Open Public Meetings Act and the Public Records Act (and the records retention laws) within 90 days of taking their oath of office or otherwise assuming their duties; and they must take refresher OGTA training every four years as long they are a

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member of that governing body. See RCW 42.30.205 and RCW 42.56.150.

Additionally, under the OGTA, public records officers must receive training on the Public Records Act and the records-retention laws within 90 days of assuming their duties as a public records officer or records manager, and must complete refresher training every four years as long as they maintain their status as a public records officer or records manager. See RCW 42.56.152.

But wait, there's more! In addition to the OGTA training, you will also receive training on the "Board and the CEO", i.e. the separation of responsibilities of those in administration versus those in governance. In other words, you will receive training on what the fire chief (or other CEO) is responsible for, and what the council/commission is responsible for, and how those two roles play out in the real world.

Again, this training is without cost to all participants because our expenses have been covered by the Pierce County Fire Commissioners Association.

All participants in this workshop will receive certificates of OGTA compliance from our office, to demonstrate you have taken the mandatory training. At the training, you will receive a link to a registration portal, in order that you can receive the certificates *and* the written materials for the training, via email.

Click on the link above to attend "Open and Efficient Government: A Workshop", which again, is taking place on Saturday, April 9, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (not including an extra hour for questions or addressing loose ends).

Reminder of Upcoming Municipal Roundtable on Issues with Leave Use and Abuse

We previously issued notice to our readers of our first-ever *virtual* Municipal Roundtable (MR). This MR pertains to the use (and abuse) of various types of leave (sick leave, L&I, FMLA etc), and how the public employer must navigate those issues. The link to the Friday, March 25 MR (from 9 AM to 11 AM) is here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87920157449?pwd=Rgwzakovb3BiSk16b1RkcFBYcjI2UT09>

We want to be clear that the MR is *not intended for employees that are not members of upper management, or representatives of such persons.* The MR is intended only for representatives of *employers*, i.e. police chiefs, city managers, fire chiefs, city/county councilmembers, commissioners, district secretaries and payroll analysts, to name a few.

We do hope labor representatives understand that we wish for government employers to be able to have candid discussions about the issues. We therefore request that persons that are not members of upper-level management (and/or elected/appointed officials) **not** attend our upcoming MR.

We will issue a March *Firehouse Lawyer* on the substantive issues shortly, but wished to make our readers aware of the above training opportunities.

DISCLAIMER. The Firehouse Lawyer newsletter is published for educational purposes only. Nothing herein shall create an attorney-client relationship between Quinn & Quinn, P.S. and the reader.