

**From:** [Toma, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Sherwood, Nina](#)  
**Cc:** [Rosenson, Valerie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Legal Opinion  
**Date:** Thursday, December 23, 2021 11:01:17 AM

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Rep. Sherwood,

As we discussed, I do not believe that a FOIA violation results from the Democratic Caucus of 36 members dividing into three groups of 12 for administrative purposes. There is no requirement in the law's definition of "caucus" that every one of the members of the caucus be present for each gathering, so I believe that smaller groups of caucus members gathering does not destroy the caucus. The important things to remember to maintain the legality of the caucus is that every person who is at the gathering is a member of the BOR and is a Democrat; as long as this occurs, the meetings can be considered caucus meetings and the subject matter typically discussed at caucus meetings of all 36 members could be discussed at the smaller groupings. There would be no notification requirement for these smaller caucus gatherings. These sub-groups do not constitute separate caucuses – they remain part of the larger Democratic caucus of the BOR.

Michael Toma  
Assistant Corporation Counsel  
City of Stamford

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**From:** Sherwood, Nina <[NSherwood@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:NSherwood@StamfordCT.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 12, 2021 10:39 PM  
**To:** Rosenson, Valerie <[VRosenson@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:VRosenson@StamfordCT.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request for Legal Opinion

Dear Valerie,

Please send the following request for a legal opinion regarding caucus and FOIA to the most appropriate person in the legal department.

I hope you had a good weekend.

Thank you,

Nina

Request for guidance on Caucuses, addressing the following questions:

- Is there any FOIA violation if the Democratic Caucus of 36 members divides into three calling/zoom groups of 12 for administrative purposes prior to the general monthly caucus meeting to review the upcoming meeting's procedure?
- Are the call/zoom groups considered caucus, therefore not requiring notification as a meeting would?
- Is any smaller group of same-caucus members meeting together also considered a caucus meeting?
- Is subject matter restricted, or does it remain as free and open as a full caucus?

Please include any other info you think is relevant.

Thank you,

Nina Sherwood  
203-554-1485