

ED CLIPS!

Calling an Emergency Meeting Blake Powell

An emergency meeting may be appropriate to address the Coronavirus. At least one-hour agenda notice is necessary before a meeting is convened in an emergency or when there is an urgent public necessity.

A governmental body may deliberate or take action on a matter if:

- 1) a matter directly related to responding to the emergency or urgent public necessity is identified in the notice or supplemental notice; or
- 2) the agenda item was timely listed before the emergency or supplemental notice was posted.

An emergency or an urgent public necessity exists only if immediate action is required of a governmental body because of:

- 1) an imminent threat to public health and safety, or
- 2) a reasonably unforeseeable situation, *including an epidemic*.

The governmental body shall clearly identify the emergency or urgent public necessity in the notice or supplemental notice. The governmental body shall notify the news media of the emergency meeting or emergency item if the news media has previously:

- 1) filed a request containing all pertinent information for the special notice; and
- 2) agreed to reimburse the governmental body for the cost of providing the special notice.

In this case, the governmental body shall give the notice to the media by telephone, facsimile transmission, or electronic mail at least one hour before the meeting is convened.

Sample language:

Consider and possible action to address the impact of Coronavirus;