Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I want to address recent reporting about my family's attendance at an Orlando Magic game and the consideration of a proposed synagogue development in Winter Park. I believe the facts and full timeline should be presented accurately.

On April 6, 2026, my family and I attended the Orlando Magic's Jewish Heritage Night game using complimentary tickets provided to us through a personal friend. I did not receive those tickets directly from Rabbi Dovid Dubov. Rather, my friend had received the tickets from Rabbi Dubov, who was distributing complimentary tickets as part of his efforts to promote Jewish Heritage Night. My family and I attended the game with my friend. There was never any agreement, expectation, discussion or understanding that the tickets were connected to my responsibilities or decisions as a City Commissioner. At the time, I had not been made aware or seen any of Chabad of Greater Orlando's plans they would later submit for approval.

Two months later, on June 2, was the first time Rabbi Dubov reached out to me directly. He obtained my cell phone number through a different mutual friend. In the message, he introduced himself, mentioned the April 6 Jewish Heritage Night and requested a meeting. I responded on June 4 out of politeness by thanking him and showing appreciation that he had given my friend the complimentary tickets.

The first public hearing on the proposed development to the Planning & Zoning Board was August 4 and the City Commission's first public hearing on the development did not occur until August 26, more than four months after the game.

Residents expect and deserve transparency from their elected officials. Upon responding to a public records request, I was informed there were questions regarding my correspondence with the Rabbi. I consulted with the City Attorney and submitted disclosure paperwork to the Florida Commission on Ethics.

At the time of the filing deadline for that quarter, I did not believe the value of the gift exceeded $100, as the tickets were received from a friend who himself received the tickets for free. However, in the interest of full disclosure, I filed Disclosure Form 9 even though I do not know the actual face value of the tickets.

I want residents to know how seriously I take my new Commissioner role, and I would never do something with bad intentions. I devote substantial time to researching the plans and issues presented to the Commission. I meet with department heads and city staff, and I follow the work of our other city advisory boards. I do this because decisions made by the commission affect our neighborhoods, businesses, families, and the long-term future of Winter Park.

I listen to our residents and consider different perspectives, but my decisions are my own. I believe every development application deserves fair consideration under the applicable laws

and land-use standards. Political support, personal relationships, and outside criticism do not determine my vote.

The question of whether I will recuse myself from voting at the City Commission's next public hearing and final vote on this proposed development has now come up. I expressed to our City Attorney my desire to recuse myself because of the misleading narratives that have circulated regarding my attendance at the basketball game. In no way am I concerned about my ability to remain fair and impartial. I felt stepping aside would help prevent further controversy and avoid undermining public confidence in the Commission's final decision.

The City Attorney has informed me:

"Pursuant to section 286.012, Fla. Stat., an elected official is required to vote on any decision, ruling, or other official act made by the board or commission on which that official sits. Abstention is only permitted under Florida law when there is, or appears to be, a possible conflict of interest in which there is a special private economic gain or loss for the elected official, immediate family member, or business entity for whom the elected official works as an agent, or if the elected official, in the context of a quasi-judicial hearing, cannot vote without potential bias or prejudice.

There has been no allegation or even implication that the approval or denial of the project before the Commission would result in any special private economic gain or loss to you, your family or any business entity for whom you work, and you have consistently confirmed that any vote by you on this matter would be based upon the information presented at the quasi-judicial hearing. Based on the foregoing, unless you are biased or prejudiced in a way that would not allow you to consider the evidence presented to assure a fair hearing, you are not only permitted to vote on this matter, you are required by Florida law to vote on the matter."

As of now, the applicant has requested their proposal be postponed to the December 9 City Commission meeting while they work to secure a plan that addresses the concerns raised at the City Commission's first public hearing.

I remain committed to serving Winter Park with independence, preparation, integrity, and transparency.

-Commissioner Elizabeth Ingram