

# HOLD COMO ACCOUNTABLE

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## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS CALL FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LETTERS TO CITY LEADERS, SCHEDULE PRESS CONFERENCE FOR MARCH 13

### Correspondence to City Council and Manager Demand Attorney's Dismissal, Performance Audit

Columbia, MO, March 12, 2023 – Hold CoMo Accountable, CoMo For Progress and Race Matters, Friends today sent two letters to city leaders as part of a growing grassroots effort to solve persistent problems with government transparency and accountability. Leaders of the three Columbia community organizations will further explain their concerns during a press conference via Zoom on Monday, March 13, at noon.

The first letter, to Mayor Barbara Buffaloe and the rest of the city council, calls for dismissal of city attorney Nancy Thompson. Thompson has contributed to a continuing culture of deafening silence from city government, as well as a failure to uphold Columbia's City Charter. Thompson consistently advises the council and city leaders to evade open records laws and avoid almost every attempt at transparency. As a result of her actions, the city council is also unable to uphold its core duty of overseeing the city manager, including a full performance audit of the city manager's office.

The second letter is addressed to City Manager De'Carlton Seewood. It outlines many of the same grievances as the letter to the city council, but it also urges Seewood to help forge a new path for Columbia by embracing transparency and accountability in city governance.

Hold CoMo Accountable, CoMo for Progress and Race Matters, Friends' letter to Mayor Barbara Buffaloe and the rest of the city council can be found at:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1F7-L0gpz90vSx0AFShSSWaZDCdcqU8R9uiQ3YTWW6hA/edit?usp=sharing>

Hold CoMo Accountable, CoMo for Progress and Race Matters, Friends' letter to City Manager De'Carlton Seewood can be found at:  
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Hold CoMo Accountable is a campaign derived from the consensus views of a diverse group of Columbia community members, including business leaders, public employees, current and former city commission members, and more. Its video outlet, <https://www.youtube.com/@eyesoncomo>, shares and analyzes issues in Columbia. Learn more at: <https://holdcomoaccountable.com>.

CoMo for Progress is an advocacy group affecting policy that bolsters freedom, equality and humanity to better serve our local, national and global communities through outreach and action. We are stronger together as we strive for inclusive and welcoming communities. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/CoMoForProgress/>.

Race Matters, Friends is a Columbia, Missouri-based non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to anti-racism education, community consciousness-raising, and social equity. Since 2015, RMF has been a persistent advocate for community-oriented policing. Learn more at <https://racemattersfriendsmissouri.org>.