



Outlook

CRCRC: Agenda Item 6: Context and Clarification

From Wendi Hundley [REDACTED]
Date Wed 9/25/2024 7:59 AM
To CRCRC <CRCRC@rollingwoodtx.gov>
Cc Makayla Rodriguez <mrodriguez@rollingwoodtx.gov>; Ashley Wayman <awayman@rollingwoodtx.gov>

Dear CRCRC Members,

I've reviewed the agenda packet, specifically item number 6, and since my name and request are mentioned, I kindly ask that this email be included as part of the record for that item.

I understand there may have been some confusion regarding the survey information collected and the Texas Public Information Act. It is unfortunate that the CRCRC misrepresented the survey as being confidential from the public. As you know, survey responses and data collected by the city, even through a third party, are considered public information under the Texas Public Information Act.

At the November 13, 2023, CRCRC meeting, Brian Rider and Thom Farrell mentioned that anyone interested in seeing the entirety of the information the CRCRC was reviewing could simply file an open records request. Chair Bench expressed concerns about releasing the raw data without some adjustments and suggested creating a new data set that might or might not include all information. Thom Farrell rightly pointed out that "you cannot go wrong by releasing data" and that trying to control or limit the release of information can lead to misunderstandings. I completely agree—transparency is crucial, and any effort to selectively release data can inadvertently erode the trust we've worked so hard to build.

There were additional discussions at the November 14, 2023, City Council meeting by Council Member McDuffee and Chair Bench about refining the raw survey data, potentially altering specific addresses, and creating a new data set. These actions raise similar concerns about transparency and fairness in how information is shared. This non-content-neutral approach and lack of transparency in editing the data raised serious concerns.

I requested the survey data to better understand what changes might have been made by Chair Bench, not to create any disruption. I did not distribute the information publicly or use my email list. My intention has always been to support transparency and ensure everyone feels comfortable engaging in civic matters.

I also want to address the open letter dated September 20, 2024, included in the packet. It appears this letter may have been issued without the CRCRC having a public discussion in a properly noticed meeting. This might give the impression that it was agreed upon outside of the open meeting process. However, I don't believe the CRCRC committee members collectively agreed on this letter in private, and it's likely that Chair Bench acted independently in posting the open letter and this agenda item. Since no action can be taken on this letter tonight, as this agenda item is posted for discussion only, I hope this can be clarified to avoid any misunderstandings and reinforce our commitment to open and transparent processes.

This agenda item is concerning because it could discourage not only my participation but also that of others who want to be involved and request public information. I'm concerned that the current agenda item could be seen as retaliation for my Public Information Request, which goes against the principles of transparency and trust we should all be working to uphold. Using official channels to target citizens for exercising legal rights is not only unethical but also a serious misuse of authority that discourages community participation.

Our community thrives when we all feel safe and supported in engaging with our local government. We all want what's best for Rollingwood, and fostering an environment of openness and trust is essential to achieving that.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I truly believe we can all work together to ensure that everyone feels included and respected in our community.

Best regards,

Wendi Hundley