

From: [Sean Kallaway](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Feedback on 12/30 City Council Mtg
Date: Thursday, December 02, 2021 2:39:38 PM

Hello Council Members,

First off I want to share with you that I was thoroughly engaged for this meeting from the beginning up until about 11:15 pm. It was great to observe how our local government operates and I commend all of you for the way you speak and engage respectfully with each other and with others on the call. Regardless of the decision that was made, I just wanted to share that I appreciate the professionalism and the way you all interact in this forum.

The other piece of feedback that I wanted to share was that I think what often times is challenging for the public, related to our trust or support of our government officials is that it often seems that people don't feel heard and they often feel that they weren't aware of what was going on, or that they did not get sufficient notice to respond, etc. Unfortunately, this particular project, which I do support, fell victim to that same challenge. Meaning, the key stakeholders, i.e. those most affected in the community were not provided sufficient notice for this project. I get all of the reasons that were stated, but, yet, as an example, nobody reached out to the Director of our child's school, Chris Topham from the Charter School?? I didn't hear anyone on the council take ownership of this and that really concerns me. I am a sales manager and one of the things that is really important to me is to take ownership and responsibility for my part. If I fail to communicate to someone or not deliver something by a certain deadline, I will raise my hand and let others know that and take responsibility for that. In order for those to trust me, I need to show that I am human and I make mistakes but I own it and will do better next time. I did not hear that from anybody on the council that evening.

So, I just want to share that as I think this is a key part of how we can improve on having the trust of the public with their officials. I really think this is an underlying poison that creates a disconnect between the public and the officials and if we want to improve this, than I would suggest being more transparent, own up to any shortfalls, and communicate the intention to improve in this area. When people feel disconnected and possibly disregarded, I think they will then in turn, give you all or any gov't official treatment that may represent "resentment", which of course is toxic and not conducive to healthy discourse.

Aside from that feedback, I want to also commend you all and Diana Rich and Una Glass in particular for all of their incredibly hard work in finding this solution for the immense crisis that has blossomed on Morris St. I know this is a very complex issue with many pieces to it and that it is impossible to please everyone here. But, I think this is a great solution. It will address the crisis on Morris St., get the unhoused into a living situation that requires, self-responsibility, living by some rules, w/ services provided and hopefully those services include addiction AND mental health help. My understanding is 90% of people on the street have either mental health issues or addiction issues, so that is going to be the key to getting these folks off of the streets.

Lastly, I have been sharing a book that came onto my radar recently, on this topic, that I would highly recommend; San FranSicko, by Michael Shellenberger. I have heard him speak and I think he provides some very important points on this very critical issue that has now invaded our small town.

Thank you for your time, take care,

Sean

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Sean Kallaway

