

3/4/25

Proposed Press Policy

I am taking time to write to express my extreme disappointment and full objection to the proposed press policies put forth by Mr. Zollman and past/present council members.

The proposed individual policies aggregate into an obscene infringement on the spirit of Democracy, transparency, and the community values and involvement that make Sebastopol what it is.

On the tails of the city cutting services and forcing citizens to step up to preserve those critical services, this interpretation of vast Mayoral powers to attempt to control the narrative is even more egregious. Not to mention that YOU all select the mayor. We do not.

The position of Mayor is unelected and shall not be given overt control of the narrative or the ability to stifle or outright censor speech. Nor shall other council members or the institution of city government.

This reeks of the same tactics of interpretive overreach of control as the Trump administration. That is not welcome here.

We expect you to stand up for openness, stand up for the sometimes, inconvenient access of the press. You are not welcome to sit on our council and further restrict our access and that of the reporters to inform us.

City Council can be a hard job and it's not about what is 'efficient' for you. It's about us. You knew that going in. I appreciate your service and this direction is not ok.

Regards,

Rick Taylor  
Sebastopol Citizen and Resident  
Business Owner:  
Elder Creek Design Studio  
Former DRB

